

**IMPACT OF JAGORANI CHAKRA FOUNDATION MICRO-
CREDIT PROGRAM TOWARDS UPLIFTING SOCIAL
STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARIES**

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PROGRAM TOWARDS UPLIFTING SOCIAL STATUS OF THE
BENEFICIARIES**

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “IMPACT OF JAGORANI CHAKRA FOUNDATION MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM TOWARDS UPLIFTING SOCIAL STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARIES” submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **Master of Science in Agricultural Extension and Information System**, embodies the result of a piece of bona fide research work carried out by **Md. Sagib-Al-Maruf**, Registration No. 06-1989 under my supervision and guidance. No part of the thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.

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

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DEDICATED TO
MY
BELOVED PARENTS

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ACRONYMS, SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASA: Association for Social Advancement

BAU: Bangladesh Agricultural University

BBS: Bangladesh Bureau of statistics

BRAC: Building Resources Across Communities (Formerly Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee)

CARE: Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere

GB: Grameen Bank

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GO: Government Organization

JCF: Jagarani Chakra Foundation

MS: Master of Science

MRA: Microcredit Regulatory Authority

MFIs: Micro Finance Institutions

NGOs: Non-government Organizations

No. : Number

PROSHIKA : Proshikkhon Shikkha Kaz

SSS : Society for Social Service

SAU: Sher-E-Bangla Agricultural University

TMSS :Thengamara Mohila SabujSangha

ABSTRACT

The focus of this study was to determine and describe the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting the social status of the beneficiaries measured by computing change in income, change in food consumption, change in housing, change in drinking water source, change in sanitation, change in family asset and change in decision making ability. Attempts were also made to determine and describe nine selected characteristics of Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries and explore the contribution of those characteristics to the impact of micro-credit towards uplifting the social status of the beneficiaries. Attempts were also made to identify the problems faced by the beneficiaries in receiving and utilizing micro-credit. The study was conducted at Gangni upazila under Meherpur district. Majority (58.30%) of the respondents had perceived medium impact while to 36.40% of the respondents had perceived low impact after involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation microcredit program. Step-wise multiple regressions method was administrated and 9 independent variables namely: age, level of education, family size, farm size, participation with jagorani chakra foundation, credit received, duration of involvement with jagorani chakra foundation micro-credit program, annual family savings and cosmopoliteness were fitted together in step-wise multiple regression analysis. It was observed that out of 9 variables only 3 independent variables namely farm size, duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation and annual family savings were entered into the regression equation. These three variables combinedly explained 24.7 percent of the total variation in impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status where farm size of the respondent had highest (15.50%) contribution in impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status followed by duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation (7.10 percent). 'The payback system is rigid' was identified as main problem followed by payback period starts early. Finally based on the findings of the study, some policy recommendations were suggested for future policy implications of Jagorani Chakra Foundation which can play an important role to improve the social status of the beneficiaries.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Bangladesh has been dealing with the problem of poverty since independence makes an interesting study. Using the income poverty measure from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, in the 1970s, three out of four Bangladeshis lived in poverty and the country was considered a test case for development. Rapid population growth, frequent natural disasters, and low economic growth throughout the 1980s suggested that a large number of households would remain trapped in chronic poverty. Defying this outlook, Bangladesh began experiencing more sustained economic growth since the 1990s, which was accompanied by impressive poverty reduction. For example, in 1991-92, about 60 percent of the population was below the poverty line; and by 2005 poverty had gone down to 40 percent. The latest numbers from 2010 show that now the number of people below the poverty line has gone down further to 31 percent (Economic review, 2011). In other words, poverty has halved over the last twenty years in Bangladesh. That is also very reassuring that the nationally representative survey conducted by Institute of Microfinance also show very similar trends and so we can be very sure of this progress.

To enhance international development, the United Nations Organization (UNO) announced the millennium development goals, aimed to eradicate poverty by 2015. In this regard, microfinance is the form of financial development that has its primary aim to alleviate the poverty. Governments, donors and NGOs around the world responded enthusiastically with plans and promised to work together towards the realization of these goals. In the recognition of microfinance, the UNO celebrated the year 2005 as a year of micro-credit, as a result this financing instrument is perceived worldwide as a very effective mean against hunger and poverty, mainly in developing countries (Khan, 2009).

In addition, the continuing pressure of urbanization with reduced cultivable land areas are creating pressures on the government and the entire economic set up. Because, the traditional agricultural sector has failed to fully support the national economy. In general, agriculture has so far appeared as the main source of livelihood for more than half of the entire population of the country. But this sector has arguably failed to create ground, sustainable development. Other than this, the sector has been constantly facing pressures due to its typical vulnerability to natural hazards. Visibly, the overall situation shows the limited capacity of the government for improving the existing situation and for creating more opportunities.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been playing supportive roles with the government. In some cases, they are considered as more effective to get attached with the grass-root-level developmental initiatives. The roles and initiatives played by the NGOs in Bangladesh have been considered as having positive impacts on poverty alleviation among the rural poor population. In areas where the poverty situation remains intense, activities of the NGOs typically get more importance. The target groups for these initiatives are mostly hard core poor who have very little access and opportunities for improving their living status and standards. Most of the rural peoples rarely own resources and capacities to fight against the poverty and to get employment. The very basic and important activities of the NGOs are to organize these peoples, to help to create awareness among them, inspiring them and through all of these efforts transforming them to become conversant with development. Most of such organizations tend to work with an aim of meeting demand of these poor peoples. Because, these peoples traditionally are kept out of the mainstream development initiative (Hasan, 2013).

Microcredit programs in Bangladesh is implemented by NGOs, Grameen Bank, state-owned commercial banks, private commercial banks and specialized programs of some ministries of Bangladesh government. In the microfinance

sector as of June, 2013, total loan outstanding is around BDT 341 billion, savings BDT 226 billion, the total clients is 33 million that accelerates overall economic development process of the country. Credit services of this sector can be categorized into six broad groups: i) general microcredit for small-scale self-employment based activities, ii) microenterprise loans, iii) loans for ultra-poor, iv) agricultural loans, v) seasonal loans, and vi) loans for disaster management. Loan amounts up to BDT 50,000 are generally considered as microcredit; loans above this amount are considered as microenterprise loans (MRA-MIS Database-2013).

The NGOs have appeared as the savior of countless number of people without food, cloth, education and basic health facilities. Bangladesh is one of the top thirteen underprivileged countries. With the record of being the most densely populated country on earth and feeble manpower competency, Bangladesh is facing massive challenge to meet up the demand of her ever-increasing population. Although agriculture sector is the main source of income for this rural-agro based country, unfortunately this sector has completely failed to create rewarding employment opportunity for the landless. Considering these overall situations, the NGOs are working on poverty eradication by directly involving the poverty stricken population. Their target groups are basically the poor and vulnerable ones with hardly any possessions. Their main tasks are to organize these people, create awareness in them and make them development oriented. These organizations are working based on the assessed need and demand of the grass root level farmers and women. By involving the beneficiaries directly, they are working within the context of overall national planning for development.

The economy of Bangladesh is dependent on agriculture. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Bangladesh where 47.38% of labour forces are engaged in agriculture (Bangladesh economic review, 2014). Agricultural sector provides 16.33 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (BBS,

2014). Agriculture plays a vital role in employment generation, poverty alleviation, food security, standard of living. But the economy of this country has been marked for low productivity, higher rate of population growth, chronic food shortage, poverty and increasing dependency on foreign economy. Although per capita income is dollar 1190 (BBS, 2014) which coming from most accumulated resource person's share.

Most of our farmers being very poor can hardly afford to purchase costly inputs. To purchase inputs the farmers need additional funds, the major portion of which comes from external sources. Since independence, the Government of Bangladesh has put much emphasis on agricultural sector. As a result different financial institutions have started disbursing agricultural credit to the farmers. Among the institutional sources Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Bangladesh Samabay Bank Limited, BRAC, Proshika, Jagorani Chakra Foundation, BRDB, Grameen bank etc. are playing important role in providing financial support to the farmers for increasing farm productivity as well as increasing business work (Sarker, 2007).

Several studies confirm that micro-credit program help households partially insure against shocks so that they effectively play an important "safety net" role. One carefully designed study finds that microcredit borrowers are about 50% less prone to consumption fluctuation than their counterpart non-member poor households in Bangladesh.

The impact evaluation literature on micro-credit in Bangladesh also contains some cautionary notes. For example, it is clear that not all borrowers benefit equally as it depends on their local economic environment, their entrepreneurial ability and the extent their income sources is diversified. A few studies also show that microcredit does little to change gender inequities by limiting female control over loans.

1.2 Jagorani Chakra Foundation: An NGO in Uplifting Social Status

At the end of 1975 some jubilant youths of Jessore formed Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF) to develop the situation of poor communities. They also identified that the problem is more social and political than economical. JCF started its journey with adult literacy program and developed its own adult literacy curriculum which was a unique example at that time. In 1976, JCF implemented its first development intervention and started non-formal education Centre for the children and in 1977 got the registration from Directorate of Social Welfare. JCF still believes education is the key to all development and it is the first priority in taking any new intervention. In 1981, a new horizon opened before JCF when it started working with the untouchable community, the sweeper community. The success of this intervention gave JCF courage to go with community development approach and later JCF successfully implemented a number of community development projects whose beneficiaries are now running their own people's institution by themselves.

Jagorani Chakra Foundation has a vision of socially just; economically sustainable and environmentally balanced communities, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security. Jagorani Chakra Foundation will continue to operate local, regional and national programmes based on the demands and potential of ultra poor, poor and disadvantaged communities to foster their confidence and builds the capacity to share resources and also to develop, control and sustain their endeavors to find greater prosperity and improve the material conditions of their lives (web 1).

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Jagorani Chakra Foundation is an NGO that mostly deals with landless people, the disadvantaged class of the society who are forced to live in and exploited condition in the rural society, are the target group of Jagorani Chakra Foundation.

International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) recognizes that poor women have limited access to credit not only because of being poor, but also because several of the constraints are gender-specific (Mohiuddin, 1991). But credit is rarely available to the poor at reasonable rates of interest. Commercial banks fail to create to the credit needs of the poor for three main reasons. First, these banks require collateral, which the poor find difficult to provide. Second, their procedures for filling in application forms and completing other formalities for obtaining loans are too cumbersome for the illiterate poor, and third, they prefer handling large loans rather than the petty loans that the poor need (Hossain, 1998). But Jagorani Chakra Foundation provides loan to these poor without any pledge.

The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of beneficiaries of Jagorani Chakra Foundation. The study aims to find out the answer to the following questions:

1. What were the characteristics of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries?
2. What was the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries?
3. What was the contribution of the selected characteristics of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit beneficiaries to the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status?
4. What were the problems faced by the beneficiaries in receiving and utilizing credit?

1.4 Objectives of Study

The following specific objectives were formulated in order to give proper direction to the study:

1. To find out the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries regarding the following issues:
 - a. Change in income
 - b. Change in food consumption
 - c. Change in housing
 - d. Change in drinking water source
 - e. Change in sanitation
 - f. Change in family asset
 - g. Change in decision-making ability
2. To determine and describe some selected characteristics of the beneficiaries. The characteristics are:
 - a. Age
 - b. Level of education
 - c. Family size
 - d. Farm size
 - e. Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation
 - f. Credit received
 - g. Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program
 - h. Annual family savings
 - i. Cosmopolitaness
3. To explore the contribution of the selected characteristics of the beneficiaries to impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status
4. To identify the problems faced by the Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program beneficiaries in receiving and utilizing of microcredit.

1.5 Justification of the Study

In Bangladesh social, economic and political structures generate norms and practices of women's subordination to men, the consequences of which are women's relative lack of choice and agency in decisions and processes that shape their welfare both in an absolute and in a relative sense and reduce subordination through the expansion of choice and by achieving the capacity to exercise agency in choosing (Mahmud, 2002). The overall development of a country cannot be possible without making women self-reliant. It is expected that the participation of women in the development process could contribute significantly to a balanced socio-economic growth and development of the country. So there is an urgent need to empower the women for the development of the society as well as the country. NGOs want to involve women in income generating activities for economic advancement. But the true development of the women can be achieved if the NGOs uplifting social status of the beneficiaries.

It is claimed by different NGOs that there is a positive impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. The current study aims to verify that claim. Considering the time and resource constraints among the leading NGOs in Bangladesh, Jagorani Chakra Foundation was selected for this piece of research. The findings of this study also might be expected to be useful to the researchers, planners and policy makers, extension workers and debtors of Jagorani Chakra Foundation and similar NGOs and to other organizations and personnel.

1.6 Assumption of the Study

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

1. The respondents included in the sample were capable of furnishing proper responses to the questions included in the interview schedule.
2. The responses furnished by the respondents were reliable. They express the truth while passing their opinions and providing information.
3. The views and opinions furnished by the beneficiaries included in the sample were the representative views and opinions of all the beneficiaries of the study.
4. The researcher who acted as interviewer was well adjusted to the social and cultural environment of the study area. Hence, the respondents furnished their correct opinions without hesitation.
5. Data were normally and independently distributed with their means and standard deviation.
6. The findings of the study are expected to be useful for planning and execution of various programmes in connection with development of the country.

1.7 Limitations of the study

Considering the time, money and other resources available to the researcher, the following limitations were taken into consideration:

1. The study was confined to only five unions of Gangni Upazila of Meherpur District.
2. Characteristics of the beneficiaries were many and varied, but only nine characteristics were selected for investigation in the study.
3. Sometimes actual information is not possible to get due to illiteracy of women in Bangladesh.

4. The women always remain very busy with household works and often they were not encouraged to provide household information without consulting their husbands or guardians. So, efforts were made to incorporate that information which was within their easy reach.
5. The researcher was a male and the respondents were females. Some initial difficulties were faced in interviewing the female respondents due to cultural barriers. However, this gender problem was subsequently overcome by creating proper rapport with the beneficiaries in association with Jagorani Chakra Foundation staff.

1.8 Definition of Terms

For clarity of understanding, a number of key concepts/terms frequently used throughout the study are defined and interpreted as follows:

Age: Age of a respondent was defined as the span of life and was operationally measured by the number of years from her birth to the time of interviewing.

Annual family income: Annual family income referred to the total earnings of a respondent and the members of her family from agricultural and non-agricultural sources (business, services, daily labour etc.) during the previous year.

Beneficiary: Beneficiaries were those who got benefit from Jagorani Chakra Foundation directly. Poor rural women who were involved in different activities with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit might be termed as Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit beneficiaries.

Credit received: It referred to the amount of money received by her as credit from Jagorani Chakra Foundation and other sources.

Change: It referred to the improvement or deterioration of the respondent in different aspect of their livelihood.

Cosmopolitaness: It was defined as the orientation of an individual external to her own social environment.

Family size: Family size referred to the number including the respondent himself, his wife, children and other permanent dependents, who lived and lived together in a family unit.

Farm size: It referred to the total area on which a respondent's family carried farming operation, the area being estimated in terms of full benefit to the beneficiary's family.

Impact: 'Impact' is a term which meant sustained structural changes which have lasting effect.

Jagorani Chakra Foundation: It claimed to be an NGO. At the end of 1975 some jubilant youths of Jessore formed Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF) to develop the situation of poor communities.

Level of education: Empirically it was defined as the development of desirable changes in knowledge, skill and attitudes in an individual through reading, writing, walking, observation and other selected activities. It was measured on the basis of classes a farmer had passed from a formal educational institution.

Micro-credit: Professor Dr. M. Yunus of Grameen Bank had innovated a system of credit delivery to the poor without pledge, popularly known as micro-credit. Moreover, the system that provided small credit without pledge in group based approach to the poor for creating self-employment with a view to alleviating poverty.

NGO : The World Bank defined a non-governmental organization (NGO) as "private organizations that pursued activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development"(World Bank 2007).

Problem: Problem meant any difficult situation which requires some action to minimize the gap between "what ought to be" and "what is".

Respondents: Randomly selected people considered to be representative of the population are known as respondents. They are the people from whom a social research worker usually gets most data required for his research.

Social status: the relative rank that an individual held, with attendant rights, duties, and lifestyle, in a social hierarchy based upon honor or prestige

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with a brief review of previous research studies relating to the present study and to formulate and construct a framework that will be fitting for accurate understanding of the research. Studies pertaining to the socio-economic development of beneficiaries or people participating in any NGO or GO programme are limited in number. So, related literature representing this study was not readily available.

The researcher has tried his best to collect needful information through searching relevant studies. Studies about impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries were very few in number. The researcher tried to review literatures related to general review of impact of micro-credit and relationship of selected profiles of the beneficiaries with the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status.

2.1 General Review of Impact of Micro-Credit Program

S. R. Osmani (2012) reported that the positive contribution of micro-credit is asset accumulation by the poor. Access to microcredit was found to enhance the probability of moving up the asset ladder and to reduce the probability of falling.

Khan et al. (2011) analyzed the impact of microcredit programs on women empowerment in rural Gujrat. The study derived that there was a positive impact of micro-credit on women empowerment. It was also derived that the micro-credit had a positive effect on the awareness rising of the women as well as their involvement in the children education, health care utilization, self-identity, literacy levels, visiting relatives and shopping and involvements in family budgeting.

Islam (2010) discussed “during the last two decades, micro-credit approach has been increasingly incorporated in the development discourse. Specially the

credit is given to the women and the popular belief is that women are benefited and empowered and are being acknowledged for having a productive and active role and thus it is the gateway of gaining freedom for themselves”.

Parveen and Chaudhury (2009) analyzed the rural women’s economic empowerment as the outcome of micro-credit interventions. The study was conducted in Jamalpur District. They found significant differences between BRAC and non-BRAC women in their levels of economic empowerment. This studies provided that economic empowerment of women can be improved through increasing their income, savings and assets. In this study, it was concluded that there were some positive contributions of micro-credit interventions on rural women’s economic autonomy.

Grameen Bank (2009) explained that if women are able to play an active role in helping their family, fulfilling the following requirements, then the women can be considered empowered. The requirements are having: (a) A house with a tin roof (b) Beds for all the members of the family (c) Beds for all the members of the family (d) Access to safe drinking water (e) Access to sanitary latrines (f) All school age children attending school (g) Sufficient warm clothes for the winter (h) Mosquito nets i) Home vegetable garden (j) No food shortages even during the most difficult time of a very difficult year and (k) Sufficient income earning opportunities for all the adult members of the family.

Waheed (2009) examined the role of microfinance in poverty reduction. Primary and secondary data were used and 68 households were interviewed. The multiple regression analysis was used. The results showed that micro-credit improves income.

Javed et al. (2006) reported that Micro-credit scheme of NRSP was served as a better tool for empowering female. It also helped in up-lifting living standard of female community.

Alam (2005) conducted a study on rural women in micro-credit programme of BRAC in sadar upazila of Netrokona district. He found that the proportion of total loan utilization in the form of capital and current expenditure on farming

and non-farm activities was almost the same indicating the borrowers' positive attitudes towards productive credit use. Family expenditure seemed to be minimized. Small borrowers were the good payers followed by the medium and large borrowers. The receivers increased their income and production by using BRAC credit. After joining the BRAC there was a remarkable improvement in the living standard of the participant households. It was apparent that the farm families irrespective of the loan categories had positive savings at the end of the year, which is definitely an encouraging phenomenon.

Jalil (2005) undertook a study on the impact of micro-credit programme of RDRS on rural women in some selected areas of Kurigram district. The study revealed that both annual income and expenditure of the selected households increased after joining the micro-credit programme of RDRS. The study also showed that there was an improvement in the living standard of the participants. It was evident that the respondents had a positive savings at end of the year during the study. The findings also showed that the participation of women in micro-credit programme encouraged them to other social development activities.

Simanowitz and Brody (2004,) stated that Microfinance is a key strategy in reaching the MDGs and in building global financial systems that meet the needs of the poorest people.

Hossain (2004) reported that the poor borrowers have been benefitted from the microcredit activities of Grameen Bank and BRAC in several ways. His study finds that (a) income has increased for 97.93% of the borrowers; (b) quality and quantity of food intake have improved for 88.59% of the borrowers; (c) clothing improvement has been reported by 87.85% of borrowers; (d) housing conditions have been improved for 75.26% borrowers;(e) children education has been improved for 75.41% of borrowers; (f) sanitation condition has been improved for 68.74% of borrowers; and (g) overall quality of life improvement has been reported by 94.96% of the borrowers.

Ahmad & Naveed (2004) observed the role of microfinance in reducing rural poverty. The study was conducted to evaluate the role of microfinance provided by Khushhali Bank Limited (KBL) for poverty reduction in District Rahim Yar Khan - Pakistan. Correlation analysis was carried out to determine the relationship of microfinance with income, crop production, asset formation, farm expenses and saving. It was found that the micro finance has positive relation with saving, farm expenses, crop productivity, and income and asset formation. Moreover, the microfinance is effectively serving the poor people and increasing their standard of living by giving them proper loan for cotton, livestock and working capital in the said district.

Murduch and Hashemi (2003) reported that microfinance is a critical contextual factor with strong impact on the achievements of the MDGs...microfinance is unique among development interventions: it can deliver social benefits on going, permanent basis and on a large scale.

Littlefield, Murduch and Hashemi (2003) stated that one of the first things that poor people do with new income from microenterprise activities is to invest in their children's education. Studies show that children of microfinance clients are more likely to go to school and stay longer in school than for children of non-client.

Mazumder (2003) stated that after taking loan respondents of all age group could increase their level of income. After taking loan the credit clients' educational status were increased, large loan amount receiving client contribute maximum level of income, although it was not at a significant level. All farm size group respondents could increase their low level of income. By taking loan large family gave maximum amount of low and medium level of income than other types of family and other levels of income.

Khandker (2003) opined that micro-credit programmes operating in Bangladesh over a long period have produced a greater impact on extreme poverty than on moderate poverty. The result of this study strongly supports the

view that microcredit not only affects the welfare of participants and non-participants, but also the aggregate welfare at village level.

Meyer (2002) reported that while access to microcredit seems to have an overall positive effect on income and education, results differ substantially across countries and programs both in magnitude and statistical significance and robustness.

Pallavi-chavan and Chavan (2002) stated that non-government organization (NGO) led micro-credit is an effective and financially viable alternative to the existing methods of addressing rural poverty through the provision of credit and reviews the available empirical evidence on the performance of micro-credit programme and institutions in several developing countries, and compares them with state-led credit-based poverty alleviation programme and institute in India. It is also revealed that micro-credit programme have been able to bring about a marginal improvement in the beneficiaries income.

Morduch (2002) studied the impact of microfinance on poverty reduction using micro-credit, assets, family size, and education as independent variables and income of household as dependent variable. The study used Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP) poverty assessment tool. Housing Index, SEFs Participatory wealth rankings, US Aids AIMS tools for assessment purpose. Evidence showed the positive impact of microfinance on poverty reduction.

Zaman (2001) reported that micro-credit played valuable roles in reducing the vulnerability of the poor, through asset creation, income and consumption smoothing, provision of emergency assistance and empowering and emboldening women by giving them control over assets and increased self-esteem and knowledge.

Khan (2001) points out the credit and saving is a very effective tool of poverty alleviation. The essence of credit programme in Bangladesh is the sole contribution of NGOs like Grameen Bank, BRAC, Proshika, Karitas etc. By the mid-nineties the credit programme turned as a pragmatic way. An increasing trend of credit programme by mainstream NGOs has almost abandoned all other programme except credit. Khan also says special credit activities of Govt. agencies are yet to reach the majority of the rural poor. By taking the advantage of rural infrastructure few big NGOs disbursed the 91 percent of that credit in the country. He also argues that another very important input in the poverty alleviation is micro-credit.

Ali (2001) said the attempt to rank the relative impact of various anti-poverty policy instruments yields the following results. Development of human capital has the largest impact on poverty, followed by investments in physical infrastructures such as road and electricity. The role of new HYV technology comes next in importance. While the existing studies show positive income effects of micro-credit, the elasticity is typically low, possible reflective of the low productivity that characteristics most of the activities financed by it.

Ali (2001) stated that expansion of credit for the poor should be seen in the broader context of infrastructure development. Such a packing (along with rural and human development) will not only enhance the return to micro-credit schemes and contribute to its viability but also accelerate the rate of poverty reduction.

Uddin (2000) conducted a study on the impact of GB credit programme on rural women beneficiaries in a selected area of Mymensingh district. It revealed that after joining the GB credit programme, there was an improvement in the living standard of the participants. It was evident that the respondents had positive saving at the end of the year. The study also reveals that maximum loaned money was utilized for productive non-farm business expenditure and loan recovery rate was highly satisfactory during the study period. The findings

showed that the participation of women in GB credit programme also encouraged them of our social development activities. Mostly the women were better at present in respect of social awareness, freedom attitude, financial freedom and exercising the right in decision-making activities compared to their previous situation.

Murshed *et al.* (1999) conducted a research on the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), to see how far it has been able to implement poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, particularly the rural women. They observed that through its multi-faceted programmes, enterprise development, health care, non-formal education for girl children and human rights and legal education, BRAC has been able to bring significant improvement to the lives of the poor and the disadvantaged women of rural Bangladesh.

Khan (1999) carried out a study on micro-credit programme in Bangladesh, with special emphasis on underprivileged rural women excellent repayment performance of women borrowers. It also tried to explore the effects of wage employment on gender relations. Women wage earners were found to value paid work more than they valued credit. The study thus concluded that more employment opportunities should be created for women as these would help to promote economic and social empowerment including gender and human development.

Khandker (1998) based on extensive survey data from Bangladesh observed that micro-credit programme were an effective policy instrument for reducing poverty among poor people to become self-employed. Micro-credit programme we found to be particularly important for Bangladeshi women, many of whom are restricted by social custom from seeking wage employment. For all the three of the micro-credit programme studied the impact on household consumption was twice as great when the borrowers were women. The three projects studied were: the

Grameen Bank, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and RDRS.

Giriappa (1998), based on a study, observed that the role and status of women have been under a continuous change in recent years. In both female and male headed households, the participation of women in decision-making was found to have increased.

Harper (1998) stated that well managed micro-finance can be profitable both for its customers and its providers; it is a business opportunity itself for bankers and not depends on donor assistance.

Mayoux *et al.* 1998. described that micro-finance programme for women are currently promoted not only as a strategy for poverty alleviation but also for women's empowerment.

Hossain (1998) indicated that there was a positive impact of agricultural program of Geameen Bank on the loaners. The change of loaners was higher after joining GrameenBank program than before. The overall change in income was 50 percent and the change in employment was 33 percent over the study period.

Zebunnesa (1998) designed a study to look into the impact of selected BRAC activities on women. The analysis revealed that participation of the households to BRAC program contributed significantly to socio-economic upliftment of the households in general and increased participation of women in economic activities and households' decision making in particulars.

Halder and Husain (1998) reported that the participants of BRAC owned higher assets (151% higher), savings (502% higher) and net worth (151% higher) than the control group non-participants. But the asset accumulation of the BRAC borrower households is negatively correlated with the depth of programme participation or with the membership length (i.e., the higher the amount of loan for household brings the greater possibility of owning comparatively less asset).

Ghosh (1997) found that income from the vegetables; poultry and dairy products increased by 164% and overall labor absorption from non-agricultural source increased by 74% after their involvement with homestead farming and income generating activities of Proshika.

Chowdhury and Khandker (1996) found that 77% targeted people in rural areas of BRAC and Grameen Bank microcredit programme meet a minimum calorie requirement, while 59% 'hard core' poor meet only 80% of calorie requirement. The calorie intake of boys and girls were higher in both the Grameen Bank and BRAC programme villages.

Hashemi *et al.* (1996) found that the findings from a study of two programmes of GB and BRAC that provided credit to poor rural women in Bangladesh for poverty alleviation. The programmes were found to have significant effects on eight different dimensions of women's empowerment which were mobility, economic security, ability to make small purchases, ability to make large purchases, involvement in major household decisions, relative freedom from domination within the family, political and legal awareness and involvement in political campaigning and protests.

Rahman (1996) found the impact of Grameen Bank microcredit programme provides evidence that the poor borrowers enjoyed a better standard of living for themselves (in terms of food intake and possession of clothing) and the variety of food items consumed was better.

Khan (1996) found in his study that family planning acceptance raise by 25% after forming the GB groups. All members become aware of health and sanitation issues. Ninety five percent members developed their latrines and 97% used tube well water for every purpose. Ninety seven percent of the members developed household farming.

Mustafa (1995) found that members, involved in BRAC microcredit programme, have gained a greater control over their incomes and have been able to gain control on expenditures.

Begum (1994) conducted a study on impact of RDRS activities on the socio-economic development of women member in Sadar Thana of Kurigram district and found the involvement of the households with RDRS has increased income, employment, basic needs situation and social awareness and status of the women. The income of the households under RDRS project sole of crops, vegetables, fruits, poultry and dairy products increased by 122% and non-agricultural activities increased by 22% after their involvement with RDRS.

Nazu (1994) Conducted a study on impact of RDRS Activities on the Socio Economic Development of Rural Women: A study in Sadar Thana of Kurigram District and noticed that the average income per family was Tk. 14337 which increased to Tk. 20442 indicating a 43% overall increase in income.

Rahman and Khandaker (1994) carried out a study on impact of NGOs activities in respect of employment and income especially for women. The findings indicated that credit programmes of BRAC, BRDB and Grammen Bank had been successful in expanding self-employment opportunities among rural women.

2.2 Relationship of Selected characteristics of the Beneficiaries with the Impact of Micro-credit towards Uplifting their Social Status

Nine selected profiles of the beneficiaries involved in Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program were selected as independent variables of this study. The researcher made utmost effort to search out studies dealing the relationships of each of the selected profiles of the beneficiaries with the impact of participation in micro-credit program and found that only a few such of research were done. Some of these are presented below.

2.2.1 Age and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that age of the rural women had no relation with the impact of ASA micro-credit program on socio-economic development.

Sarker (2007) concluded that age of the respondents had no significant relationship with the impact of micro-credit towards upliftment of their social status.

Hossain (2007) reported that age of the rural women had no relation with the impact of BRAC micro credit program.

Khan (2006) in his study found that age of the respondents had significant relationship with the impact of Grameen Bank micro credit program.

Majed (2004) showed that age of the women was no significant relationship with their satisfaction on the BRAC rural development activities.

Rana (2004) reported that age of the rural women had no significant relationship with their poverty alleviation.

Ali (2003) found that there was positive and significant relationship between age of the respondents and their change in income and in housing environment but non-significant relationship was found between age and their change in food consumption.

Islam (2002) reported that the age of the rural women had no significant relationship with their socio-economic development activities.

Zakaria (2000) observed a negative trend of relationship between age of the respondent and their credit utilization and repayment behaviour.

Akter (2000) in his study found significant positive relationship between age of the women in RDRS clientele group and their participation in decision-making role in the family with regard to development activities.

2.2.2 Education and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that education of the rural women had positive relation with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Sarker (2007) reported that education of the respondents had positive and significant relationship with the impact of BRDB micro-credit.

Hossain (2007) reported that education of the rural women had a positive and significant relationship with the impact of BRAC micro-credit program.

Ali (2003) found that there was positive significant relationship between education of the respondents and their change in income, food consumption and housing environment.

Saha (2002) pointed out that in Philippine's women educational level had a highly significant relationship with women's participation in rice farming systems.

Akter (2000) in his study on "Participation of women Clientele in Development Activities of the PDBF Project" revealed that education of the women had a significant positive relationship with their participation in decision-making role in the family with regard to development activities.

Zakaria (2000) stated that there was no significant relationship between education of the respondents and impact of micro-credit as perceived by them.

Begum (1998) in her study entitled "poverty alleviation of the rural women organized by Association for Social Advanced" observed that education of the rural women had a positive significantly relationship with their poverty alleviation owing to participation in ASA activities.

Hasan (1995) found that the largest contribution on wealth accumulation was made by the education scores.

Hasan *et al* (1994) found that education had positive impact on member's household endowment. They also observed that the female category of RDP households appeared systematically better endowment according to education level in comparison with their male counterparts.

2.2.3 Family size and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that the family size of the rural women had no relation with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Sarker (2007) reported that family size of the respondents had negative and non-significant relationship with the impact of micro-credit. This indicated that impact of micro-credit negatively influenced by the respondents' family size.

Hossain (2007) reported that the family size of the rural women had no relationship with the impact of BRAC micro credit program.

Ali (2003) found that the relationship between family size of the respondents and their change in income, change in food consumption and change in housing environment was non-significant.

Samad (2004) observed that family size of the rural women had no significant relationship with their socio-economic development activities.

Islam (2002) reported that the number of family members of the respondents had positive significant relationship with their poverty alleviation.

Rashid (2001) found that family size of the BRAC rural women had no significant relationship with income of the households to participate in BRAC activities.

Zakaria (2000) stated that family size of the beneficiaries had no significant relationship with impact of micro-credit.

Begum (1998) observed that family size of the rural women had no significant relationship with their poverty alleviation owing to participation in ASA activities.

Basak (1997) found that family size of the rural women under BRAC had a significant positive relationship with their impact of participation in BRAC rural development activities.

2.2.4 Farm size and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that farm size of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Sarker (2007) reported that a respondent having large farm size could take various income generating activities for increasing their income. If the income is increased then they may be interested to increase their living standard and also influenced to take more quality food. In this connection the relationships between farm size of the respondents and the impact of micro-credit were significant.

Hossain (2007) reported that farm size of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of BRAC micro credit program.

Khan (2006) in his study indicated that the respondents having large farm size were more likely to have impact of micro credit towards uplifting their socioeconomic condition. He also concluded that earning ability of rural women is to be increased those who have large farm size.

Rahman (2005) commented that the respondents earning ability is dependent on their farm size, which increase the family income and social development.

Sarker (2002) observed a positive significant relationship between farm size of the RDRS beneficiaries and their change in food consumption in Integrated Aqua-culture Development Project, RDRS.

Akther (2000) found that there was a significant positive relationship between farm size of the women and their participation in decision-making role in family.

Begum (1998) observed that the farm size of the rural women had no significant relationship with their poverty alleviation due to participation in ASA development activities.

Perkins (1985) conducted a study during a program centered on ASA training center at Norsingdi, involving visits to landless groups and women's program in the villages in nearby upazilas. The report recommended that a association should benefit the landless, take steps to developed the quality and skill, encourage landless group members to moves into local government as elected representatives, facilitate access to banks, hospitals, schools and government services and encourage self-reliance without foreign aid.

2.2.5 Organizational participation and impact of micro-credit

Sarker (2007) commented that the organizational participation of the respondents had positive and significant relationship with the impact of micro-credit.

2.2.6 Credit received and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that credit received of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Sarker (2007) reported that the respondents having more credit had more income than those with less credit. Credit received by some of the members was high because two or more persons joined the group from the same family in order to receive more credit. They invested more credit in their self-employment opportunities and got more return from those. So, their income has changed significantly.

Hossain (2007) reported that credit received of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of BRAC micro credit program.

Khan (2006) in his study indicates that credit received has a great influence for socio-economic development of the beneficiaries. As there was an existence of small to medium credit received was the higher proportion of the respondents there is a scope to increase income.

Ali (2003) stated that ninety-one percent of the respondents were small to medium credit recipient. Credit received of the respondents showed a positively significant relationship with their change in income and housing environment. Credit received had a great influence for socio-economic development of the beneficiaries but it was not helpful in case of food consumption. As there was an existence of small to medium credit received by higher proportion of the respondents, there was a scope to increase impact of micro-credit towards poverty alleviation by increasing credit recipient.

Sarker (2002) stated that women with more credit had more income than those with less credit. Credits received by some of the members were high because two or more persons joined the group from the same family in order to receive more credit. They invested more credit in their self-employment opportunities and got more return from those. So, their income has changed significantly.

Islam (2001) mentioned that credit received had negatively significant relationship with change in food habit of the respondents.

2.2.7 Duration and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that the duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Hossain (2007) reported that duration involvement with BRAC of the rural women had no relationship with the impact of BRAC micro credit program.

Khan (2006) in his study indicated that involvement with Grameen Bank micro credit program has a great influence for socio-economic development of the respondents, 60 percent of the respondents had involvement of not more than 4 years. It is likely that impact of women will be highlighted in the course of time.

BBS (2002) found that after forming the groups of Grameen Bank, the income of the members increased by 70 per cent within 2 to 3 years. On an average, the income increased from Tk 5806 to Tk.9166, which was 55 per cent higher than it was before. After forming the groups, only 5 per cent of the members took loan from non-institutional sources.

Khandker and Chowdury (1996) point out that this rate of poverty reduction appears to decline with duration of membership. For households who have been a member for more than five years moderate poverty fell by 9% and ultra-poverty by 18%. These figures are considerably lower than for households who had been members three years or less.

2.2.8 Annual family savings and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that annual savings of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Rahman (2005) in his study found that majority (91.6%) of the respondents had small savings. Annual savings of the respondents showed positive significant relationship with their socio-economic development of TMSS activities.

Ali (2003) noticed that yearly savings of the respondents and their change in food consumption, change in income and change in housing environment were positively significant. He noticed that the families who possessed more savings had better housing environment, with the money from savings those families can purchase more food and housing asset or items.

Shaha (1997) conducted a study on the production and income between Grameen Bank member households in a selected area Mymensingh district. She found that annual income of Grameen Bank member households and expenditure of Grameen Bank member household was also higher than those of Non Grameen Bank member households.

2.2.9 Cosmopolitanism and impact of micro-credit

Roque (2008) reported that cosmopolitanism of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

Hossain (2007) reported that concluded that cosmopolitanism of the rural men had a significant positive relationship with the impact of BRAC micro credit program.

Research and evaluation division, BRAC (1995) reported that BRAC individual contact of the rural women had significant influence on their improvement of knowledge, attitude and skills.

Miah and Rahman (1994) found that communication exposure had significant relationship with their awareness on farming environment.

2.3 Problem faced in receiving and utilization of micro-credit

Sarker (2007) stated that on the basis of Problem Faced Index (PFI) the 'do not get current credit when any one of them did not repay previous loan' ranked first followed by 'insufficient amount of credit'. 'Misuse of credit for social activities or buying foods' was ranked third and 'decisions taken based on nepotism' was ranked last.

Roque (2008) stated that highest proportion (60 percent) of the respondents had low problems confrontation in the implementation of ASA micro credit program

whereas 30 percent of the respondents had medium problem confrontation in the ASA micro credit program. Only 10 percent problem confrontation of the respondents had high problem confrontation in the ASA micro credit program. So, it was found that the recipients faced low problem in activities of ASA micro credit program.

Ali (2003) stated that two-third (71.29%) mentioned about insufficient amount of credit as per demand as the main problem. Two-third (67.32%) of the respondents opined that new loan is not issued until final repayment of installments and (65.34%) for not getting credit at the time of need. The total amount of credit could not proper use due to shortage of grace period as by (64.36%) women. The misuse of credit for repaid of former loan (62.37%), the amount of loan depends on savings of the respondents as a result amount of loan is inadequate (60.39%). The misuse of credit for buying food (56.43%), failure to proper use of the loan (44.55%), false propaganda of the fatuous (15.84%), religious prejudice (13.86%) and high rate of interest (11.88%) were the important problems faced by the beneficiaries.

Mazumder (2003) stated that a little over 25.45 percent opined that the credit amount was inadequate by which ASA credit clients were affected mainly. The second (15.45%) most severe problem was lengthy processing in getting recommendation from committee members. Most of the credit clients (22.73%) faced two or more than two problems in repayment of their credit amount. Sudden sickness and other problems of earning family members was the single problem which was faced by 16.36 percent of the respondents.

2.4 Conceptual Framework of the Study

It is conceptualized in this study that the nature and extent of credit program may be influenced through interacting forces of some personal, socio economic, motivational and attitudinal characteristics of the borrowers. It is obvious that no credit program of any organization can survive well unless there is a positive change which is directly related to the socio-economic upliftment of rural women and this positive impact fully depends on the proper utilization of micro credit.

The focus of this study is the Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries which is greatly influenced by some of the previously mentioned factors. For clear understanding of the process, a conceptual framework is developed in a schematic diagram (Fig 2 .1) showing the interface of both independent and dependent variables as interacting forces.

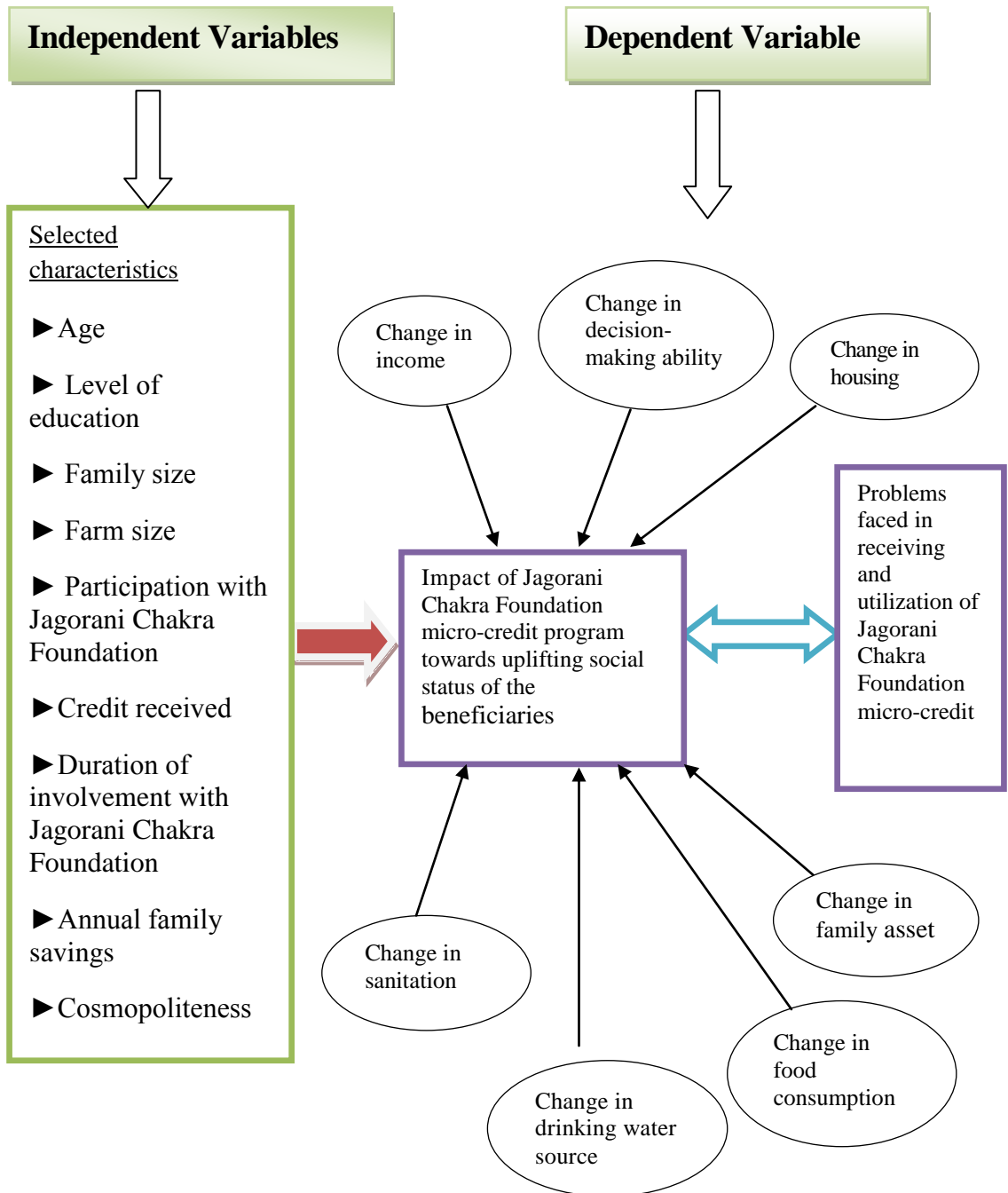


Figure 2.1. The Conceptual Framework of the Study

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The method and procedure used in the study are presented in this chapter. The principal method used in this study was field survey using structured interview schedule. In any scientific research methodology plays an important role. To perform a research work systematically, careful consideration of appropriate methodology is a must. It should be such that it would enable the researcher to collect valid and reliable information to arrive at correct decisions. The methods and procedures followed in conducting this study have been described in this Chapter in the following sections.

3.1 Locale of the Study

This study was conducted at Gangni upazila of Meherpur district, where JAGORANI CHAKRA FOUNDATION micro-credit program have been operating. This covered five unions namely Dhankhola, Kutubpur, Shaharbari, Solotaka and Raipur under Gangni upazila of Meherpur district. All the five unions of this upazila were selected as the locale of the study. Figure 3.1 and 3.2 showed the locale of the study.

3.2 Population and Sampling

Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries of Gangni upazila who received credit at least one time were considered as the population of the study. An updated list of all the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries of the selected upazila was prepared with help of the local Jagorani Chakra Foundation officials.

After completing the list, it was found that the total number of groups of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation borrowers were 56 involving 920 group members. These groups' members (920) constituted the population for the study. Data for this study were collected from a sample rather than the whole population. In this connection, two stage random sampling method was followed in order to select

the respondents. Firstly out of the 56 groups, 22 groups were selected randomly and secondly 6 members were again selected at random from each of the selected 22 groups. Thus, 132 borrowers were selected as the sample of the study. Twenty two group members were also included in the reserve list by taking one from one group which was also selected randomly. The members of reserve list were interviewed when the members of main sample were not available at the time of interview. Table 3.1 showed the population, sample and reserve list size of the study.

Table 3.1 Distribution of the population, sample and reserve list for the study

Unions	Population		Sample		Reserve list
	No. of groups	No. of members	No. of groups	No. of members	
Dhankhola	14	280	5	30	5
Kutubpur	12	156	5	30	5
Shaharbarati	13	214	5	30	5
Sholotaka	7	90	3	18	3
Raipur	10	180	4	24	4
Total	56	920	22	132	22

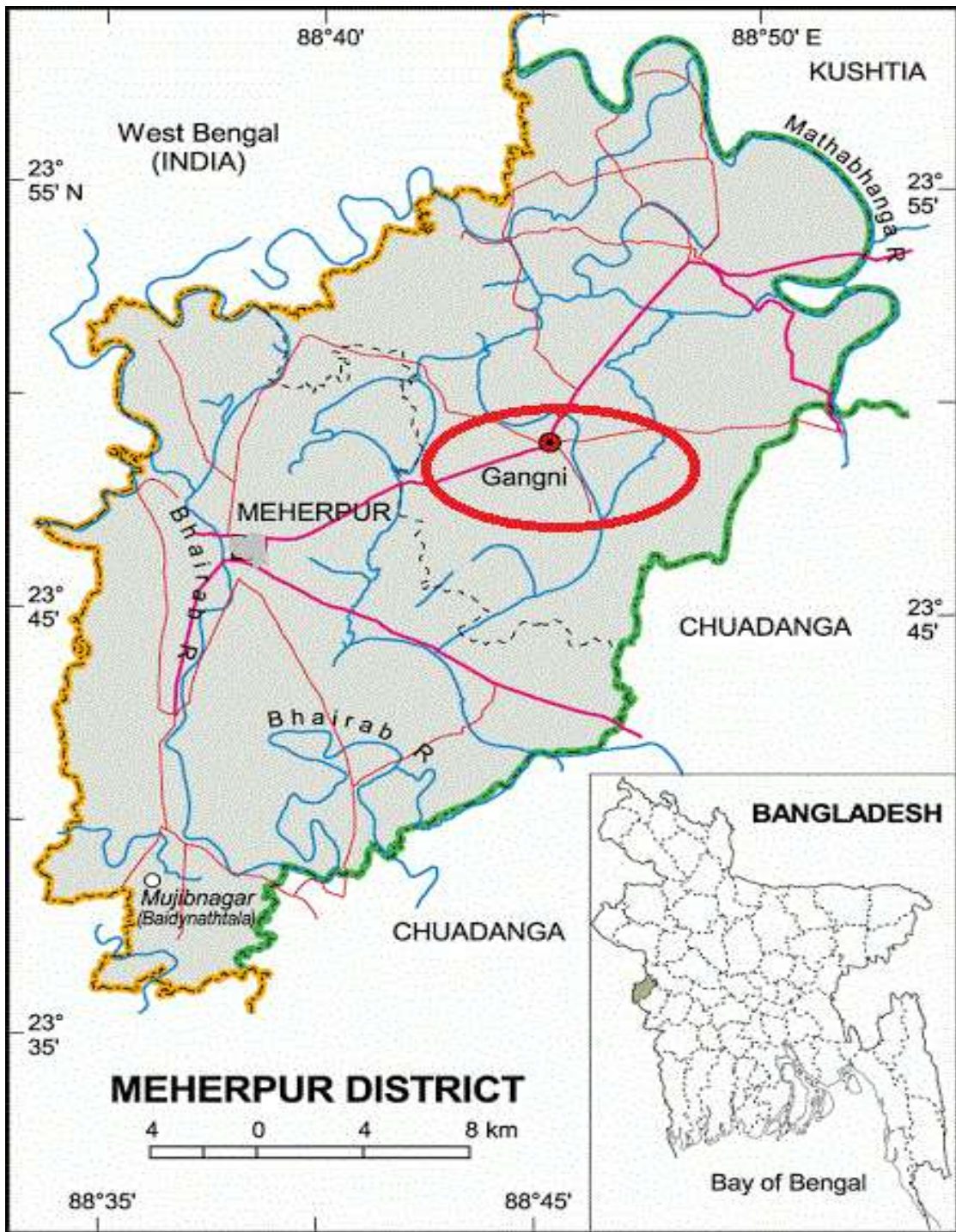


Figure 3.1.A map of Meherpur district showing Gangni Upazila

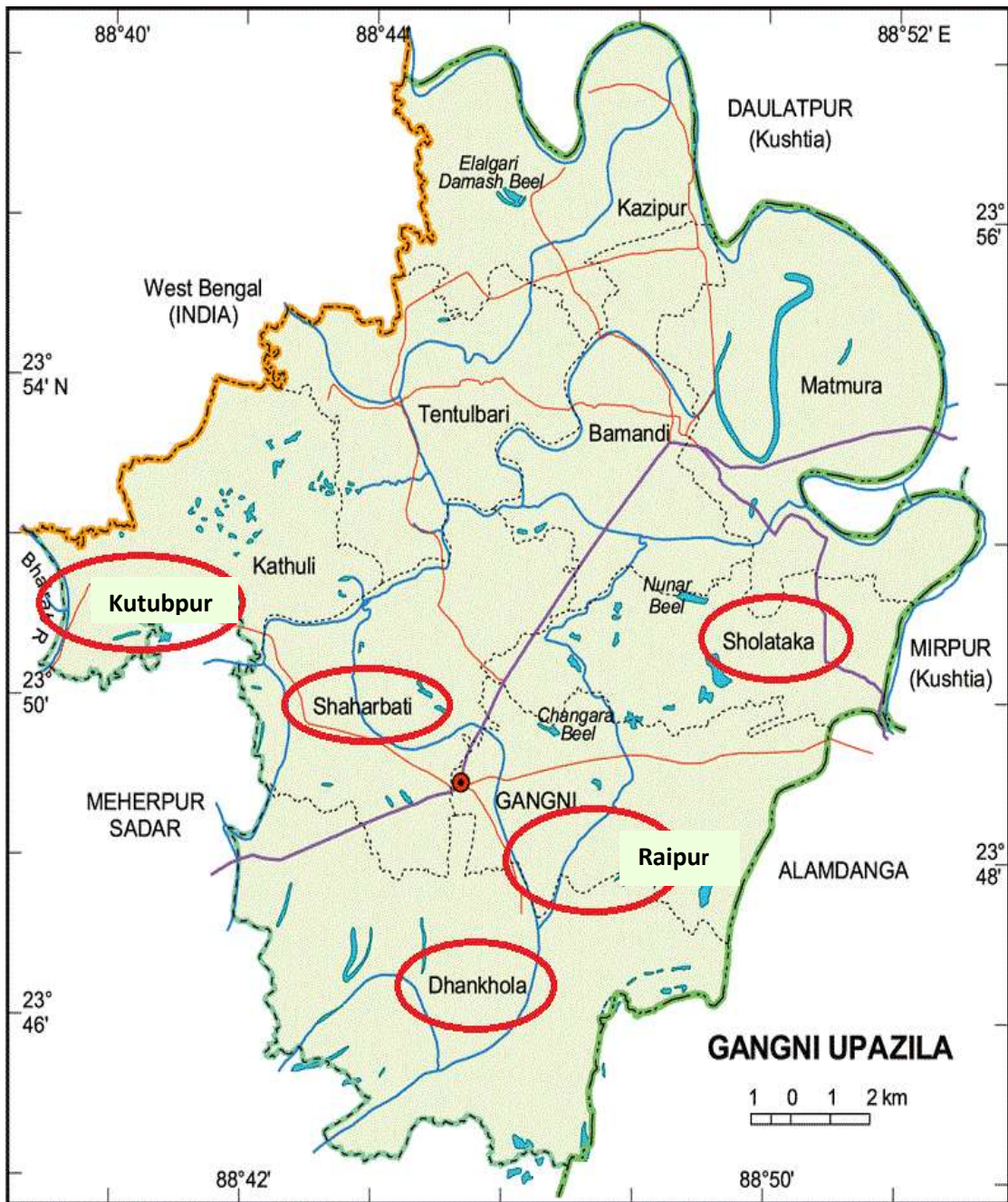


Figure 3.2.A map of Gangni upazila showing study area

3.3 Instrument for Collection of Data

In order to collect relevant data, an interview schedule was prepared keeping the objectives of the study in mind. The schedule contained both closed and open-ended questions. Simple and direct questions were also included in the schedule in order to avoid the ambiguous questions. Direct questions were included to collect information like age, education, family size etc. Scales were used to measure the cosmopolitanness and organizational participation of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro -credit program.

An English version of the interview schedule is presented in "Appendix-A". The schedule was pre-tested with 10 Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries of the study area and these 10 beneficiaries were excluded from the sample. Necessary correction, alternation and modifications were made in the interview schedule on the basis of the pre-test. The modified and corrected interview schedule was then printed in final form for data collection.

3.4 Data Collection

The researcher himself collected essential data through personal interview with the individual respondent. An introductory visit to the respondents' house was made with the help of Jagorani Chakra Foundation field workers. During the visit the aims and objectives of the study were explained to most of the respondents. This helped the researcher to have a friendly orientation to the group members. Before going to the respondents for interview, advanced information were taken with the help of branch manager and Jagorani Chakra Foundation field supervisors. Brief information regarding the nature and purpose of the study were given to the respondents before actual interview. The researcher also established desired friendly rapport with the respondents. Questions were asked systematically and explanations were made whenever it was necessary. The information was duly checked in order to minimize errors. Some data were recorded in local unit. These were subsequently converted to appropriate standard units. The respondents were interviewed at their leisure

time so that they could give accurate information in a cool mind. The investigator faced no serious problems. The data collection took near about 30 days from 8th December to 7th January 2014.

3.5 Measurement of Variables

3.5.1 Measurement of independent variables

In this study nine selected profiles namely age, level of education, family size, farm size, participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation, annual family savings, credit received, duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program and cosmopolitaness of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries were selected as the independent variables. Measurements of the variables are discussed below:

Age

Age of a respondent was measured on the basis of year from her birth to the time of interview. A score of one (1) was assigned for each year of her age.

Education

The education was measured on the basis of completed years of schooling by a respondent in the educational institutions. A score of one (1) was given for each completed year of schooling. If a respondent who did not know reading and writing her score was assigned as zero. A score of 0.5 was given to a respondent who could sign her name only.

Family size

Family size was measured by computing total number of members in the family. A family normally consists of head of household, wife, unmarried sons and other dependent relations who jointly live and eat together during interview. One score was assigned to each member of the family.

Farm size:

The farm of a respondent was measured on the basis of the total area of land on which family carried out farming operations. The farm size of a respondent was calculated by using following formula and was expressed in terms of hectares.

$$FS = A_1 + A_2 + 1/2 (A_3 + A_4) + A_5$$

FS = Farm size

A₁ = Homestead (including pond and garden)

A₂ = Land under own cultivation

A₃ = Land given to others on barga

A₄ = Land taken from others on barga

A₅ = Land taken from others on lease

Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation:

Participation in Jagorani Chakra Foundation refers to taking part in this organization as an ordinary member, executive committee member or executive officer. Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation was measured on the basis of the nature and duration of participation in Jagorani Chakra Foundation groups. Scoring was assigned on the basis of the following:

Basis for scoring	Score
Participation as ordinary member for one year	1
Participation as executive committee member for one year	2
Participation as executive officer for one year	3

Finally organizational participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation was measured by adding, the scores after multiplying by duration of participation (Year) for all types of membership.

Credit received

It refers to the amount of money received by a respondent as loan from Jagorani Chakra Foundation after joining with as a member. The total credits were calculated by adding all the split credit together. The total credit in Taka was converted into credit received score. A score of 1 was assigned for one thousand Taka.

Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro- credit program

It was measured considering the period of involvement of the respondents with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program to the time of interview. It was calculated in terms of years on the basis of the respondent's response and as verified from office.

Annual family savings

It was measured by accounting the total savings of the respondents and the members of the respondents' family in different organization and their own hand during the year. A score of one was assigned for one thousand taka savings.

Cosmopolitaness

The term cosmopolitaness was used to refer to the orientation of an individual external to her social system. The cosmopolitaness score was computed for each respondent to determine the degree of her cosmopolitaness on the basis of her different outstanding. Score corresponding to these four options were given in the following:

Extent of communication	Score
Regularly	3
Occasionally	2
Rarely	1
Not at all	0

3.5.2 Measurement of dependent variable

In this study, the dependent variable was “impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries”. The dependent variable was measured with the association of seven dimensions. These seven dimensions were (i) change in income, (ii) change in food consumption, (iii) change in housing, (iv) change in sanitation, (v) change in drinking water source, (vi) change in family asset and (vii) change in decision-making ability. The difference between ‘after’ and ‘before’ involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program were determined for each dimension of impact. The differences of seven dimensions are described below:

Change in income

A beneficiary's family income was measured in thousand taka on the basis of her and other family members total annual earnings from agriculture and other sources like fisheries, livestock, poultry, business, labor, cottage industry, service etc. Income from different sources by other family members was estimated on the basis of their responses as shown in item no. 10 of the interview schedule. The total income in Taka was converted into family income score. A score of one was assigned for each one thousand Taka. The change in income was determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Change in Income} = \text{Income after involvement} - \text{Income before involvement}$$

The change in income was then scored as

Change in income	Score
No change (0)	0
Low change (<mean – 0.5 sd, i.e. < 10.5 thousand Tk.)	1
Medium change (mean ± 0.5 sd, i.e. 10.5-22.5 thousand Tk.)	2
High change (>mean + 0.5 sd, i.e. >22.5 thousand Tk.)	3

Change in food consumption

It refers to the improvement or deterioration of a respondent in respect of her amount of food consumption after involvement. In this study eight items were considered to determine the food consumption behavior. The method of determining food consumption involved three phases. Firstly, consumption of rice, wheat and vegetables; pulses and fish; milk, meat and egg was determined by the amount of food consumed per day, per week and per month, respectively by a respondent. Secondly, the daily consumption of food items per person was calculated.

Finally, the amount of items was converted into energy on the basis of their energy content value shown below:

Food items (100 g)	Energy (k.cal)
Rice	364.00
Wheat	341.00
Vegetable	53.75
Pulse	338.00
Fish	89.00
Meat	127.00
Milk	61.00
Egg	158.00

Source: FAO, 2007

Thus total energy was obtained by adding the energy from all the items.

The change in food consumption was determined by computing food consumption of the respondent "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit and score was assigned as follows:

Change in K.cal. Uptake perday	Score
No change (0)	0
Low change (0.01-225)	1
Medium change (225.01-450)	2
High change (above 450)	3

Change in housing

It refers to the condition of housing unit of the beneficiaries household both "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit. There were four types of housing in the study area e.g. katcha ghar with straw roof, katcha ghar with tin roof, pacca ghar with tin roof and pacca ghar.

For determining the type of housing unit each respondent was asked to indicate the nature of housing unit before receiving micro-credit. Tick mark was given against her response against those four responses. The change in housing unit was measured on the basis of housing unit score of the respondents between "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit.

Weights were assigned as follows:

Types of dwelling unit	Weights
Katcha ghar with straw roof	1
Katcha ghar with tin roof	2
Pacca ghar with tin roof	3
Pacca ghar	4

The type of change in housing unit of the respondents was determined by the following formula:

Change in Housing unit = Housing unit after involvement - Housing unit before involvement

Scores was assigned to determine the change occur in housing unit "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit as follows:

Change in weight of housing	Score
No change (0)	0
Low change (1)	1
Medium change (2)	2
High change (3)	3

Change in sanitation

There were four types of toilet facilities, such as open place or bush, katcha latrine, half-sanitary latrine and sanitary latrine. For determining the type of facilities each respondent was asked to indicate the nature of facilities before receiving micro-credit. Tick mark was given against her response against those four responses. The change in sanitation condition was measured on the basis of toilet condition score of the respondents between "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit.

Weights were assigned as follows:

Types of sanitation	Weight
Open place or bush	1
Katcha latrine	2
Half-sanitary latrine	3
Sanitary latrine	4

The type of change in Change in sanitation of the respondents was determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Change in sanitation} = \text{Sanitation after involvement} - \text{Sanitation before involvement}$$

Scores was assigned to determine the changes occur in sanitation “before” and “after” receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit as follows:

Change in weight of sanitation	Score
No change (0)	0
Low change (1)	1
Medium change (2)	2
High change (3)	3

Change in drinking water source

It refers to the condition of drinking water source of the respondents both "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit. There were four types of drinking water source namely pond or river water, tube well of other and tube well of own, and water from tubewell with arsenic treatment. For determining the type of facilities each respondent was asked to indicate the nature of facilities before and after receiving micro-credit. Tick mark was given against her response against those four responses. The change in drinking water source was measured on the basis of drinking water source score of the respondents between "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit.

Weights were assigned as follows:

Types of drinking water source	Weight
Water from river /cannel/ pond	1
Tubewell of other people	2
Tubewell of your own	3
Water from tubewell with arsenic treatment	4

The change was determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Change in Drinking water source} = \text{Drinking water source after involvement} - \text{Drinking water source before involvement}$$

Scores was assigned to determine the changes occurred in drinking water source "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit as follows:

Change in weight of drinking water source	Score
No change (0)	0
Low change (1)	1
Medium change (2)	2
High change (3)	3

Change in family asset

It refers to the condition of family asset of the respondents household both "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit. In this study 26 items were included to determine the asset possession of the respondents' household. Each respondent was asked to indicate her possession against 26 items. The change was determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Change in family asset} = \text{Family asset after involvement} - \text{Family asset before involvement}$$

The total family asset was measured by multiplying the no. of unit with the price of value of each item. Then all the prices of all items were added and change in family asset was measured between "before" and "after" involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program.

Scores was assigned to determine the changes occurred in family asset "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit as follows:

Change in family asset	Score
No change (0)	0
Low change (1-6 thousand tk)	1
Medium change (6.1-12thousand tk)	2
High change (above 12 thousand tk)	3

Change in decision-making ability

It refers to the condition of family related-decisions which are governed by the family members of the beneficiaries' household both 'before' and 'after' involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program. For determining the decision-making ability of the respondent household, some statements were placed before them. Each of the respondents was asked to put tick against these statements. These statements were then given score. Thus, score for two situations was got. Change in decision-making ability was measured on the basis of decision-making score of the respondents 'before' and 'after' involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program.

Weights assigned to the responses were as follows:

Items	Score assigned
Decision made by own	4
Decision made with husband	3
Decision made with family member	2
Decision made with other	1

Scores was assigned to determine the changes occurred in decision-making ability "before" and "after" receiving Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit as follows:

Change in decision-making ability	Score
No change (0)	0
Low (1)	1
Medium (2)	2
High (3)	3

Final Measurement of “Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries of beneficiaries”

After finding out the change in seven dimensions, all the changes were categorized and the categorized score was added together to get the “Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation Micro-Credit Program towards Uplifting Social Status of the Beneficiaries ”. The following formula was used for impact score.

$$Y = Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3 + Y_4 + Y_5 + Y_6 + Y_7$$

Where,

Y = Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation Micro-Credit Program towards Uplifting Social Status of the Beneficiaries score.

Y₁ = Change in income

Y₂ = Change in food consumption

Y₃ = Change in housing

Y₄ = Change in sanitation

Y₅ = Change in drinking water source

Y₆ = Change in family asset

Y₇ = Change in decision-making ability

Thus, the Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards Uplifting Social Status of the Beneficiaries” could range from 0-21, while 0 indicating no impact and 21 indicating highest impact.

3.6. Problem faced in receiving and utilization of micro-credit

Seven problems were selected for the study after thorough consultation with supervisor and relevant experts. The respondents were asked to respond to four alternative responses as ‘severe problem’, ‘moderate problem’, ‘little problem’ and ‘no problem’ for each of seven selected problems. Scores were assigned to those alternative responses as 3, 2, 1, and 0, respectively. Then Problem Faced Index (PFI) of each of the seven problem items were determined by using the following formula:

$$\text{PFI} = (\text{P}_s \times 3) + (\text{P}_m \times 2) + (\text{P}_l \times 1) + (\text{P}_n \times 0)$$

Where,

PFI = Problem Faced Index

P_s = Number of respondents faced severe problem

P_m = Number of respondents faced moderate problem

P_l = Number of respondents faced little problem

P_n = Number of respondents faced no problem

Problem Faced Index (PFI) in receiving and utilization of micro-credit of each problem was computed by adding all the scores obtained against that problem for all respondents. Thus, PFI in receiving and utilization of micro-credit of the items could range from 0 to 396 where '0' indicated no problem and 396 indicated highest problem.

3.7 Data processing

After completion of field survey, all the data were coded, compiled and tabulated according to the objectives of the study. Local units were converted into standard units. All the individual responses to questions of the interview schedule were transferred in to a master sheet to facilitate tabulation, categorization and organization. In case of qualitative data, appropriate scoring technique was followed to convert the data into quantitative form.

3.8 Statistical procedures

The data were analyzed in accordance with the objectives of the study. Qualitative data were converted into quantitative data by means of suitable scoring technique wherever necessary. The statistical measures such as range, means, standard deviation, number and percentage distribution were used to describe the variables. Pearson's Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation (r) test was initially done. Full model regression analysis was also done. Due to misleading results from multi-collinearity, stepwise multiple regression was used to find out the contribution of the independent variables to the dependent

variable. For determining severity of the problems, rank order was made based on the descending order of the Problems Faced Index (PFI).

3.9 Statement of hypothesis

Hypothesis may be broadly divided into two categories, namely, research hypothesis and null hypothesis.

3.9.1 Research hypothesis

The following research hypothesis was put forward to test contribution of the selected characteristics of the beneficiaries to the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status. The research hypothesis was “Nine selected characteristics of the beneficiaries have significant contribution to the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status”.

3.9.2 Null hypothesis

The aforesaid research hypothesis was converted into null hypothesis for testing the conceptual model of the study. The major hypothesis formulated for testing the conceptual model of the study is presented below:

“There was no contribution of the nine selected characteristics of the beneficiaries to the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status”.

The nine selected characteristics of the beneficiaries were age, level of education, family size, farm size, participation with jagorani chakra foundation, credit received, duration of involvement with jagorani chakra foundation micro-credit program, annual family savings and cosmopolitaness

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings have been presented in this chapter in four sections. In the first section, nine selected characteristics of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries have been discussed. In the second section, the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries has been discussed. The third section has dealt with the contribution of the nine selected characteristics of the beneficiaries to the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status". Finally, the fourth section contained the problems faced by the beneficiaries in receiving and utilizing Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit.

4.1 Selected Characteristics of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation Beneficiaries

This section describes the findings of the nine selected characteristics of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries in nine subsections. A brief summary of the profile like measuring unit, categories and distribution, mean, standard deviations have been presented as follows in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1. Characteristics profile of the respondents

Sl. No	Characteristics	Measuring unit	Range		Mean	Standard deviation
			Possible	Observed		
01	Age	Year	Unknown	20 - 65	37.79	9.83
02	Education	Schooling years	Unknown	0.5 - 10	3.46	3.17
03	Family size	Score	Unknown	2 - 8	4.10	0.96
04	Farm size	Hectare	Unknown	0 – 4.82	0.36	0.47
05	Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation	Score	Unknown	3 - 12	6.16	2.12
06	Credit received	‘000’Taka	Unknown	5 - 200	37.97	29.09
07	Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation	Years	Unknown	2 - 6	4.14	0.83
08	Annual family savings	‘000’Taka	Unknown	1.3 – 11.40	3.20	2.06
09	Cosmopolitaness	Score	0-21	2 - 11	6.28	1.75

4.1.1 Age

According to national policy, the borrowers having an age of minimum 18 years are eligible for Jagorani Chakra Foundation’s membership. However, the age of the respondents ranged from 20 to 65 years with an average of 37.79 and a standard deviation of 9.83. On the basis of their age, the beneficiaries were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2. Distribution of the respondents according to their age

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Young aged(up to 30 years)	37	28.00	37.79	9.83
2	Middle aged (31 to 50 years)	81	61.40		
3	Old aged (above 50 years)	14	10.60		
Total		132	100		

The highest proportion (61.4 percent) of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries were middle aged while 28 percent of them were young aged and only 10.6 percent old aged. This shows that the middle and young aged Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries have potential and energy to uplift their living standards. If they are trained, motivated and guided properly they would be able to fight against the poverty.

4.1.2 Education

The level of education of the respondent ranged from 0.5 to 10, the average being 3.46 and standard deviation was 3.17. Based on their education scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3. Distribution of the respondents according to their education

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Can sign only (0.5)	65	49.20	3.46	3.17
2	Primary level (1 to 5)	30	22.80		
3	Secondary level (6 to 10)	37	28.00		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in the Table 4.3 indicate that about half (49.20 percent) of the beneficiaries could sign their name only, 28 percent had complete the Secondary level of education while 22.80 percent completed the Primary level of education.

4.1.3 Family size

The family size of the respondents ranged from 2 to 8 with an average of 4.10 and standard deviation of 0.96. On the basis of their family size, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4. Distribution of the respondents according to their family size

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Small (up to 4)	94	71.20	4.10	0.96
2	Medium (5 to 6)	35	26.50		
3	Large (above 6)	3	2.30		
Total		132	100		

The majority (71.20 percent) of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries had small size family compared to 26.50percent of them having medium and only 2.30 percent had large family. Thus, 97.70 percent of the respondents had small to medium size family.

The average family size (4.10) in the study area was lower than that of the national average which is 4.8 (BBS, 2002).It is a sign of awareness of the respondents regarding family planning and birth control family.

4.1.4 Farm size

Farm size of the respondents ranged from 0 to 4.82 hectare and the average being 0.36 hectare and standard deviation of 0.47. Depending on the farm size the respondents were classified into five categories as suggested by DAE (1999) as appeared in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5. Distribution of the respondents according to their farm size

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Landless (up to 0.02 ha)	11	8.30	0.36	0.47
2	Marginal farm size(0.02 to 0.2 ha)	39	29.60		
3	Small farm size (0.2 to 1 ha)	77	58.30		
4	Medium farm size (1 to 3 ha)	4	3.00		
5	Large farm size(above 3 ha)	1	0.80		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in Table 4.5 showed that most (87.90 percent) of the respondents had fallen into marginal to Small categories. The credit programme of Jagorani Chakra Foundation is only for the poor people not rich people, so majority of the respondents were marginal to medium farm category. Similar findings were found by Islam (2001).

4.1.5 Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation

Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation scores of the respondents ranged from 3 to 12 with an average of 6.16 and standard deviation of 2.12. On the basis of these scores the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6. Distribution of the respondents according to their organizational participation

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Low (3 to 6)	69	52.30	6.16	2.12
2	Medium (7 to 10)	59	44.70		
3	High (10 to 12)	4	3.00		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in Table 4.6 show that 52.3 percent of the respondents had low participation compared to 44.7percent had medium and 3 percent had high participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation. Serkar (2007) in a study found more or less similar findings.

4.1.6 Credit received

Credit received scores of the respondents ranged from 5 to 200. An average credit receiving score of the respondents was 37.97 and standard deviation of 29.09. On the basis of the credit received scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7. Distribution of the respondents according to their credit received

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Small credit recipient (<mean – 0.5 sd, i.e< 23.50 thousand Tk.)	43	32.60	37.97	29.09
2	Medium credit recipient (mean ± 0.5 sd, i.e23.50 to 52.50 thousand Tk.)	65	49.20		
3	Large credit recipient (>mean + 0.5 sd, i.e>52.5 thousand Tk.)	24	18.20		
Total		132	100		

About half (49.2 percent) of the respondents were medium credit recipient, while 32.6 percent of the respondents were small and 18.2 percent of the respondents were large credit recipients. They also demanded for more credit. Sarker (2002) stated that 56.2 percent of the respondents were small credit recipient, 38.1 percent medium credit recipient and 5.7 percent large credit recipient in Integrated Aqua Culture Development Project, RDRS, and Chowdhury (1995) found that 79.82 percent were small amount recipient, 15.60 percent medium amount recipient and 4.58 percent big amount recipient of Grameen Bank beneficiaries.

4.1.7 Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program

Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program ranged from 2 to 6 years, with an average 4.14 and standard deviation of 0.83. On the basis of Jagorani Chakra Foundation involvement, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Distribution of the respondents according to Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Short length duration (up to 3)	28	21.20	4.14	0.83
2	Medium length duration (4-5)	101	76.50		
3	Long length duration (above 5)	3	2.30		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in Table 4.8 indicate that slightly above three-fourth (76.5percent) of the respondents had medium length duration compared to 21.2 percent having short length duration and 2.3 percent had long length duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation. Most of the respondents had primary level of education, so their expectation was not high and strict rule of repaying of loan discouraged them to continue for a longer period. So they were not interested to long time involved with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program.

4.1.8 Annual family savings

Annual family savings scores of the respondents ranged from 1.30 to 11.40. An average of yearly saving score of the respondents was 3.20 and standard deviation of 2.06. According to the Annual family savings scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9. Distribution of the respondents according to their annual family savings

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Small (<mean – 0.5 sd, i.e.<2.17 thousand Tk)	38	28.80	3.20	2.06
2	Medium (mean ± 0.5 sd, i.e.2.17 – 4.23 thousand Tk.)	69	52.30		
3	Large (>mean + 0.5 sd, i.e>4.23 thousand Tk.)	25	18.90		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in the Table 4.9 revealed that above half (52.30 percent) of the respondents had medium annual family savings, 28.80 percent of the respondents had small savings, and 18.90 percent had large savings. So it was found that savings tendency was increasing among the Jagorani Chakra Foundation borrowers even among the landless community. Hoque (2008) found that 70 percent of the respondents had small savings; while 16 percent had medium savings and 14 percent had no savings.

4.1.9. Cosmopolitaness

The observed cosmopolitaness scores of the respondents ranged from 2 to 11. The average cosmopolitaness score of the respondents was 6.28 with standard deviation of 1.75. On the basis of the cosmopolitaness scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10. Distribution of the respondents according to their cosmopolitaness

SL. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Small cosmopolitaness (up to 5)	45	34.1	6.28	1.75
2	Medium cosmopolitaness (6-8)	52	54.5		
3	High cosmopolitaness (above 8)	15	11.4		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in Table 4.10 indicate that the major proportion (54.5 percent) of the respondents had medium cosmopolitaness compared to 34.1 percent and 11.4 percent having small cosmopolitaness and high cosmopolitaness respectively.

Hoque (2008) found that 30 percent of the respondents had low cosmopolitaness; 48 percent had medium and 22 percent had high cosmopolitaness.

4.2 Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting of social status of the beneficiaries

Participation in micro-credit program of Jagorani Chakra Foundation had played some role in changing the social status of the family in general and socio-economic development in particular. For measuring the impact of micro-credit, the social status of the respondent's prior joining to Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program was compared with the present conditions. After being involved with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program, the social status of the respondents has changed significantly.

The social status of the respondents was assessed by comparing information about 'before' and 'after' condition on change in income, food consumption, housing, drinking water source, sanitation condition, family asset and decision-making ability of the respondents.

Table 4.11. Salient features on seven selected aspects of impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit

Dimensions on the impact of micro-credit	Range (Observed score)	Categories	Respondent		Mean	S. D.
			No.	%		
Change in income ('000' tk)	1-70	Low (up to 10.5)	57	43.20	16.45	11.7
		Medium (10.51-22.5)	44	33.30		
		High (above 22.5)	31	23.50		
Change in food consumption (K.cal)	0-680	No change (0)	28	21.20	200.69	165.36
		Low (0.01-225)	51	38.60		
		Medium (225.01-450)	46	34.90		
		High (above 450)	7	5.30		
Change in housing (score)	0-3	No change (0)	83	62.90	0.45	0.65
		Low change (1)	39	29.50		
		Medium change (2)	9	6.80		
		High change (3)	1	0.80		
Change in sanitation (score)	0-3	No change (0)	92	69.70	0.35	0.59
		Low change (1)	34	25.80		
		Medium change (2)	5	3.70		
		High change (3)	1	0.80		
Change in source of drinking water (score)	0-1	No change (0)	104	78.80	0.21	0.41
		Low change (1)	28	21.20		
		Medium change (2)	0	0.00		
		High change (3)	0	0.00		
Change in family asset (thousand tk)	0-20	No change (0)	19	14.40	2.00	3.50
		Low change (1-6)	91	68.94		
		Medium change (6.1-12)	17	12.88		
		High change (above 12)	5	3.78		
Change in decision making ability (score)	0-4	No change (0)	30	22.70	1.34	1.00
		Low (1)	45	34.10		
		Medium (2)	42	31.80		
		High (3)	15	11.40		

4.2.1 Change in income

The Table 4.11 revealed that the majority (43.20%) of the respondents had low change in income compared to 33.30% had medium income change. Only 23.5% of the respondents had changed their income at higher level. .Hoque (2008) in a study found more or less similar findings.

4.2.2 Change in food Consumption

It is revealed from the Table 4.11 that the majority (38.60%) of the respondents had low calorie intake change compared to 34.80% had medium and only 5.3percent had high change in calorie intake.It was observed that all the respondents could be able to increase their calorie intake condition after involvement the micro-credit programm of Jagorani Chakra Foundation. Sarker (2007) in a study found more or less similar findings where the majority (68%) of the respondents had low calorie intake change compared to one fourth (25%) had medium and only 7 percent had high change in calorie intake.

4.2.3 Change in housing

It is revealed from the Table 4.11that majority (62.1%) of the respondents could not be able to improve their housing condition but 29.50% of the respondents could change their housing condition in low scale, 6.80 percent of them could change housing condition in medium scale and only 0.8 percent of them could change housing condition in high scale .Sarker (2007) in a study found more or less similar findings.

4.2.4 Change in sanitation

It is revealed from the Table 4.11that major proportion (69.70%) of the respondents could be not able to change their sanitation condition but 25.80% of the respondents could be able to change their sanitation condition in low scale and 3.70 percent of them changed their previous condition in medium scale. Only 0.8% of the respondents was able to change their sanitation condition in high scale.

4.2.5 Change in drinking water source

It is revealed from the Table 4.11 that highest number (78.80%) of the respondents could not be able to change their drinking water source but 21.20 of the respondents were able to change their condition in low scale.

4.2.6 Change in family asset

The findings of family asset score of the respondents before and after enrolled as the member of Jagorani Chakra Foundation under micro-credit program has been shown in Table 4.11. Majority (68.94%) of the respondents could improve their family asset possession in low scale compared to 12.88% of them could improve in medium scale. On the other hand, 3.78% of the respondents improved their family asset possession in high scale after their involvement in Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program.

4.2.7 Change in decision making ability

Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making ability differences has been presented in Table 4.11. The distribution of decision making ability difference of the respondents ranged from 0 to 4 with a mean difference of 1.34 and a standard deviation 1.00. Based on their decision making ability difference, the respondents were classified into four categories as shown in Table 4.11. The table showed that the highest proportion (34.10 percent) of the respondents had low change in decision making ability compared to 31.80 percent of the respondents had medium change and 22.7 percent of the respondents had no change in decision making ability. Only 0.8% of the respondents had high change in decision-making ability.

4.2.8 Overall impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting of social status of the beneficiaries

Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-creditscore was found to range from 1 to 13 against the possible range of 0-21. The mean impact score was 5.36 and the standard deviation was 2.05. Based on the observed scores the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12. Distribution of the respondents according to impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program as perceived by the beneficiaries

Sl. No	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
1	Low impact (up to 4)	48	36.40	5.36	2.05
2	Medium impact (5-8)	77	58.30		
3	High impact (above 8)	7	5.3		
Total		132	100		

Data presented in Table 4.12 revealed that most (58.30%) of the respondents had perceived medium impact while 36.40% of the respondents had perceived low impact after involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation. Only 5.3 percent of the respondents had perceived high impact. Thus, all the respondents had perceived more or less improvement through micro-credit program.

4.3 Contribution of the Selected Characteristics of the Respondents on Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation Micro-Credit Program towards Uplifting their Social Status

For this study nine characteristics of the respondent were selected and each of the characteristics was treated as independent variable. The selected characteristics were age (x_1), level of education (x_2), family size (x_3), farm size (x_4), participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation (x_5), credit received (x_6), duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation (x_7), annual family savings (x_8), and cosmopolitaness (x_9). Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program (Y) was the only dependent variable of this study.

Pearson product moment correlation was initially done to find out the relationship between each of the selected characteristics of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries and the impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program as perceived by them. It was found that 5 variables namely farm size, participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation, credit received, duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation and annual family savings had positive significant relationship with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program. The result has been shown in appendix B.

Full model regression analysis was initially run with the 9 independent variables. But it was observed that the full model regression results were misleading due to the existence of interrelationships among the independent variables. Therefore, in order to avoid the misleading results and to determine the best explanatory variables, the method of step-wise multiple regressions was administrated and 9 independent variables were fitted together in step-wise multiple regression analysis. Table 4.13 shows the summarized results of step-wise multiple regression analysis with 9 independent variables on impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status. It was observed that out of 9 variables only 3 independent variables namely farm size (x_4), duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation (x_7) and annual family savings (x_8) were entered into the regression equation. The other six variables were not entered into regression equation. The regression equation so obtained is presented below:

$$Y = 2.344 + 0.346X_4 + 0.262 X_7 + 0.162X_8$$

Table 4.13. Summary of step wise multiple regression analysis showing the contribution of selected characteristics of the respondents to impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status

Variables entered	Standardized Partial 'b' Coefficients	Value of 't' (with probability level)	Adjusted R ²	Increase in R ²	Variation explained in percent
Farm size (x_4)	0.346	4.49(0.00)	0.155	0.15	15.50
Duration (x_7)	0.262	3.39(0.01)	0.226	0.071	7.10
Annual savings (x_8)	0.162	2.12(0.36)	0.247	0.021	2.10
Total				0.247	24.70

Multiple R = 0.514

R-square = 0.264

Adjusted R-square = 0.247

F-ratio = 15.296

Standard error of estimate = 1.783

Constant = 2.344

The multiple R and R^2 values were found 0.514 and 0.264 respectively and the corresponding F-ratio was 15.296 which were significant at 0.000 levels. For determining unique contribution of each of the three variables the increase in R^2 value was determined on impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status. These three variables combinedly explained 24.70percent of the total variation in impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status. Farm size alone contribute 15.50percent of the variation followed by duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation (7.10 percent) and Annual savings (2.10 percent) variation in impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of beneficiaries.

Farm size

From stepwise multiple regressions, it was found that farm size of the respondent had the highest contribution in impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status. Correlation matrix also showed that farm size of the respondents had significant positive relationship with impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting their social status (Appendix-B).

A respondent having large farm size can take various income generating activities for increasing their income. If the income is increased then they may be interested to increase their living standard and also influence to take more quality food.

Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program

Stepwise multiple regressions showed that duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation had positive contribution to uplifting their social status and it was found to be the 2nd highest contributor. Correlation matrix also showed that duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation of the respondents had significant positive relationship with uplifting their social status (Appendix-B).

Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation is a major way of gathering knowledge, information and experience, which are components of socio-economic development. A respondent having more duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation make capable of more confidence. More confidence makes more working spirit among people and thus they earn more. The families who possessed more earns had better housing environment and also influence to take more quality food, ultimately increasing social status of beneficiaries.

Annual savings

From stepwise multiple regressions, it was found that annual savings of the respondent had 3rd highest contribution to uplifting their social status. Correlation matrix also showed that annual savings of the respondents had significant positive relationship with uplifting their social status (Appendix-B).

The above findings indicated that the respondents having more yearly savings make capable of being more confident. More confidence makes more working spirit among people and thus they earn more. Saving makes a man owner or proprietor of some cash or asset. The man, who has some cash or asset, wants to have more. It is a natural desire of human being. The people, whose savings is higher earn more and have more change in income. The families who possessed more savings had better housing environment, with the money from savings those families can purchase more food and housing asset or items.

4.4 Problem Faced Index in receiving and utilizing of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program

The observed problem faced index in receiving and utilizing of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit ranged from 109 to 310 against the possible range of 0 to 396. The formula for determining PFI has been shown in chapter 3. The selected seven problems faced by the respondents which were arranged in rank order according to their descending order of problem faced index (PFI) as shown in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14. Rank order of 7 selected problems faced by the respondents with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program

Problems	Extent of Problem faced				PFI	Rank Order
	High problem (3)	Medium problem (2)	Little problem (1)	No problem (0)		
Payback system is rigid	63	55	11	3	310	1
Payback period starts early	32	78	21	1	273	2
Insufficient amount of credit as per demand	33	67	28	4	261	3
Not getting credit at the time of need	6	77	44	5	216	4
High rate of interest	14	40	70	8	192	5
The misuse of credit for repayment of former loan	0	19	83	30	121	6
The misuse of credit for other activities	0	18	73	41	109	7

PFI = Problem Faced Index

On the basis of PFI, it was observed that ‘Payback system is rigid’ ‘ranked first followed by ‘Payback period starts early’, ‘Insufficient amount of credit as per demand, ‘Not getting credit at the time of need’, ‘High rate of interest’, ‘The misuse of credit for repayment of former loan’, and ‘The misuse of credit for other activities’.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 Individual characteristics of the respondents

Age: The highest proportion (61.4 percent) of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries were middle aged while 28 percent of them were young aged and only 10.6 percent old aged.

Level of Education: The highest proportion (49.20 percent) of the beneficiaries could sign their name only, 28 percent had completed the Secondary level of education while 22.80 percent had completed the Primary level of education.

Family size: The majority (71.20 percent) of the Jagorani Chakra Foundation beneficiaries had small sized family compared to 26.5 percent of them having medium and only 2.3 percent having large family. Thus, 97.7 percent had small to medium sized family.

Farm size: Most (87.90 percent) of the respondents had fallen marginal to medium categories.

Participation with Jagorani Chakra Foundation: Above half (52.3%) of the respondents had low participation compared to 44.7 percent having medium and 3 percent high participation.

Credit received: About half (49.2 percent) of the respondents were medium credit recipient, while 32.6 percent of the respondents were small and 18.2 percent of the respondents were large credit recipients..

Duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program: Slightly fourth (76.5 percent) of the respondents had medium length duration

compared to 21.2 percent having short length duration and 2.3 percent having long length duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation.

Annual family savings: Above half (52.30 percent) of the respondents had medium annual family savings, 28.80 percent of the respondents had small savings, and 18.90 percent large savings.

Cosmopolitaness: The highest proportion (54.5 percent) of the respondents had medium cosmopolitness compared to 34.1 percent and 11.4 percent had small cosmopoliteness and high cosmopoliteness respectively.

5.1.2 Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting of social status of the beneficiaries

Change in income: The majority (43.20%) of the respondents had low change in income compared to 33.30% having medium income change. Only 23.5% of the respondents had changed their income at higher level.

Change in food Consumption: The majority (38.60%) of the respondents had low calorie intake change compared to 34.90% had medium and only 5.3percent had high change in calorie intake.

Change in housing:Majority (62.1%) of the respondents could not be able to improve their housing condition but 29.50% of the respondents could change their housing condition in low scale,6.80 percent of them could change housing condition in medium scale and only 0.8 percent of them could change housing condition in high scale.

Change in sanitation: Major proportion (69.70%) of the respondents could not be able to change their sanitation condition but 25.80% of the respondents were able to change their sanitation condition in low scale and 3.70 percent of them changed their previous condition in medium scale. Only 0.8% of the respondents were able to change their sanitation condition in high scale

Change in drinking water source: The highest number (78.80%) of the respondents could not be able to change their drinking water source but 21.20 of the respondents were able to change their condition in low scale.

Change in family asset: Majority (68.94%) of the respondents could improve their family asset possession in low scale compared to 12.88% of them could improve in medium scale.

Change in decision making ability: The highest proportion (34.10 percent) of the respondents had low change in decision making ability compared to 31.80 percent of the respondents having medium change and 22.7 percent having no change in decision making ability. Only 0.8% of the respondents had high change in decision-making ability.

Overall impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting of social status of the beneficiaries: Most (58.30%) of the respondents had perceived medium impact compared to 36.40% of the respondents having perceived low impact after involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation. Only 5.3 percent of the respondents had perceived high impact.

5.1.3 Contribution of the Selected Characteristics of the respondents to Impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation Micro-Credit Program towards Uplifting their Social Status

Out of 9 variables only 3 independent variables namely farm size, duration of involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation and annual family savings had significant contribution to impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of beneficiaries. These three variables combinedly explained 24.7 percent of the total variation in impact of Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program towards uplifting social status.

5.1.4 Problems faced by the respondent with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program

On the basis of PFI, it was observed that ‘Payback system is rigid’ ‘ranked first followed by ‘Payback period starts early’, ‘Insufficient amount of credit as per demand, ‘Not getting credit at the time of need’, ‘High rate of interest’, ‘The misuse of credit for repayment of former loan’, ‘The misuse of credit for other activities’.

5.2 Conclusion

Findings of the present study and the logical interpretation of other relevant facts prompted the researcher to draw the following conclusions:

► The findings indicate that most of the respondents had perceived medium impact after involvement with Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program. It may be concluded that Jagorani Chakra Foundation micro-credit program play a vital role in uplifting social status of the beneficiaries.

► The findings indicate that farm size of the respondents had great contribution to the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. It may be concluded that the respondents having large farm size were more likely to have higher impact of micro credit.

► The findings indicate that duration involvement with micro-credit had a significant contribution to the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. It may be concluded that impact of micro-credit towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries will be high in the course of time.

► The findings indicate that annual family savings had a significant contribution to the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. It may be concluded that annual family savings of the respondents had influence on the acceleration of impact of micro-credit program.

5.3.1 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study some recommendations can be suggested-

► The study has consistently shown that the respondents under this study have been moderately successful in uplifting their social status. For sustainability of their socio-economic growth at a more increased level, Jagorani Chakra Foundation may continue their micro-credit program with greater involvement of beneficiaries.

► The findings of this study have indicated that farm size of the respondents had great contribution to the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. Therefore it may be recommended that Jagorani Chakra Foundation may provide more loans to the beneficiaries for buying or leasing land.

► The findings of this study have indicated that duration of involvement with micro-credit had a significant contribution to the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. Therefore it may be recommended that attempts should be taken by Jagorani Chakra Foundation to enhance duration of involvement with micro-credit program.

► The findings of this study have indicated that annual family savings had a significant contribution to the impact of micro-credit program towards uplifting social status of the beneficiaries. Therefore it may be recommended that Jagorani Chakra Foundation should motivate and encourage the beneficiaries to more savings.

5.3.2 Recommendations for further research

► This study was conducted on the population of the beneficiaries of Gangni upazila of Meherpur district. Findings of this study need to be verified by undertaking similar research in Jagorani Chakra Foundation branches of other areas of the country.

► Contribution of nine characteristics of the beneficiaries to the impact of micro-credit program were studied in this piece of research works. Further research should be undertaken with a view to exploring contribution of other socio-economic characteristics of the beneficiaries with the impact of micro-credit program.

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