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**Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship**  
**—The Case of Bangladesh—**

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# Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship

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## Abstract

*Entrepreneurial activities by women have attracted considerable interests among policy-makers, planners, international development agencies, researchers, and students, who have recognized the potentials of female entrepreneurship for increasing economic development and growth, job creation, poverty reduction, balanced development, social development, and environmentally-friendly development. Despite entrepreneurial activity has increased within women in Bangladesh. The objective of the study has to examine the key gender issues involved in women entrepreneurs' development in the business sector with a view to addressing the present status of women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, their role in the national economy, their achievements, their socio-cultural, educational and legal barriers and the problems of the exclusion of women from access to market, technology and finance. In general, the kinds of businesses that these women create are less developed than men's, and tend to be more traditional with less technological development. It is inspiring that the class of women*

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*entrepreneurs is increasingly emerging each year, taking on the challenge to work in a male-dominated, competitive and complex economic and business environment. Not only have their entrepreneurial skills improved their living conditions and earned more respect in their families and society, but they are also contributing to business and employment generation, productivity and skill development of the country.*

*The study contributes to entrepreneurship theory since it provides a theoretical and empirical base, with factor analysis and inferential statistical testing, based on a survey to explain how social networks affect women's opportunity recognition process. Based on social networks theory, opportunity recognition theory, and women's literature, it is proposed here that opportunity recognition for gender differences is related to the number of weak and strong ties that they have within their networks and the size and composition of their networks; the study also identifies how marital status and parenthood may affect this process.*

*The finding of the study is gender differences in social entrepreneurship, as a practice and a field for scholarly investigation, provides a unique opportunity to challenge, question, and rethink concepts and assumptions from different fields of management and business research. This study puts forward a view of gender differences in social entrepreneurship as a process that catalyzes social change and addresses important social needs in a way that is not dominated by direct financial benefits for the entrepreneurs.*

Key Word: GAD (Gender and Development) social business, entrepreneurship, NGO, SME, poverty, WID (Women in Development),

## **I . Introduction**

Recently, the discourse on social entrepreneurship has been fuelled by a number of high profile business entrepreneurs who have turned their attention to social causes. Social entrepreneurial activities by women have attracted considerable interests among policy-makers, planners, international development agencies, researchers, and students, who have recognized the potentials of female entrepreneurship for increasing economic development and growth, job creation, poverty reduction, balanced development, social development, and environmentally-friendly development. The paper will analyze to the broader topic of gender-gap and entrepreneurial behavior have yet to be tested in the social business. This oversight might be of little concern, except for the enormous influence social business over the economy and almost every aspect of how gender gap will eliminate.

The research is exploratory and concentrates on one particular case of social entrepreneurship and gender difference in Bangladesh. Gender difference in Bangladesh means that women have less power, money, protection from violence, and access to resources and decent employment. Social entrepreneurship of women are the new class have accepted the challenges of life and have emerged as leaders in the socioeconomic development in country.

This research is based on the methodologies of a literary review of research papers, survey data and government documents. The study is inductive and designed to identify the factors associated with social entrepreneurship. In contrast, the previous empirical studies on social business and gender-gap are largely based on cross-country or cross-organization analyses that can suffer from potentially serious measurement errors, which may explain the mixed

empirical evidence that will be discussed. In addition, secondary sources of information were also accessed to develop an in-depth understanding about the phenomenon - social entrepreneurship and gender-gap to gather some information about women entrepreneurship. Some international development organizations including the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNCTAD, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Reports, and International Financial Corporation (IFC), have used consultants to study various aspects of Bangladesh. The discussion of this paper is organized as follows: section 2, Definition of Social Entrepreneurship; section 3, Social entrepreneurship in Bangladesh; section 4, Gender Gap in Bangladesh and Comparison with other Countries; section 5, findings and concluding remarks.

## **II . Definition of Social Entrepreneurship**

Defining social entrepreneurship is not an easy task. There has no single standard definition of social entrepreneurship. In turn, definitions of social entrepreneurship reveal a great deal of similarities, but also differences, with definitions of social innovation. Some research defining social entrepreneurship as elements are the creation of wealth, value and growth (Hisrich & Peters, 2002) through processes of discovery and/or creation, evaluation, and exploitation of opportunities by individuals who discover and/or create, evaluate, and exploit them. (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000). An important aspect of social entrepreneurship is that social change tends to be seen as "pattern-breaking" on a broad-scale, but it is also recognized that changes that break entrenched harmful patterns even in small communities are also valid example social entrepreneurship (Light, 2008). In this context, Light, reminds us that even "the greatest

ideas often start small, but eventually expand to break the social equilibrium." As with "social innovation," social entrepreneurship is not confined exclusively to a single sector, rather it "*can occur within or across the nonprofit, business, or government sectors.*" (Austin *et al.*, 2006, p.2). However, even in the "social entrepreneurship" literature, debates over definition persist. A review has revealing different definitions for "social entrepreneurs" and "social entrepreneurship" (table 1). Although there is probably more agreement on the definition of a "social entrepreneurship," it will concentrate on the different aspects of the definition provided as follows :

### **1) Conventional Pattern**

The conventional idea has recognized that entrepreneurs are well positioned to exploit opportunities created by certain social issues. Some studies have found that, social entrepreneurs are characterized by very special traits (Drayton, 2002), special leadership skills (Thompson, Alvy, & Lees, 2000), a passion to realize their vision (Bornstein, 1998), and a strong ethical fiber (Drayton, 2002). Research has identified distinctive entrepreneurial individual differences between social entrepreneurs and other actors. A number of researchers have emphasized the entrepreneurial process, i.e., "how" entrepreneurs act, as a way of differentiating between social initiatives and social "entrepreneurial" initiatives (Dees, 1998). Finally, a recent study has focused on the "social value creating" nature of the opportunities entrepreneurially discovered and exploited, in order to distinguish social entrepreneurship from other entrepreneurial phenomena (Guclu, Dees, & Anderson, 2002). The most influential representation of social entrepreneurs by Leadbeater (Leadbeater, 1997, p. 77) on Demos report as follows:

*Entrepreneurial: they take under-utilized, discarded resources and spot ways of using them to satisfy unmet needs,*

*Innovative: they create new services and products, new ways of dealing with problems, often by bringing together approaches that have traditionally been kept separate,*

*Transformatory: they transform the institutions they are in charge of, taking moribund organizations and turning them into dynamic creative ones. Most importantly, they transform the neighborhoods and communities they serve by opening up possibilities for self-development".*

However, the definitions on social entrepreneurship has summarized in the table 1. The concept of "social entrepreneurship", is defined by Mair & Marti as "a process involving the innovative use and combination of resources to pursue opportunities to catalyze social change and/or address social needs" (Mair & Marti, 2006, p. 37). Based on an extensive above literature of the review, it could be stated that both profit and non-profit initiatives has part of social entrepreneurship, which can be distinguished from conventional entrepreneurship through the "relative priority given to social wealth creation vs economic wealth creation. However, social businesses are a part of social entrepreneurship. All those who design and run social businesses are social entrepreneurs, but not all social entrepreneurs are engaged in social businesses. When comparing the definitions and characteristics of entrepreneurs with those of social entrepreneurs (**table 1**), we see that the ultimate goal of an entrepreneur is to create economic wealth whereas, for a social entrepreneur, the priority is to fulfill their social mission. Social entrepreneurs design their revenue-generating strategies to directly serve their mission to deliver social value.

Table 1: Definitions of Social Entrepreneurship

Author(s)	Year	Definitions of social entrepreneurship
Joseph Alois Schumpeter	1934	The entrepreneur is the innovator who implements change within markets through the carrying out of new combinations. These can take several forms: 1) the introduction of a new good or quality thereof, 2) the introduction of a new method of production, the opening of a new market, 3) the conquest of a new source of supply of new materials or parts, and 4) the carrying out of the new organization of any industry.
Israel Meir Kirzner	1973	The entrepreneur recognizes and acts upon profit opportunities, essentially an arbitrageur.
Peter Ferdinand Drucker	1985	Entrepreneurship is the act of innovation involving endowing existing resources with new wealth-producing capacity
Fowler A.	2000	"Social entrepreneurship is the creation of viable (socio-) economic structures, relations, institutions, organisations and practices that yield and sustain social benefits" (p.649)
CCSE	2001	"Defines 'social entrepreneurship' broadly to encompass a variety of initiatives which fall into two broad categories. First, in the for profit sector, social entrepreneurship encompass activities emphasizing the importance of a socially engaged private sector, and the benefits that accrue to those who 'do well by doing good'. Second, it refers to activities encouraging more entrepreneurial approaches in the not-for-profit sector in order to increase organisational effectiveness and foster long-term sustainability" (p.1)
J. Gregory Dees Jed Emerson, Peter Economy	2002	"Social entrepreneurship is not about starting a business or becoming more commercial. It is about finding new and better ways to create social value." (p.xxx)
Sally A. Hibbert, Gillian Hogg and Theresa Quinn	2002	"Social entrepreneurship can be loosely defined as the use of entrepreneurial behaviour for social ends rather than for profits objectives, or alternatively, that profits generated are used for the benefit of a specific disadvantaged group." (p.288)
Institute for Social Entrepreneurs	2002	"Social entrepreneurship is the art of simultaneously pursuing both a financial and a social return on investment (The 'double bottom line')" (p.1)



## Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship (Chowdhury)

Author(s)	Year	Definitions of social entrepreneurship
Thompson	2002	"Although social entrepreneurship is in evidence in many profit seeking businesses -sometimes in their strategies and activities, sometimes through donations of money and time" (p.413)
Lasprogata G.A. and Cotton M.N.,	2003	"Social entrepreneurship means nonprofit organizations that apply entrepreneurial strategies to sustain themselves financially while having a greater impact on their social mission (i.e. the 'double bottom line')." (p.69)
Mair, Johanna and Noboa, Ernesto	2003	"SE [Social entrepreneurship] as the innovative use of resource combinations to pursue opportunities aiming at the creation of organizations and/or practices that yield and sustain social benefits." (p.5)
Pomerantz	2003	"Social entrepreneurship can be defined as the development of innovative, mission-supporting, earned income, job creating or licensing, ventures undertaken by individual social entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, or nonprofits in association with for profits."(p.25)
Gillian Sullivan Mort, Jay Weerawardena, and Kashonia Carnegie	2003	"Social entrepreneurship, the entrepreneurship leading to the establishment of new social enterprise, and the continued innovation in existing ones" (p.76) "Conceptualises social entrepreneurship as a multidimensional construct involving the expression of entrepreneurially virtuous behaviour to achieve the social mission, a coherent unity of purpose and action in the face of moral complexity, the ability to recognise social value-creating opportunities and key decision making characteristics of innovativeness, proactiveness and risk taking." (p.76)
Maria Grazia Tommasini	2004	"Social entrepreneurship - Defined as a professional, innovative, and sustainable approach to systematic change that resolves social market failures and grasps opportunities. Social entrepreneurship engage with both non-and for profit organisations, and the success of their activities are measured first and foremost by their social impact." (p.3)
Haugh, H.	2005	"Social entrepreneurship is the process of creating social enterprise" (p.3)
Roberts, Dave and Christine Woods	2005	"Social entrepreneurship is the construction, evaluation and pursuit of opportunities for transformative social change carried out by visionary, passionately, dedicated individuals" (p.49)
Christian Seelos, and Johanna Mair	2005	"Social entrepreneurship creates new models for the provision of products and services that cater directly to basic human needs that remain unsatisfied by current economic or social institutions." (pp.243-244)

## Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship (Chowdhury)

Author(s)	Year	Definitions of social entrepreneurship
Austin, J., Stevenson, H. & Wei - Skillern, J	2006	"Innovative, social value creating activity that occur within or across the nonprofit, business, or government sectors" (p.2)
GEM	2006	"Social entrepreneurship is any attempt at new social enterprise activity or new enterprise creation such as self-employment, a new enterprise, or the expansion of an existing social enterprise by an individual, teams of individuals or established social enterprise, with social or community goals as its base and where the profit is invested in the activity or venture itself rather than returned to investors." (p.5)
Leadbeater C.	2006	"One way to define social entrepreneurship would be through what motivates the actors, i.e. they want to create social value and put higher value on their social mission than financial one [ ... ] Another way to define social entrepreneurship would be through outcomes: anyone who creates lasting social value through entrepreneurial activities is a social entrepreneur." (p.241)
Mair, J. and Marti, I.	2006	"First, we view social entrepreneurship as a process of creating value by combining resources in new ways. Second, these resource combinations are intended primarily to explore and exploit opportunities to create social value by stimulating social change or meeting social needs. And third, when viewed as a process, social entrepreneurship involves the offering of services and products but can also refer to the creation of new organizations." (p.37)
Nicholls, Alex	2006	"Innovative and effective activities that focus strategically on resolving social market failures and creating new opportunities to add social value systematically by using a range of resources and organizational formats to maximize social impacts and bring about changes" (p.23)
Peredo, A. M., and McLean, M	2006	"Social entrepreneurship is exercised where some person or group: (1) aim(s) at creating social value, either exclusively or at least in some prominent way; (2) show(s) a capacity to recognize and take advantage of opportunities to create that value ('envision'); (3) employ(s) innovation, ranging from outright invention to adapting someone else's novelty, in creating and/or distributing social value; (4) is/are willing to accept an above-average degree of risk in creating and disseminating social value; and (5) is/are unusually resourceful in being relatively undaunted by scarce assets in pursuing their social venture." (p.64)

## Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship (Chowdhury)

Author(s)	Year	Definitions of social entrepreneurship
Perrini, F.,	2006	"Entailing innovation designed to explicitly improve societal wellbeing, housed within entrepreneurial organizations that initiate this level of change in society" (p.247)
Weerawardena and Sullivan Mort	2006	"Social entrepreneurship strives to achieve social value creation and this requires the display of innovativeness, proactiveness and risk management behavior. This behavior is constrained by the desire to achieve the social mission and to maintain the sustainability of existing organization. In doing so they are responsive to and constrained by environmental dynamics. They continuously interact with a turbulent and dynamic environment that forces them to pursue sustainability, often within the context of the relative resource poverty of the organization." (p.32)
Zhara,Gedajlovic, Neubaum, Shulman	2006	"Social entrepreneurship concerns the processes related to the discovery of opportunities to create social wealth and the organizational processes developed and employed to achieve that end." (p.12)
Cochran	2007	"Social entrepreneurship is the process of applying the principles of business and entrepreneurship to social problems" (p.451)
Haugh	2007	"Social entrepreneurship, the simultaneous pursuit of economic, social, and environmental goals by enterprising ventures [ ... ] Social entrepreneurship is first and for most a practical response to unmet individual and societal needs." (p.743)
Martin and Osberg	2007	"We define social entrepreneurship as having the following three components: (1) identifying a stable but inherently unjust equilibrium that causes the exclusion, marginalization, or suffering of a segment of humanity that lacks the financial means or political clout to achieve any transformative benefit on its own; (2) identifying an opportunity in this unjust equilibrium, developing a social value proposition, and bringing to bear inspiration, creativity, direct action, courage, and fortitude, thereby challenging the stable state's hegemony; and (3) forging a new, stable equilibrium that releases trapped potential or alleviates the suffering of the targeted group, and through imitation and the creation of a stable ecosystem around the new equilibrium ensuring a better future for the targeted group and even society at large" (p.35)
Wei-Skillern, Austin, Leonard and Stevenson	2007	"We define social entrepreneurship as an innovative, social value creating activity that can occur within or across the nonprofit, business, or government sector." (p.4)

## Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship (Chowdhury)

Author(s)	Year	Definitions of social entrepreneurship
Brock	2008	"Innovative approaches to social change" or "using business concepts and tools to solve social problems" (p.3)
CASE	2008	"Innovative and resourceful approaches to addressing social problems" (p.1)
Zhara, Gedajlovic, Neubaum, Shulman	2008	"Social entrepreneurship encompasses the activities and processes undertaken to discover, define and exploit opportunities in order to enhance social wealth by creating new ventures or managing existing organizations in an innovative manner." (p.118)
Asoka	2012	Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems. They are ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change. Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems

Source: Compiled from Alfonso H. Molina, (2010), Martin R, Osberg S. (2007), pp.28-39, Wendy Cukier, (2011), pp.101-103.

### 2) Grameen Pattern

The most famous social entrepreneur, Muhammad Yunus, who was the founder of the Grameen Bank in 1976 Bangladesh, has changed the life of millions and received the Nobel Peace Prize in the year 2006. According to Yunus, governments, nonprofit organizations and multilateral institutions need to continue to work hard to alleviate poverty. He also emphasized governments can indeed do much to address social problems, but if governments alone could be effective then the problem of poverty would have been solved long ago. In fact governments can be inefficient, slow, prone to corruption, bureaucratic, and self-perpetuating. Similarly, nonprofit organizations working alone have proven to be incapable of solving social problems, as they usually rely on a steady stream of donations. When these funds fall short, the good work stops. Most important of all, these entities cannot see that poor people can be do themselves, part of the solution as well as part of the problem (Yunus, 2010,

pp.3-5).

In addition to governments, nonprofit organizations, multilateral institutions and companies, another type of institution which aims specifically at social goals needs to be developed. These are new type the "social business". The social business concept is still under construction, and has emerged mainly through the on-going experiences of the Grameen Group. This Group is a network of nearly 30 sister organizations linked to the Bangladeshi Grameen Bank. Our ambition in this article is to provide detailed guidance for entrepreneurs (individuals as well as established companies) who wish to create social businesses.

Internationally, social entrepreneurship organizations exist in various forms. An example that uses a traditional business structure and the double bottom line has Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. By bringing financial services to the poor, particularly women, it helps them establish profitable businesses to fight poverty (Yunus, 1999). The social business strategy pursued by Grameen bank have two major goals: alleviation of poverty and empowerment of the poor, specially women, in Bangladesh. Early in its history, Grameen Bank needed to build solid economic, social and human resources that would allow it to alleviate poverty in a development manner. Grameen Bank therefore makes great efforts to empower women. Its solution was to build social business in which women could participate all over the country. In addition, while the business may achieve some profit, the profits are intended to be reinvested in the business in order to further achieve the social objective. The success of the business is measured by its ability to achieve this objective in a sustainable manner. Muhammad Yunus has articulated seven principals for a social business (Yunus, 2010, p.3):

1. *Business objective will be to overcome poverty, or one or more problems (such as education, health, technology access, and environment) which threaten people and society; not profit maximization*
2. *Financial and economic sustainability*
3. *Investors get back their investment amount only. No dividend is given beyond investment money*
4. *When investment amount is paid back, company profit stays with the company for expansion and improvement*
5. *Environmentally conscious*
6. *Workforce gets market wage with better working conditions*
7. *... do it with joy*

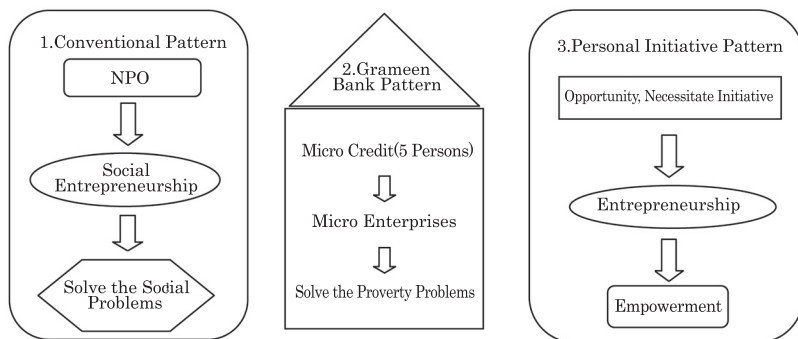
Like Grameen, the idea of Social Business is increasingly gaining acceptability around the world. That the social business concept is catching up globally is clear from the fact that it is being "adopted by leading corporations including BASF, Intel, Danone, Veolia, Uniqlo and Adidas as well as entrepreneurs and social activists in various parts of the world.

### **III . Social Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh**

The concept of social business is still not clearly defined and its boundaries to other fields of study remain uncertain. There is no universal theory of the phenomenon. Many theories of entrepreneurship have been coming from different researches and thought, with many authors emphasizing different factors to explain it. This paper's premise is that if social business has to become a structured field of research, an effort must be made to clarify and define key concepts and constructs. It will draw on practical examples of social entrepreneurship to identify and elaborate on the essential components in Bangladesh.

The possibilities entrepreneurship can offer when applied to social issues, broadly defining for entrepreneurship: conventional pattern, Grameen pattern, and Personal Initiative pattern (**figure 1**).

Figure 1: Different Type of Social Entrepreneurship



Source : Chowdhury (2014):p.52.

From the above description in the figure 1, it can be argued that social business has no definite definition or specific area or activities. The aims of social business are addressing the problems of poverty, development, environmental hazards, social security, and massive unemployment, and so on. Social business means to contribute society through personal or group or non-profit corporation or foundations' activities. Under these considerations Bangladesh has many of the above activities to contribute to poverty alleviation and improve others' social index.

A parallel movement during this period was the growing number of NGOs. While NGOs are not a new concept, their recent growth occurred because of a belief that neither government nor the traditional private sector could solve all economic or social problems. Many NGO's use a traditional charity model: that is, a not-for-profit organization

established for a specific purpose which usually relies on funding from outside sources, such as government grants or private contributions. An organization may attempt to earn some revenue from the selling of goods or the providing of services, but these efforts are often fund raisers and not an intrinsic part of the organization's mission (Boschee, Website).

Entrepreneurship has one way for women, as well as other marginalized groups, to alleviate of poverty. Self-employment is especially important for women who have difficulty finding employment because of limitations imposed by education, age, social marginality. The establishment of independent businesses has been shown to increase the rate of development of national economy in countries that encourage it (Minniti *et al.*, 2004). However, from above discussion it can summarized that, social entrepreneurship is a process by which citizens build or investment an enterprise to solutions to social problems, such as employment, poverty, illness, illiteracy, human rights, abuses, corruption, empowerment, gender gap, and environmental destruction, in order to make life better for many.

### **1. Women Participation in Social Entrepreneurship**

Over the last three decade development efforts have increasingly focused on developing and social entrepreneurship needed for engaging the women business activities. The Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), SME Foundation, the BSCIC, Survey for Bangladesh conducted during the years 1995, 2001 and 2009 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is a comprehensive nationally representative socio-economic survey of randomly sampled households covering rural, urban metropolitan and urban municipal areas.



Sampling is based on a two-staged methodology where in the first stage, primary sampling units (PSU) are selected from all divisions. Households were randomly selected from each PSU in the second stage.

### **1) Issues of Women's Social Entrepreneurship**

In Bangladesh, women have a significant entrepreneurial force, contributing to the economic development in the country as well as global economies. Women run business (mostly micro and small and medium scale enterprises) in the production and marketing of agricultural consumer goods, as well as the provision of services for domestic and international markets. The enterprises owned by women has unique characteristics regarding ownership, management, sources of capital, technology, market oriented and so on. There are not enough employment opportunities for women. Therefore, economic activities through self-employment have become essential for potential working women. As a matter of fact, women entrepreneurship or "women in business" is a very recent phenomenon in Bangladesh. Although women are taking to entrepreneurship in many challenging fields, their activities in Bangladesh are not that extensive. In spite of fewer opportunities, many women have succeeded in business, but they are still very small in number.

Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) is a non-profit and non-political organization with the aim to bring about women's economic development and empowerment. The main objective of the BWCCI has to provide support to women entrepreneurs to undertake business and trade activities. The research on gender and entrepreneurship mainly consists of studies at micro level, focusing on the distinctive characteristics of female and male entrepreneurs such as their motivations to become entrepreneurs, their personality

traits, background and experience. There are relatively few studies that investigate the influence of macro-level factors on female and male entrepreneurship.

However, according to survey data were generated from the SME Foundation and Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (BWCCI) subjects in women entrepreneurship. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select the local governments to be included in the study.

The **table-2** shows that most of the women entrepreneurs supported by the BSCIC to grow are involved in "Food and Allied" and "Textile" sectors. Only 4 women entrepreneurs are involved in Engineering and 1 in "Chemical and Pharmaceuticals" sector. In other sectors, no women entrepreneur is present. This shows that even the biggest and most important public agency in this respect remained till 2000 supporting the women entrepreneurs but was unsuccessful.

In terms of achievement in business, almost one fourth (26.30 percent) of the women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh were found to have gained financial stability, 17.80 percent have become self-dependent, 10.10 percent earned goodwill and success in business, while 9.30 percent contributed to their family financially. On the other hand 7.60 percent achieved moderate success in business, 5.70 percent earned respect from family and society while 7.6 percent gained other achievements. 0.90 percent earned prestigious business awards and 0.8 percent achieved sustainability in business.

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Table 2: Number and Type of Industries Owned and Managed by Women Entrepreneurs in Eight Industrial Estates of BSCIC

Industrial Sector	Ownership				Management			
	Men	Women	Men& Women	Total	Men	Women	Men& Women	Total
Food and Allied	104 (92.8)	6 (5.4)	2 (1.8)	112 (100.0)	105 (93.8)	6 (5.4)	1 (0.9)	112 (100.0)
Textile	63 (87.5)	4 (5.6)	5 (6.9)	72 (100.0)	71 (98.6)	1 (1.4)	—	72 (100.0)
Forestry	8 (88.9)	—	1 (11.1)	9 (100.0)	9 (100.0)	—	—	9 (100.0)
Printing and Packaging	17 (94.4)	—	1 (5.6)	18 (100.0)	18 (100.0)	—	—	18 (100.0)
Leather and Rubber	9 (100.0)	—	—	9 (100.0)	9 (100.0)	—	—	9 (100.0)
Chemical and Pharmaceuticals	52 (98.1)	1 (1.89)	—	53 (100.0)	53 (100.0)	—	—	53 (100.0)
Glass and Ceramic	9 (100.0)	—	—	9 (100.0)	9 (100.0)	—	—	9 (100.0)
Engineering	92 (91.1)	4 (3.9)	5 (5.0)	101 (100.0)	101 (100.0)	—	—	101 (100.0)
Electronic	3 (100.0)	—	—	112 (100.0)	105 (93.8)	—	—	3 (100.0)
Miscellaneous	6 (85.7)	—	1 (14.3)	112 (100.0)	105 (93.8)	—	—	7 (100.0)
Agro-based	2 (100.0)	—	—	112 (100.0)	105 (93.8)	—	—	2 (100.0)
Total	365 (92.4)	15 (3.8)	15 (3.8)	112 (100.0)	105 (93.8)	7 (2.0)	1 (0.02)	395 (100.0)

Note: No. refers to number of industries owned managed absolutely by men or absolutely by women or jointly owned and managed by men and women. Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages.

Source: Assessment of the Implications of Policies and Measures for women Entrepreneurship Development in Bangladesh, CIDA, Dhaka (2001), p. 20.

Women entrepreneurs have started their own business activities and thus have set up their own business enterprises, being the proprietor or sole owner of their companies. Since women entrepreneurs have developed their individual set-ups, they prefer maintaining their individual status and conducting their business activities in their own

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individual capacities. Moreover, since the survey of women was in the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector, it has been found that majority were identified in Small Enterprise Sector. Proprietorship or sole ownership is verified from **table 3**, which reveals that majority of women entrepreneurs managed their own business and also through, which shows the total initial investment of these women, criteria required for small enterprises. There are some problems, that might be solved with the proper action of the law and legal system, and the programs that needs to have implemented in concrete terms. Although, the government has limited ability to achieve its full potential due to existence of some pertinent issues of plans, policies, and implications. However, in context of Bangladesh, the problems can solve more quickly, if women have education, empowerment and gender gap. However, due to women entrepreneurs, there some issues as follows:

Table 3: Gender Difference in Entrepreneurs

Impediments from Society	No	percent
People did not like women in business	290	28.0
Young people teased women in business	101	9.7
The wholesalers were reluctant to pay ready cash for products sold	217	20.0
Unusual Toll demand	57	5.5
Illiteracy and lack of knowledge among women	113	11.0
Conservativeness	54	5.2
Valid Respondents	831	80.2
No Response	204	19.8
Total	1035	100.0

Source: SME Foundation(2009), p. 80.

### (1) Family Related Issues

Women faced various hindrances in their attempts to become

entrepreneurs and the foremost obstacles were from their own family members. Amongst the women entrepreneurs faced the problems from their parents, who did not want them to be in the line of business. This came mostly for those who were not married or stayed with their parents. The next was for the married women who faced problems from their husbands, since husbands did not usually approve of their freedom out of houses and also their attitude in response to the conservative society. Moreover, in many instances it was found that husbands did not want their wives to be successful in life and earn fame. It was natural for the in-laws not to like the free movement of the women outside homes. There are some women, who faced problems from in-laws in working as entrepreneurs.

### **(2) Issues for Licenses**

Among women entrepreneurs, **table 4 shows**, bribes demanded by public officials when women went to any public institutions for their business purposes. Public officials demanded bribes from them, and they had to give bribes to the respective public official to get their purpose accomplished. Women entrepreneurs have identified the harassment faced by them in business and related activities. **Table 4** showed that amongst all types of harassments the women entrepreneurs faced in business, the highest was problems involving lack of capital of women.

### **(3) Issues Illegal Tolls**

The incidence of toll collection from women entrepreneurs is very common phenomena. Women entrepreneurs had to face the incidence of illegal tolls demanded by miscreants. In addition, the harassment caused through incidence of hijacking, threat from

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terrorists, harassment of law enforcing agents, lack of safety for fair price, theft of goods, infrastructure problems, lack of electricity and so on were some of the major types of harassments worth mentioning for the women entrepreneurs in business.

Table 4: Problems Facing For Licenses

Problems Categories	City Corporation	Pouroshova (Municipal)	Govt. Agencies	Taxation
Procedures problems	0	0	x	0
Afraid of the long procedure.	0	0	0	0
Administrative problem	0	0	x	0
Demand of bribe	0	0	x	0
Threat by peoples and terrorist	0	0	x	0
Harassment by officials	0	0	0	0
Non-cooperation	0	0	x	0

Source: Compiled from BWCCI and SME Foundation(2009). (0= yes, X= no)

## 2. Finding of Gender Difference in Social Entrepreneurship

It found the above discussion of women entrepreneurship in terms of the impact of social entrepreneurship. The almost of the social entrepreneurs identified were women has far reaching implications which need to be further explored. The gender imbalance in for-profit entrepreneurs has been widely discussed. As scholars have noted, among successful business owners, there are significant gender differences in the definition of success, but not necessarily differences in entrepreneurial self efficacy or ability. Consequently, efforts to restrict the definition of social entrepreneurship to the narrower notion of social enterprise may have the unintended consequence of excluding women, as they are more prominent in

cases related to social innovation.

With regards to the finding of the women entrepreneurs in the society, the **table 5**, provided a long list of their contributions (41 in number), covering a wide range of contributions. Among these, it was found that the highest 5 percent assisted poor people, 4.5 percent encouraged women in business, 3.6 percent lessen family burden as women, 3.1 percent contributed to establish large poultry and diary firms, 3.2 percent helped poor and helpless women, 3 percent provided financial help to poor women, 2.9 percent, contribute to health care service for the family, 2.8 percent encouraged women to become self-dependent in the family, while 2.5 percent of the women took initiative to stop early marriage and created employment for uneducated women in the family. The least contribution by women (1.6 percent) was found in cooperation in partnership business. A large number of contributions, 1.7 percent were found in women organizing and involving women Chamber activity, assisting UP members to play positive role for development, controlling violence against women, contributed to make rewards to business women, established peace and harmony in the family, contributed to solve social problems, contributed to increase protein supply to the family members as well as others for meeting demand of protein and etc.

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Table 5: Contributions of women entrepreneurs in Society

Types of Contributions to society	responses	(percent)
Create Employment	61	5.9
Assist Poor People	52	5.0
Help in Social Development	50	4.8
Encourage women in business	47	4.5
Lessen women as Social burden	37	3.6
Help poor and helpless Women	33	3.2
Financial help to poor women	31	3.0
Initiate and lead feminist movement for development	30	2.9
Contribute to health care services	30	2.9
Encourage women to be self dependent	29	2.8
Helping other business Women	28	2.7
Create opportunity for women to be self dependent	27	2.6
Earn good will of the society	26	2.5
Create employment for uneducated	26	2.5
Took initiative to stop early marriage	25	2.5
Contribute to religious education and development	23	2.2
Enlighten society members in various activities	23	2.2
Make linkage with people	22	2.1
Help in arranging Computer Training for the women	20	1.9
Help unemployed and poor for getting trade licenses	20	1.9
Extend Cooperation to the people in society	20	1.9
Create opinion against Dowry	20	1.9
Provide help for Children Dev.	20	1.9
Provide clothing's to poor	20	1.9
Create training facilities for women	20	1.9
Contribute become women leader	20	1.9
Educate women in business	19	1.8
Inspire others towards establishment of micro industries	19	1.8
Encourage children for education	19	1.8
Remove social differences	19	1.8
Help orphan and poor children in the society	19	1.8
Contribute to make women beauty conscious and health	18	1.7
Organize and involve women Chamber activity	18	1.7
Establish Shishu Sedan and provide free training	18	1.7
Increase protein supply for meeting demand of the people	18	1.7
Good Efforts to solve social problems	18	1.7
Efforts to establish peace and harmony in the family	18	1.7
Contribute to rewards women	18	1.7
Control violence against women	18	1.7
Assist UP members to play positive role for development	18	1.7
Cooperate partnership in business	17	1.6
Total	1035	100.0

Source: SME Foundation(2009), p. 187.



The case studies mirror some important aspects of women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. The starting of business enterprises and running them by women is not an easy task. Women have to cross many hurdles before entering business. Where economic pressure is the motivating force, they get all cooperation from the family, but have to face various external problems. Determination and perseverance are absolutely necessary for facing the odds at all ends. Educated ladies are better equipped with such qualities and have a better chance of success in business. Marketing of products and obtain services are problems for women entrepreneurs. Access to institutional credit acts as a major constraint at the initial stage and also for business development. Women entrepreneurs succeed in their ventures after overcoming these difficulties.

#### **IV . Gender Gap in Bangladesh and Comparison with other Countries**

Entrepreneurial activities by women have attracted considerable interests among policy-makers, planners, international development agencies, and researchers, who have recognized the potentials of women entrepreneurs for increasing economic development and growth, job creation, poverty reduction, balanced development, social development, environment friendly development and so on. However, growing literature documents academic performance differences between genders in entrepreneurship. For both micro- and macro-economic reasons, promoting gender equality and empowering women matters for economic development (Klasen,2002; Knowles,*et al.*2002).

The Global Gender Gap Index examines the gap between men

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and women in four fundamental categories: *economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment*. (Global Gender Gap Report 2011, Website). Table 1 shown the gender gap situation in some Asian countries. Bangladesh has ranked 86<sup>rd</sup> out of 135 in the 2012 Social Institutions and Gender Index. The country was ranked 69<sup>th</sup> out of 135 in the 2011 Social Institutions and Gender Index (**table 6**). The 2011 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) score for the country is 0.500, placing it in 146th place (out of 187 countries). The Gender Inequality Index score is 0.550. Bangladesh's World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index rating for 2011 is 0.6812, placing it in 69th place (out of a total of 135 countries).

Table 6: Comparisons the Gender Gap Index in Selected Asia Countries

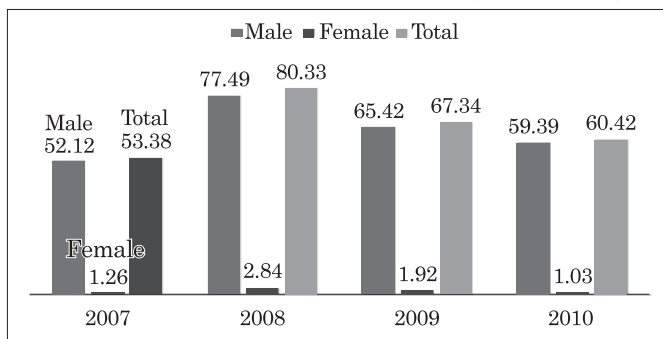
Countries And Regions	Gender Gap Index			Sub Indexes Rank							
	Rank (among 135 countries)			Economic Participation		Educational Attainment		Health and Survival		Political Empowerment	
	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
Philippines	8	8	9	17	15	1	1	1	1	14	16
Sri Lanka	39	31	16	105	102	48	103	1	1	22	7
Singapore	55	57	56	13	16	104	100	85	101	89	83
Thailand	65	60	57	49	41	78	82	1	1	93	97
China	69	61	61	58	50	85	85	132	133	58	57
Bangladesh	86	69	82	121	118	118	108	123	123	8	11
Vietnam	66	79	72	44	40	95	104	130	130	78	76
Indonesia	97	90	87	104	101	92	93	107	106	73	61
Malaysia	100	97	98	98	95	72	65	78	78	120	115
Japan	101	98	94	102	100	81	80	34	1	110	101
Cambodia	103	102	97	78	75	116	116	1	1	91	78
Korea, Rep.	108	107	104	116	117	99	97	78	78	86	90
India	105	113	112	123	131	121	121	134	134	17	19
Nepal	123	126	115	120	121	128	128	111	111	37	43
Pakistan	134	133	132	134	134	129	127	123	123	52	54

Source: World Economic Forum (2012), *The Global Gender Gap Report*, Geneva, pp.8-12.

## 1. Reasons for Gender Difference

The number of women entrepreneurs has been growing in recent years, but the gender gap in entrepreneurship and loan borrowing is still very large in developing countries as well as Bangladesh (**figure 2**). An important resource of data is the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Reports on Women and Entrepreneurship that examined women entrepreneurs in over 40 countries and found that in all these countries the women's entrepreneurship rate has below than men's, which estimates that more than 187 million women are engaged in entrepreneurial activity (GEM, 2012).

Figure 2: Total number of borrowers by year (in thousands)



Source: M. A. Baqui Khalily (2011) "Promoting SMEs through Access to Finance, BRAC, IGC (International Growth Center)", International Conference on Entrepreneurship and Development: Experiences, Practices, and Policies

The gender differences in entrepreneurship have been explained in different ways, either assuming that women and men were different from each other or that they are in essence the same and the environment causes them to behave in different ways. In the feminist perspectives has consistent with the *social* and *liberal* respectively

(Fischer *et al.*, 1993, pp.151-168). The social feminist perspective gender differences in entrepreneurship has due to differences in early and ongoing socialization. Hence, women and men entrepreneurs have inherently different, giving rise to different ways in which entrepreneurship has practiced. The liberal feminist has argues that in essence women and men are the same and that female entrepreneurs experience more problems or structure their firms in a distinct way (as compared to male entrepreneurs) because they are confronted with unequal access to resources and gender-based discrimination. Both perspectives expect female and male entrepreneurs to behave in a different way, either determined by situational differences and/ or barriers (liberal feminism) or by dispositional differences and/or barriers (social feminism). A different way of explaining gender differences in entrepreneurship is by investigating situational factors that have correlated with gender. Women and men entrepreneurs may behave in the same fashion, provided they have the same personal and business profile. For instance, because female entrepreneurs tend to have smaller firms, their firms are characterized by different performance rates and organizational structures. This perspective on studying and explaining gender differences may be more similar to, than different from, the two perspectives. Indeed, differences in the personal and business profile of female and male entrepreneurs may be explained by situational or dispositional differences. In contrast to the liberal feminist theory, the social feminist theory, which emanates from the social learning theory and psychoanalysis, holds that differences between men and women exist from their earliest moments in life and result in fundamentally different ways of viewing the world. These differences are seen in the way women and men construct and interpret reality and

how these influence the formation of their values and intentions (Carter et al., 1997). Men and women are inherently different because of differences in their socialization, training and experiences encountered prior to entry into particular work positions.

As mentioned above, the gender gap is common reasons for difference between men and women in terms of numbers engaged in entrepreneurial activity, motives to start or run a business, industry choice and business performance and growth. The gender gap becomes more apparent though when women's motives to start or run a social business are compared to men's. The vast majority of women are engaged in entrepreneurial activity driven by pure survival - out of necessity rather than opportunity - because there are no jobs or any other options for income generation.

The gender gap in entrepreneurship is most apparent when reviewed by industry choice and entrepreneurial orientation. Women seem to pursue certain businesses at the expense of others. The gender gap is also visible in business performance. As mentioned earlier, women are not only less likely than men to start a business, their businesses also tend to be smaller, have fewer staff and less growth expectations. Furthermore, women generate relatively lower revenues than men, and earn less income from entrepreneurial activity. Finally, maintaining and growing the business beyond start-up is a serious challenge for all women entrepreneurs. Some reasons mentioned for high exit rates among women entrepreneurs are lack of financing, insufficient profitability, and family responsibilities. The article also points out that struggling to provide disadvantaged groups with access to education, social entrepreneurship offers the potential of increasing the availability of education and of introducing innovations that may be adopted by the national education system.

## **2. Postulated of Solution**

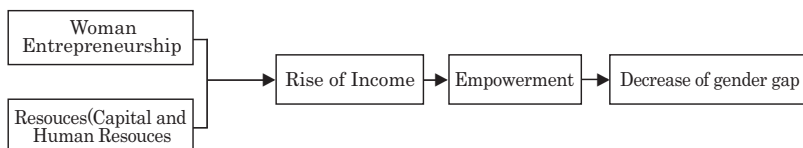
This study has dealt with the problem of social entrepreneurship and gender difference in particular, its nature, severity, effect and impact on women empowerment. The problems are examined in view of the entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. While rural entrepreneurship development has afflicted with many other problems, their dexterity and severity are almost the same in other development problems. Therefore, the education and women entrepreneurship development in particular and economic growth in general need to lead the country towards the path of eliminate gender gap to emancipate suffering and ensure sustained development of more than 160 million people within short a period and provide maximum benefits to the country. However, some of these suggestions are enumerated as follows:

Based on all these, it is suggested in this study that women should be encouraged to employ participatory new approaches in Grameen and individuals executing their community development projects. As described above approach as the approach that combines both social and economic objectives so as to achieve sustainable development with won initiatives. This approach enables the community groups not only to initiate, but also to organize and take actions that will help them to achieve their common interests and goal. The implication of this new approach is that it should encourage investments in local organizational capacity and community control in decision making. This entails that there should be institutional re-orientation from non-government that would not only ensure responsiveness to social business, but should also empower women to act. Government should also encourage women to get involved in developmental programs through various incentives like granting

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them soft loans. They should also be encouraged to get involved in the formation of organizations that will be generating money and promoting socio-economic development.

Figure 3: Gender Differences in Social Entrepreneurship



Source : Chowdhury (2014):53.

On account of Bangladesh rural economy, the development of agriculture holds the key to progress, poverty alleviation, equitable access to opportunities, and food security. To attain these goals of economic plans has eliminate of gender problems through women entrepreneurship; job creation and improvement of labor productivity; agricultural development; non-agricultural development; development of human sector etc. Among theses objectives, the women entrepreneurship was emphasis to modernize by transforming from a resource-based to a technology-based industry. To achieve profitable incomes in business, particularly the social business, by ensuring equitable access to assets, resources and services, and to promote value-added processing, agribusiness activities, and industrialization. However, the factor that contributes to the failure of government policies for women entrepreneurship, development social business is the inefficiency and even widespread corruption among the Bangladesh bureaucracy. A need for bureaucratic reforms is well recognized, but the implementation has always been slow and sometimes even move backward.

## V . Conclusion

From the above discussion it has the positive things could mentioned has a good number of women all over the Bangladesh have stated business their won-self. Women have already proved their potential as entrepreneurs' and contributing to the national economic development despites different types of socio-cultural and economic barriers that still hinder the empowerment of women, particularly women in economic activities. Women entrepreneurs have many problems, including limited access to finance, market, business network, training as well as the double burden of having a family and running a business simultaneously. Under these circumstances, it believed women entrepreneurship has a tremendous potential in empowering women and transforming society with a view of Bangladesh.

However, in order to meet the challenges of gender differences in social entrepreneurship, there is an urgent need to full implementation of secondary education, technical education and vocational training for women. Therefore, that can perfectly adapt to different stages of socio-business development as well as women empowerment development and its work force in order to gender differences. Vis-avis government should take proper initiatives to utilize appropriate plans and policies for gender differences in social entrepreneurship development will significantly contribute towards the solution of gender gap in social business in the country.

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