Report On

Financial challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh

By

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An internship report submitted to the BBS in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Business Administration

Brac University

Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my/our own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The report does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The report does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

Student's Full Name & Signature:

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Supervisor's Full Name & Signature:

Saif Hossain
Assistant Professor & Director (BBA program)
BRAC Business School
BRAC University

Letter of Transmittal

Saif hossain

Assistant professor

Director

BBA

BRAC University

66 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Subject: About internship report submit

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to give details regarding my appointment to the entry-level position at the research and professional development center of Brac University. Considerable diligence has been exerted to ensure that the report is both concise and thorough, containing only the essential information and recommended steps to be taken.

I am confident that the report will meet the anticipated requirements.

Sincerely yours,

____

Dilshad Zannat Jima

18104144

BRAC Business School

BRAC University

Date: September 2023

Certification

rac University

29 May 2023

PIN: 20668

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Ms. Dilshad Zannat Jima has rendered her services towards Brac University as Intern in the Research & Professional Development Center (RPDC) under BRAC Business School from 25 January 2023 to 24 April 2023 as a contractual employee.

We wish her success in all her future professional endeavors.

Rifat Sultana
Director HR

Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh [illegible]

Acknowledgement

I extend my utmost regards to **Saif Hossain**, who serves as my superior and holds the esteemed positions of Assistant Professor and Director of the BBA program at BRAC Business School, BRAC University. I express gratitude for the valuable guidance, profound concepts, constructive evaluations, and meticulous directives provided by him, all of which facilitated the successful completion of my report. Completing the paper would have posed significant challenges in the absence of his assistance. I would like to express my gratitude to Syed M. Rahman, an esteemed Associate Professor and Director (Research) at BRAC Business School, BRAC University, as well as **Nafisa Ali**, a Research Associate at the Research and Professional Development Centre (RPDC) of BRAC University, for providing me with the opportunity to successfully complete my internship program at their esteemed institution. Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude towards their invaluable assistance throughout the duration of the three-month program, as it facilitated my acquisition of valuable experiential knowledge at this esteemed educational institution. I am also really satisfied with the substantial knowledge I acquired from close collaboration with colleagues from diverse disciplines, as well as by the valuable insights generously offered by other experts throughout my internship.

Executive Summary

Women's entrepreneurship has been increasingly important in recent years in promoting economic growth and development on a global scale. The goal of this study is to examine the unique financial difficulties that women business owners in Bangladesh face while also examining the roadblocks to their economic empowerment and company expansion. The study aims to provide important insights into the formulation of policies and programs that support gender-inclusive entrepreneurship, encouraging their active participation in the growth and sustainability of the country's economy through an in-depth analysis of these issues and their implications. This study employs a qualitative research approach. The results show that Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs face a number of significant financial challenges, including limited access to loans and credit facilities, high interest rates, collateral requirements, gender-based funding discrimination, financial illiteracy, and cultural barriers. The survey's findings show that everyone who took part is aware of Bangladeshi programs aimed at educating and promoting financial literacy among women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. These kinds of initiatives have the potential to close the gender gap in financial literacy and provide women with the resources they need to manage the financial aspects of their companies, which can help them grow and succeed.

Keywords: Women's entrepreneurship, financial difficulties, loans, interest rates, cultural barriers.

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List of Acronyms

ADB- Asian Development Bank

NGO- Non-Governmental Organizations

SDG- Sustainable Development Goals.

Chapter One

My role during my Internship

1.1 Overview of the Role:

During my internship at the BRAC Research and Development Centre, I actively contributed to the facilitation and empowerment of women entrepreneurs. During my three-month internship, I actively participated in supporting women in diverse facets of their entrepreneurial endeavors, thereby facilitating the expansion of their enterprises and advocating for gender parity within the realm of entrepreneurship.

1.2 The primary duties and obligations:

- In the realm of business support, my role encompassed offering direct assistance to female entrepreneurs in several domains, including but not limited to business planning, market research, and strategy formulation. This encompassed engaging in individual discussions to comprehend their distinct requirements and obstacles.
- Financial Literacy courses: I actively participated in the coordination and delivery of financial literacy courses specifically designed to cater to the unique requirements of female entrepreneurs.
- The individual assumed a pivotal responsibility in the collection and analysis of data pertaining to the obstacles encountered by female entrepreneurs.
- Documentation and Reporting: I actively participated in the process of documenting the various activities and outcomes of the project.
- In the context of resource mobilization, I actively contributed to the identification of prospective financing avenues and collaborative alliances aimed at ensuring the long-term viability and growth of support initiatives tailored towards women entrepreneurs.
- Networking and Outreach: I engaged in proactive involvement in networking events and outreach initiatives aimed at facilitating connections between female entrepreneurs and mentors, investors, and other support networks within the entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- Advocacy: I provided support for advocacy endeavors focused on tackling the unique problems faced by individuals of a given gender in the realm of business.

1.3 Accomplishments:

During my internship, I got the opportunity to observe the beneficial effects of the center's programs on female entrepreneurs. Numerous instances of triumph have surfaced, exemplifying the progression and tenacity exhibited by these entrepreneurs in surmounting fiscal obstacles and augmenting their enterprises.

1.4 The main takeaways from this experience are as follows:

- During my internship at the BRAC Research and Development Centre, I gained significant insights into the realm of women entrepreneurship and the significance of tailored assistance. Through my experiences, I have developed a more profound comprehension of the distinct obstacles encountered by women in the business realm, as well as the significance of financial literacy, mentorship, and networking in facilitating their achievements.
- In general, the internship experience I had proved to be both professionally enriching and personally fulfilling, since it involved actively supporting women entrepreneurs in their pursuit of success and fostering positive change within their respective communities. This experience served to strengthen my dedication to advancing gender equality and providing assistance to enhance women's economic empowerment.

Chapter Two

Overview of the Organization

2.1 Organization Profile

Bangladesh's Brac University (BracU) is situated in Dhaka and was founded in 2001. BracU employs a liberal arts curriculum that fosters innovation and provides the world of higher education with new life. It strives to fulfill the needs of the modern world while guaranteeing a high standard of education. By drawing on BRAC's expertise in finding answers to the problems caused by extreme poverty, BracU seeks to inculcate in its students a dedication to contributing to the advancement of the country. English is the language of instruction and assessment at Brac University. BracU has been authorized by the Bangladeshi government's Ministry of Education and is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The liberal arts curriculum at BRAC University (BRACU) fosters innovation and provides the field of higher education with new life. It strives to fulfill the needs of the modern world while guaranteeing a high standard of education. BRACU, which has made a name for itself as one of the top private universities in Bangladesh, is recognized by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC). The university is essential to producing competent graduates for a knowledge-based economy.

A Research Associate is needed by the Research and Professional Development Center (RPDC) at BRAC University's BRAC Business School. The function of Research Associate is multifaceted and demands a highly motivated, meticulous individual with expertise in numerous funding schemes under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) umbrella of Bangladeshi enterprises. He or she needs to be knowledgeable about various funds for research and development as well as assistance from domestic and foreign donors. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the research associate will contribute to the center's and school's ongoing research by helping with literature reviews, data collecting, analysis, and manuscript writing. It's also anticipated that you have some basic project management experience via training and short certificate programs.

2.2 Mission

- Fostering Knowledge Creation.
- Upholding Human Value.
- Promoting Sustainable Development.

2.3 Vision

- Proud Global Institution from Bangladesh

- Bangladesh’s Flagship Institution

2.4 Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop and manage the BBS research grant portfolio, and usage of funds;
- Work with the research team to identify potential activities;
- Prepare concept notes, project proposals, and budget guidelines, and submit them in due time
- Establish detailed systems and procedures for the management of research grant activities
- Support research activities of the center and school

Chapter Three

Main Part

3.1 Background of the study:

Men may fear women's financial independence. Gender stereotypes underestimate women's financial decision-making and agency. Entrepreneurship has been increasingly important in recent years in promoting economic growth and development on a global scale. Particularly female company owners have made a considerable impact on the development of the business environment, the creation of employment possibilities, and the socio-economic development of their respective nations. Women entrepreneurs are breaking down obstacles and rejecting conventional gender norms to start and effectively run their businesses in Bangladesh, as they are in many other countries. Women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh still confront a variety of difficulties, particularly in the areas of resource access and financial management, despite their outstanding accomplishments. The goal of the current thesis is to examine the unique financial difficulties that women business owners in Bangladesh face while also examining the roadblocks to their economic empowerment and company expansion. Understanding these issues can help policymakers, corporate executives, and stakeholders develop targeted strategies and activities to support gender-inclusive entrepreneurship and foster an environment that is more conducive to the success of female entrepreneurs.

This study aims to shed light on a number of financial roadblocks that women entrepreneurs face in Bangladesh, such as the lack of readily available credit and loans, high interest rates, collateral requirements, gender-based funding discrimination, a lack of financial literacy, and cultural barriers. This research aims to provide important insights into the formulation of policies and programs that support women's entrepreneurship, encouraging their active participation in the growth and sustainability of the country's economy through an in-depth analysis of these challenges and their implications.

The next chapters will go in-depth on the literature review, methodology, data analysis, and findings, providing a thorough understanding of the financial difficulties women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh must overcome. The ultimate objective is to provide an environment for business that is more inclusive and equitable, where female entrepreneurs are enabled to overcome financial obstacles and realize their full potential as drivers of socioeconomic development in Bangladesh.

3.2 Objectives of the study:

- To learn the financial challenges faced by Women entrepreneurs
- To know about the financial literacy and awareness from Women entrepreneurs

3.3 Literature Review

It is understood that "empowerment" refers to the user's literal power. In order for those affected to believe they have the power and authority to act and exert influence, it is necessary to deconstruct harmful social constructions (Rowlands, 1995).

(Rao et al., 1995) define women's empowerment as "the ability of women to be economically self-sufficient and self-reliant, with control over decisions affecting their life options and freedom from violence."

In the current sociocultural context of Bangladesh, the term "empowerment" embodies the idea of change. In both the social and economic spheres, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are driving empowerment in Bangladesh. Since women are more vulnerable and impoverished than men, NGOs have made their micro-credit program accessible to them. It is now clear that the advantages of microcredit extend beyond women to include men, children, and other family members. Participation in credit programs is positively correlated with a woman's level of empowerment, which is determined by her relative physical mobility, economic security, ability to make independent purchases, freedom from domestic abuse and dominance, political and legal awareness, and participation in political activism and protests (ADB, 1997).

Due to the patriarchal social structure in rural Bangladesh, critics of NGO activities argue that access to microcredit does not always empower women and may even worsen their situation (Goetz et al., 1996). Due to their lack of education, triple role as caregivers and providers, institutionalized and culturally-based discrimination, and structural economic limitations, women are especially vulnerable. Consequently, it is difficult for microcredit to effectively promote women's empowerment. Microcredit alone is insufficient to address a number of the other issues that must be considered in relation to the status and condition of women. On the other hand, it is now questioned whether NGOs reach the poorest of the poor and those women who are not at all entrepreneurial, given that their reach spans the entirety of Bangladesh. This explains why providing services to poor women is expensive, as they only require small loans that generate negligible interest for NGOs. Despite these limitations, microcredit can still increase women's reliance on their financial contributions to the household. According to the discussion of (Goetz et al., 1996). "credit represents a form of economic empowerment that can increase women's self-confidence and status within the family, as independent producers and providers of a valuable cash resource for the household economy."

There are several measurement-related issues to take into account. First off, it is impossible to directly observe the empowerment process; instead, it can only be roughly estimated using proxies or indicators. For instance, paid employment, education, and media exposure are typically indicators of the initial resources that women can access and are thought to be the prerequisites to the exercise of choice, but there is no assurance that these will necessarily translate into agency. Similar to this, the ability to exercise choice can only be observed to a certain extent because the reasons and goals for that choice are not always clear. Commonly used indicators for measuring agency have been observable behaviors like decision-making participation, financial independence, and freedom of movement. According to Kabeer (1999), agency can also take the form of cognitive processes like reflection and analysis, bargaining and negotiation, attitudes toward or rejection of gender-based subordination of women, and other behaviors that are less amenable to measurement.

Second, the process of empowerment is multifaceted. Inequality between men and women exists in many areas of women's lives, including the social, economic, political, and psychological spheres. Resources can be converted into agency through a variety of causal pathways, including material, perceptual, relational, and cognitive ones (Chen and Mahmud 1995).

The causal pathways linking agency to beneficial outcomes must also be identified if the hypothesis is that greater agency improves women's well-being by reducing gender inequality in health status, educational attainment, personal security, and other areas. In other words, indicators must be defined and assessed along a variety of dimensions and pathways. The experience of empowerment across various domains may be independent. For instance, without corresponding changes in the community or public spheres, women may achieve greater agency and control within the family setting. On the other hand, sometimes empowerment in one area can result in empowerment in another. For instance, women's agency in taking back control of material resources can result in more involvement in household decision-making.

Third, the setting is important. The specific change pathways differ depending on the context, and even within the same context, not all women may experience empowerment in the same ways. This is especially clear in the various ways in which household wealth and age can influence the empowerment process. Additionally, indicators may be contextually specific or general. In a patriarchal society where women are customarily housebound, an indicator of freedom of mobility, for instance, is much more important than it is in a western society.

Empirical research on women's empowerment in rural Bangladesh has mainly focused on how access to financial services affects it (Goetz and Sen Gupta 1994).

Numerous empowerment indicators have been used, such as managerial control over loans, accounting expertise, active use of loans, the size of women's economic contributions, mobility in public life, the ability to make both large and small purchases, ownership of productive assets, and independence.

In these studies, the resources that make up the determinants (covariates) of women's empowerment were first and foremost participation in a microcredit program and the nature of that participation (type of investment made with the loan, size of loan, years of membership), but other determinants were also identified, such as education, paid employment, mobility in the male-dominated public sphere (seen in one study as an initial condition rather than a det The "verdict," though, hasn't always been conclusive. (For a comprehensive review up to a decade ago, see Kabeer 2001). In some of the studies mentioned above, empowerment indicators were also used to forecast outcomes at the household level. These indicators included consumption levels, the value of women's non-land assets, the total number of hours men and women spent engaging in economic activities at home, the number of hours women spent doing household chores, whether women received medical attention when ill, whether children were immunized, the gender gap in children's educational attainment, contraceptive use, and exposure to violence.

3.4 Methodology:

3.4.1 Research Approach: To investigate and comprehend the financial difficulties experienced by women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, this study utilizes a qualitative research approach.

3.4.2 Focus Group Discussions: In order to promote open communication and examine shared experiences about financial issues, focus groups with chosen women entrepreneurs created. Focus groups shed light on recurring themes and trends that show up in group interactions.

3.4.3 Sampling: Participants were chosen using purposeful sampling strategies in order to guarantee representation of women entrepreneurs from various industries, business sizes, and geographical areas in Bangladesh.

3.4.5 Sample Size: The sample size was 25 in accordance with the concept of data saturation, which occurs when fresh data and insights stop coming from focus group and interview sessions.

3.4.6 Data Analysis: The information gathered from focus groups, interviews, and documents will be examined using a theme approach.

3.4.7 Ethical Consideration: Prior to data collection, all participants asked for their informed consent to make sure they are aware of the study's goals, their rights, and the confidentiality of their answers.

3.4.8 Limitations: The study may have issues with responder bias, the subjectivity of qualitative research, and the generalizability of results, among others.

3.5 Findings and Analysis

3.5.1 Education Qualifications

Table 1: Education Qualifications

Education Qualifications	Frequency
Primary	0
SSC	10
HSC	12
Graduate	3

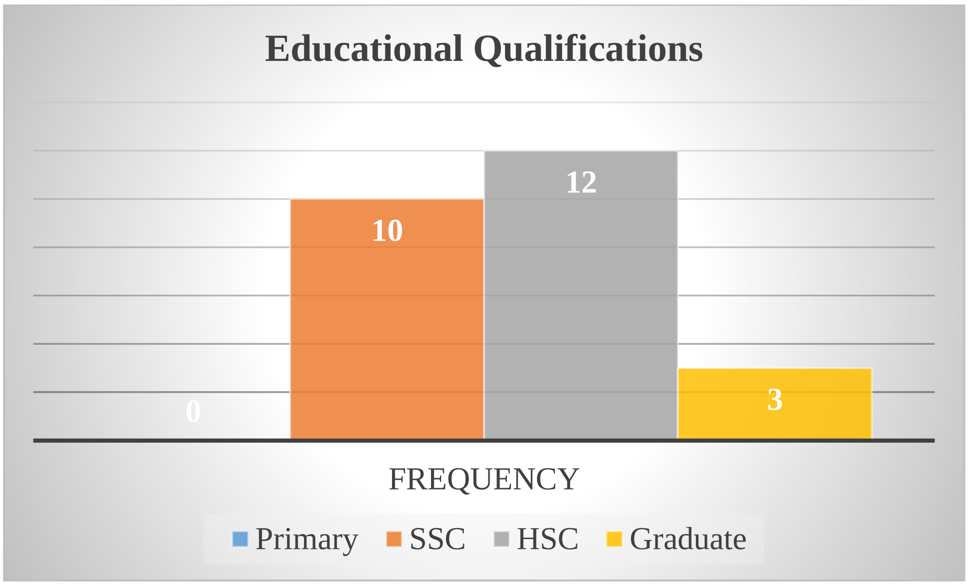

Figure 1: Education Qualifications

Analysis:

With information, we can look at how schooling levels are spread out: "Primary" doesn't show up very often because there are no high school grads in the data set. Ten percent of people have finished secondary school (SSC). An HSC: The number 12 says that there are 12 people with this level of education. Three graduates are shown by the frequency number of three.

Overall, this data shows that the group has a wide range of levels of education. Everyone seems to have a college degree, an SSC, or a high school diploma (HSC). No one seems to have only gone to basic school.

3.5.2 Years of Entrepreneurial Experience

Table 2: Years of Entrepreneurial Experience

Years of Entrepreneurial Experience	Frequency
1-2 years	12
2-4 years	7
4+ years	8

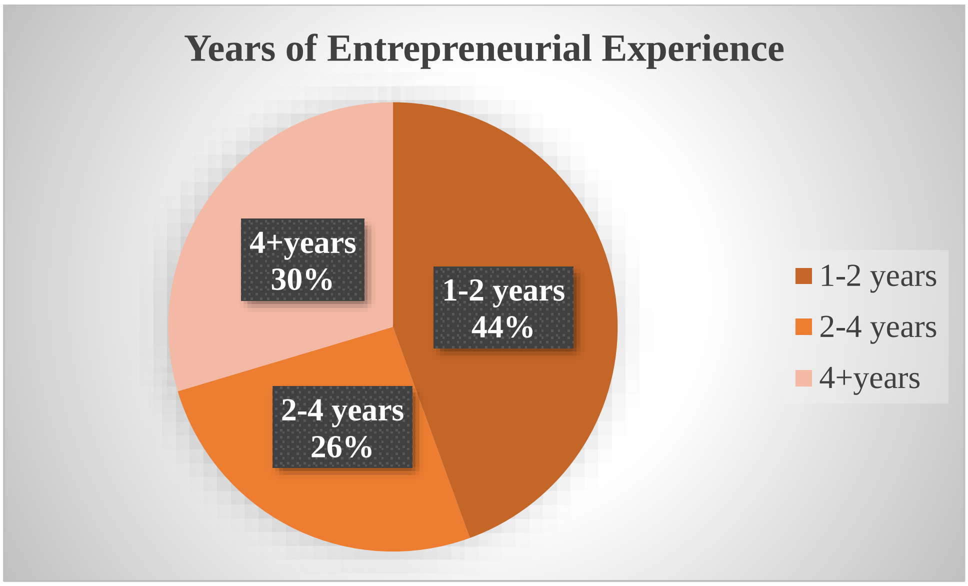

Figure 2: Years of Entrepreneurial Experience

Analysis:

With these data, we can determine the typical amount of years spent operating a business: Twelve (44%) of the dataset's participants have one to two years of experience as entrepreneurs, translating to a frequency of twelve. There are seven (26%) persons with two to four years of entrepreneurship experience, according to the frequency distribution. The figure eight denotes that eight persons (30%) have at least four years of experience in the corporate world. This data generally demonstrates how diverse the entrepreneurs' backgrounds are within the sample. One to two years seems to be the most typical amount of experience, followed by four years or more, and then two to four years or less.

3.5.3 Type of Business

Table 3: Type of Business

Type of Business	Frequency
Manufacturing	14
Service	6
Retail	5

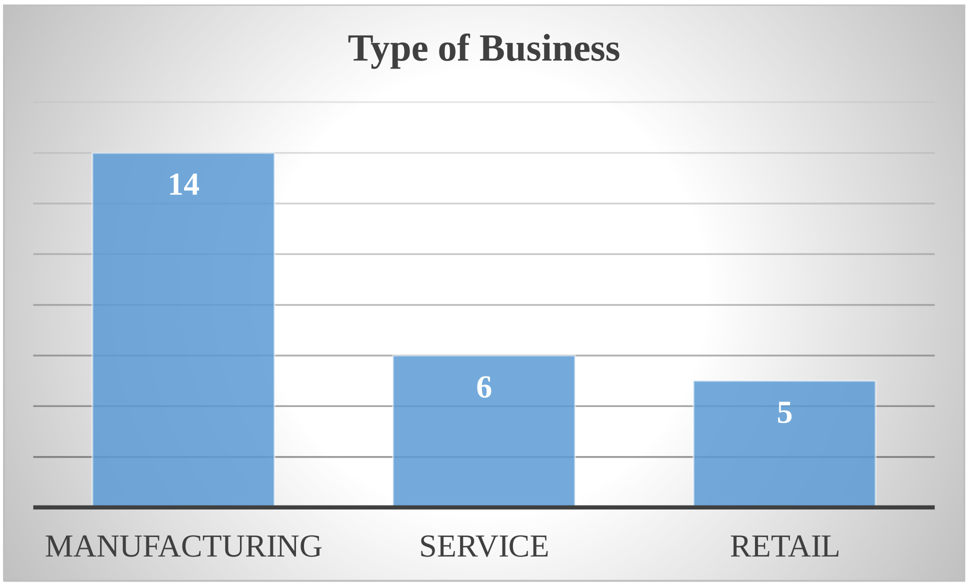

Figure 3; Type of Business

Analysis:

From the data, we can determine the prevalence of different businesses. The collection contains 14 manufacturing companies. The sample included six service-provider organizations (frequency count 6). The data shows five retail businesses in the sample. It shows the distribution of different sorts of companies in the dataset. The manufacturing industry has the most businesses, followed by the service sector. The retail industry has the fewest businesses.

3.5.4 Platform of Business

Table 4: Platform of Business

Platform of Business	Frequency
Online	22
Offline	3

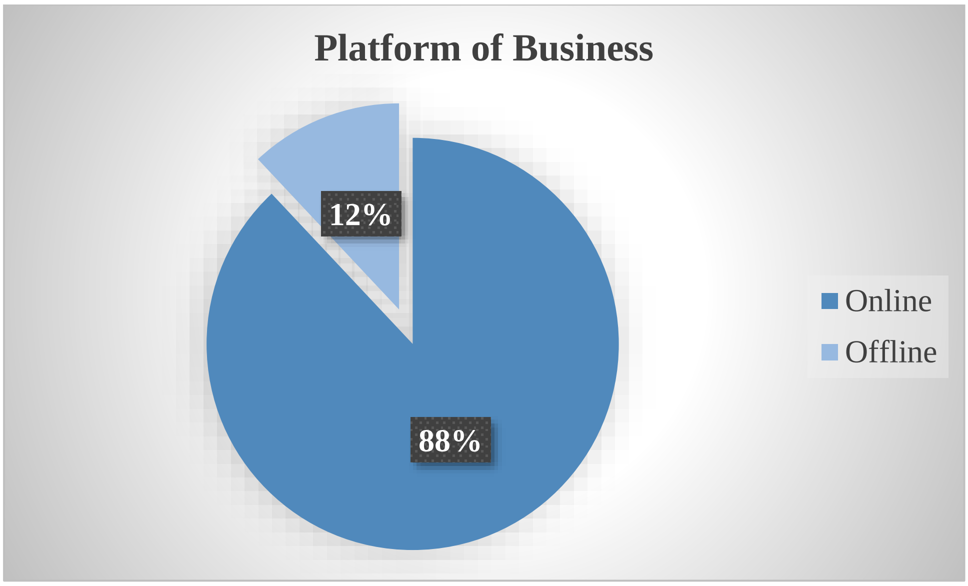

Figure 4: Platform of Business

Analysis:

The provided data can be used to examine the frequency of use of the business tool. According to the data, 88% of the businesses are online, with 22 of them exclusively conducting business online. The frequency of 3 (12%) in the data indicates that there are three offline enterprises in the sample. This data generally illustrates the distribution of business platforms within the provided dataset. The majority of firms appear to be online, with a smaller percentage operating offline. Numerous industries are seeing an increase in digitization and e-commerce, which indicates that online business concepts are gaining popularity.

3.5.5 Do you face difficulties in accessing financial resources for your business?

Table 5: Do you face difficulties in accessing financial resources for your business?

Do you face difficulties in accessing financial resources for your business ?	Frequency
Yes	25
No	0

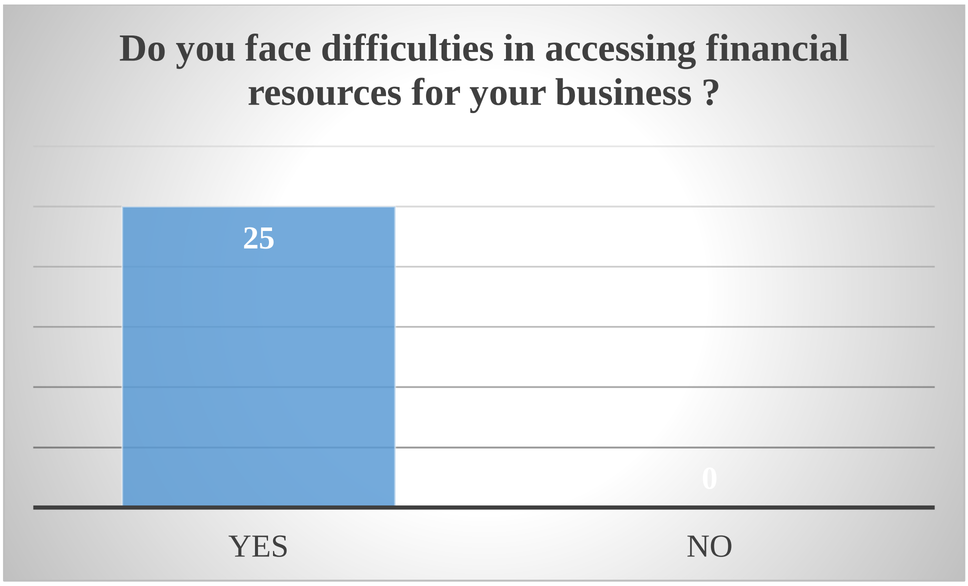

Figure 5: Do you face difficulties in accessing financial resources for your business?

Analysis:

The number of companies reporting financial troubles is 25. Contrary to the user's claim, the numerical figure is zero, showing that no firms have reported funding issues. The results indicate that all sample organizations have struggled to get sufficient financial resources. The applicant's creditworthiness, the firm's character, the economy, and financial resources may all matter. This shows how financial issues hurt a company's growth, operations, and success.

3.5.6 What are the main sources of financial challenges you encounter as a woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh?

Table 6; Figure 6: What are the main sources of financial challenges you encounter as a woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh?

What are the main sources of financial challenges you encounter as a woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh?	Frequency
Limited availability of loans and credit facilities	8
High interest rates and collateral requirements	8
Gender-based discrimination in accessing funding	2
Lack of financial literacy and knowledge	3
Cultural barriers and societal norms	4

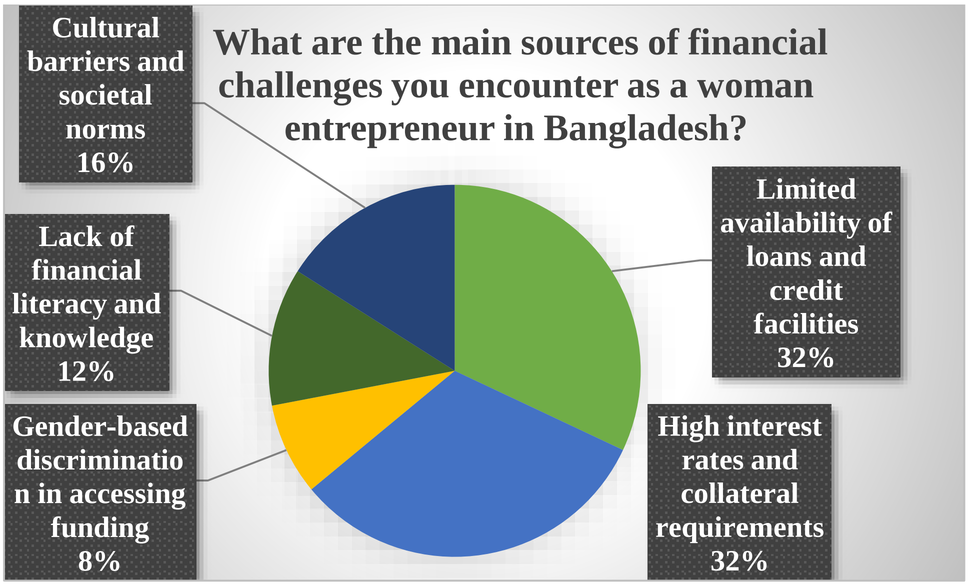

Figure 7: What are the main sources of financial challenges you encounter as a woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh?

Analysis:

Bangladeshi women-owned businesses struggle financially for many reasons: 8 respondents (32%) struggled financially due to loan and credit line restrictions. This shows how difficult financing is for Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs, which may limit expansion. 8 respondents (32%) have major financial worries. Therefore, women entrepreneurs would have problems acquiring low-interest loans. Two (8% of total) found it while investigating corporate finance. This suggests bank bias against female entrepreneurs. It was hard for 3 (12%). This shows how women business owners may struggle to track their accounts, making financial decisions and money management harder. Social and cultural norms denied 4 (16%) respondents financial aid. Women may struggle to start and grow businesses due to social and cultural norms.

3.5.7 Have the financial challenges you face had any significant impact on your business growth and expansion plans?

Table 7: Have the financial challenges you face had any significant impact on your business growth and expansion plans?

Have the financial challenges you face had any significant impact on your business growth and expansion plans?	Frequency
Yes	25
No	0

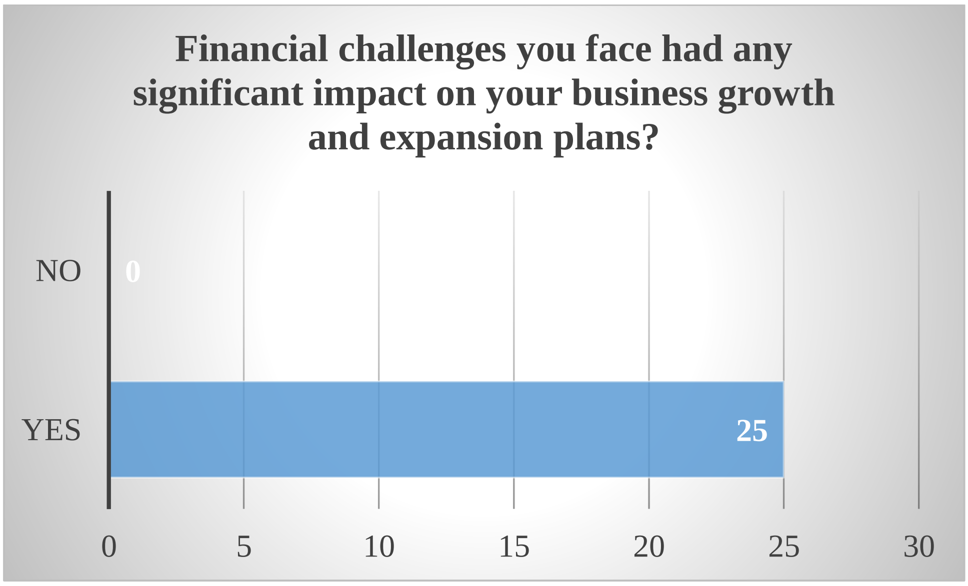

Figure 8: Have the financial challenges you face had any significant impact on your business growth and expansion plans?

Analysis:

Given the information, we may examine how financial issues effect corporate growth and expansion: The frequency of 25 indicates that all 25 respondents claimed money concerns had made them less likely to grow and expand their firms. No one stated that money constraints hadn't changed their business growth ambitions (0). This shows that the dataset's companies' financial issues have seriously hampered their growth goals. A business with money issues may not be able to invest in new consumers, grow, create new products, or enter new markets. Financial issues like lack of funds or excessive interest rates might hinder a company's growth.

3.5.8 Barriers during women empowerment

Table 8: Barriers during women empowerment

Barriers during women empowerment	Frequency
Men may fear women's financial independence	**4**
Gender stereotypes underestimate women's financial decision-making and agency.	**2**
Carework social expectations confuse women	**19**

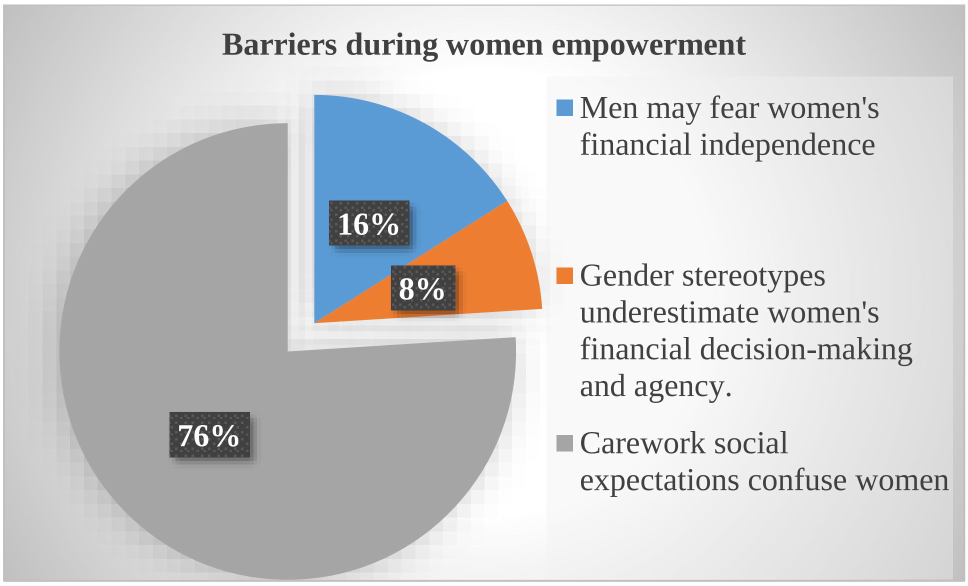

Figure 9: Barriers during women empowerment

Analysis:

The data can help us examine women's empowerment issues. As 4 (16%) respondents saw financial independence as a barrier to empowerment, males may fear it. Men may be fearful of women being financially independent, hindering economic empowerment. Female financial managers are seen less competent and autonomous. This was cited by 2/4 respondents (8%). Gender stereotypes may undervalue women's financial decision-making. Social care expectations can confound women. According to 19 (76%) participants, social carework expectations limit women's empowerment. This highlights that women are expected to handle a disproportionate share of care and domestic responsibilities, which limits their time, energy, and economic and professional growth.

3.5.9 Are you aware of any financial literacy or education programs specifically targeted towards women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh?

Table 9: Are you aware of any financial literacy or education programs specifically targeted towards women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh?

Are you aware of any financial literacy or education programs specifically targeted towards women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh?	Frequency
Yes	25
No	0

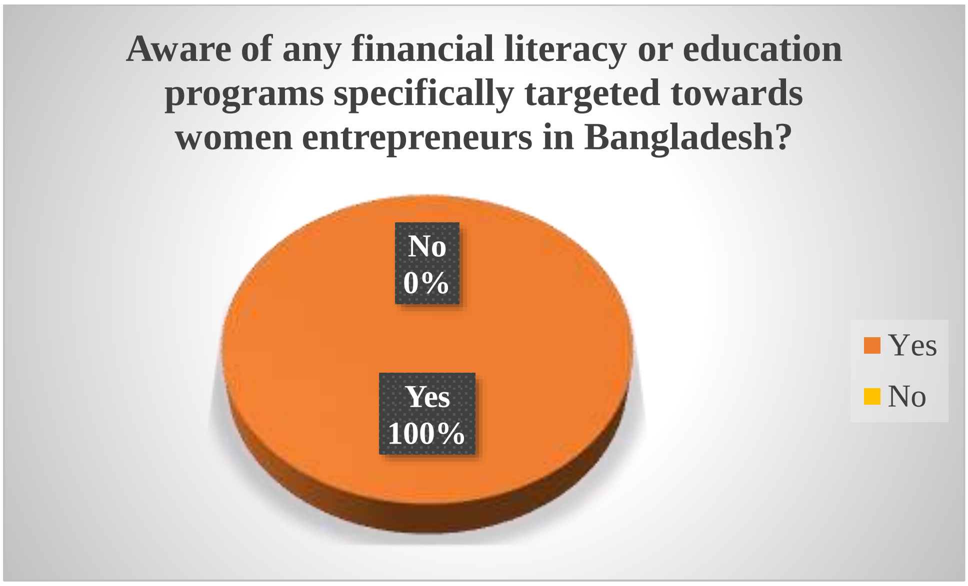

Figure 10: Are you aware of any financial literacy or education programs specifically targeted towards women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh?

Analysis:

This displays Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs' financial knowledge and education. All respondents (100%) knew about financial education or awareness programs for Bangladeshi women business owners. No information was provided on how often the survey was done, therefore everyone likely heard about these projects.

All poll respondents knew of Bangladesh's financial education programs for women business owners. Great that tools are being created to teach women entrepreneurs about money. Financial education and training for women entrepreneurs has proven helpful in helping them manage their money, seek funding, analyze investment opportunities, and make good financial decisions. These programs could help women-owned businesses flourish by addressing money misconceptions.

3.5.10 Problems Faced by Women Entrepreneurs

Table 10: Problems Faced by Women Entrepreneurs

Problems Faced By Women Entrepreneurs	Frequency
Lack Of Training	1
Lack Of Access To Infrastructure	18
Absence Of R&D To Improve Product Quality	6

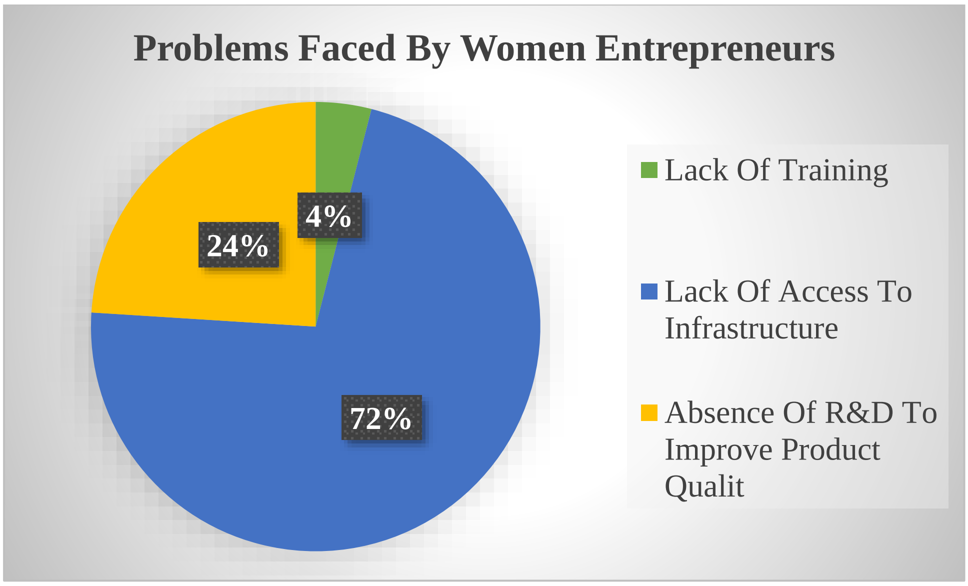

Figure 11: Problems Faced by Women Entrepreneurs

Analysis:

Data reveals women-owned firms struggle. One individual (4%) worried about "lack of training". College degrees were scarce among female business entrepreneurs. Training helps women entrepreneurs learn business and industry trends. 18 (72%) of 25 respondents said infrastructure access was a big issue. Women entrepreneurs struggle to find office space, energy, and technology. Infrastructure issues might hinder corporate growth. Bad product R&D

caused problems for six respondents (24%). This implies some female business owners may struggle to create and improve their products, making them less marketable.

3.5.11 Financial challenges

Table 11: Financial challenges

Financial challenges	Frequency
lacking knowledge about how to create loan proposals	3
lack of legal paperwork	4
High interest rates and a lack of collateral	14
lacking in technological knowledge and administrative ability	4

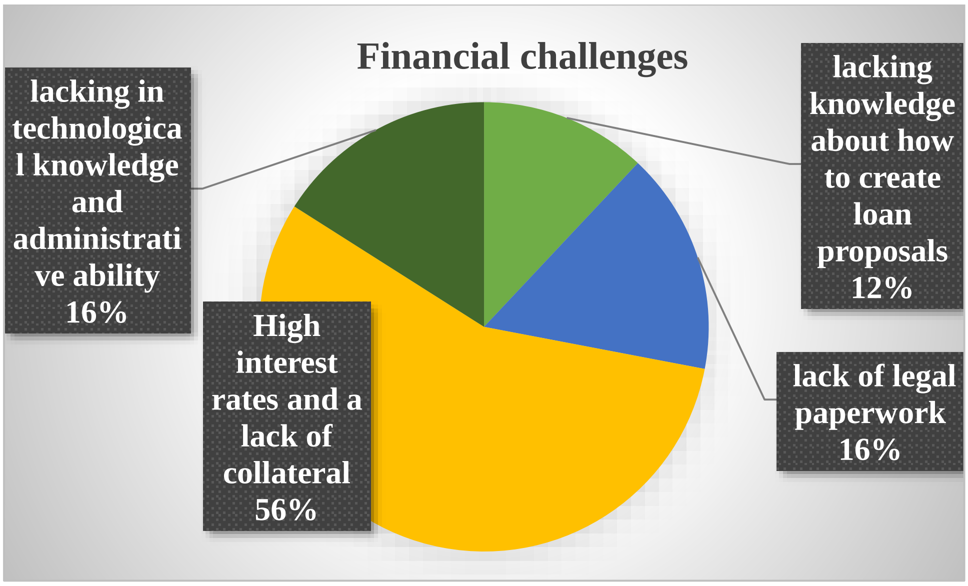

Figure 12: Financial challenges

Analysis:

This report shows enterprises under economic pressure: Insufficient loan proposal structure knowledge: Finances were mentioned 3 times (12%). This shows that certain entrepreneurs may struggle to submit loan proposals, preventing bank financing. Four respondents (16%) said legal documents are scarce. Keep good records and follow the law to succeed.

High financial costs and poor security were cited by 14 (56%). Businesses want safety and affordability. 4 (16%) people admitted to computer and administrative incompetence, a common concern. Thus, certain organizations may struggle to use technology for accounting and administration. The poll revealed numerous business owners' financial concerns. Legal documents, high lending rates, collateral, technological challenges, and business management issues can deny loans.

3.6 Conclusion

Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs struggle with capital, security, and high interest rates. The report says these issues hamper firm growth and prevent entrepreneurs from reaching their full potential. In manufacturing and other industries, cultural norms, societal expectations, and gender discrimination increase financial problems. Lack of financing for schooling worsens these difficulties. To empower women entrepreneurs and create equitable and long-term economic success, targeted programs must address these issues, open financial resources, improve awareness, and remove gender barriers. Manufacturing firms are increasingly using online platforms. Money difficulties influence everyone, thus they're common. These issues stem from high interest rates and borrowing restrictions. Women struggle to be strong due to social expectations regarding who should care for others. Many people know about financial education programs despite issues. Research and development and infrastructure are crucial. Women-owned businesses struggle to secure loans due to high interest rates and collateral requirements. Our research suggests prioritizing long-term, stable economic growth to solve these issues.

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Annex

Questionnaire:

1. Education Qualifications

- Primary
- SSC
- HSC
- Graduate

2. Years of Entrepreneurial Experience

- 1-2 years
- 2-4 years
- 4+ years

3. Type of Business

- Manufacturing
- Service
- Retail

4. Platform of Business

- Online
- Offline

5. Do you face difficulties in accessing financial resources for your business ?

- Yes
- No

6. What are the main sources of financial challenges you encounter as a woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh?
   - Limited availability of loans and credit facilities
   - High interest rates and collateral requirements
   - Gender-based discrimination in accessing funding
   - Lack of financial literacy and knowledge
   - Cultural barriers and societal norms
7. Have the financial challenges you face had any significant impact on your business growth and expansion plans?
   - Yes
   - No
8. Barriers during women empowerment
   - Men may fear women's financial independence
   - Gender stereotypes underestimate women's financial decision-making and agency.
   - Carework social expectations confuse women
9. Are you aware of any financial literacy or education programs specifically targeted towards women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh?
   - Yes
   - No
10. Problems Faced By Women Entrepreneurs
    - Lack Of Training
    - Lack Of Access To Infrastructure
    - Absence Of R&D To Improve Product Quality
11. Financial challenges
    - lacking knowledge about how to create loan proposals

- lack of legal paperwork
- High interest rates and a lack of collateral
- lacking in technological knowledge and administrative ability