

Micro Credit Program of NGOs in Poverty Alleviation: An Empirical Study on Some Selected NGOs

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Abstract: *In the recent year poverty alleviation has become one of the burning issues worldwide. A systematic development of a nation mainly depends on the proper alleviation of poverty. For this reason poverty alleviation have become global challenges, especially in the developing country like Bangladesh. The micro credit program is playing a vital role in the poverty alleviation. In parallel of government of a country, many NGOs and economical institutions have initiated different activities on the basis of Microcredit programs to alleviate the poverty. Therefore, the objective of this study is to show how micro credit works to improve the quality of poor targeted groups and reduce poverty and how it affects the living standard of the poor people in the study area. Several micro credit institutions are working in the study area. Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA, are some of the most prominent of them. These institutions are working tremendously for the empowerment, poverty reduction and improvement of living standards for the poor people in the study area. However, the objective of this paper is to analyzethe potential contribution of NGOs and the role of micro credit more generally, to economic development, poverty alleviation and constraints inhibiting their future development in Bangladesh.*

Key words: *NGO, Poverty Alleviation, Microcredit, Development*

I. Introduction

BANGLADESH is a heavily populated state and with a thickness of 834 populations in for each square kilometer, the quantity of inhabitants is 160.5 million. Recurring natural catastrophe for instance flood, corrosion and tornado gives extraneousness to the state in addition; People are trailing their asylum and life therefore. Outstanding progress has been observed red in spite of the recurrent natural disaster hit in the States. Paucity jump downward as of 57% to 40% and standard GDP growth augmented in excess of the previous six time is 6% in 1990's [1]. It is frequently disputed that to serve up the deprived the monetary division in low-income nations has unsuccessful. Banks and additional monetary institutions normally need significant security, have a favorite for elevated income and towering loan customers, and have long and technical request procedures by means of esteem to the official sector. And, money lender typically accuse every high interest, tax, tend to rate too low collateral, and frequently allow chauvinistic and/or bigot attitudes to show lending choices by means of high opinion to the casual sector. Over the earlier period two decades since an incomplete reply to this breakdown, there has been noteworthy developed during what container is named "micro-credit". So as to foster income cohort and scarcity reduction during ornamental self-employment [2]. Micro-credit is fundamentally the dispersal of little collateral-free credits to equally accountable borrowers in collections. It is significant to assess the poverty mitigation ability of micro credit beneath these situations.

II. Statement of the Problem

Having an extremely poor monetary marketplace, a rising country is Bangladesh. Since need of physical safety the deprived people have not acquired access to official fiscal institutions. On the additional hand the casual money lenders, accuse an excessive rate of attention, thus inhibiting deprived households as of investing in creating income rising action. At limited stage Bangladesh does not contain an appropriate underneath of diminutive banks in service. The prologue of the micro credit was a monetary modernization beside the surroundings of a comparatively undeveloped official financial arrangement; Micro credit was initiated in the delayed seventies in Bangladesh. For the benefit less deprived households, who were previous measured 'non-bankable' beneath the habitual collateral-based monetary practices; Micro credit is the stipulation of little loans provided are intended

for the profit-generating character-employment actions. With collateral-free credits at reasonably priced prices the Micro-Credit Organizations (MCOs) have been afforded to arrive at the deprived and can thus assist the deprived turn out to be self-employed. To decrease the scarcity via promoting identity-employment amongst the poor and make sure constancy in the profits of the deprived people is the major object of the microcredit. The query now arises because toward whether in the Bangladesh microcredit plan has been clever to add completely to the comfort of the deprived people. In Bangladesh the query is of great meaning intended for analyzing the presentation of Micro-Credit Organizations (MCOs). So in this region, it is of huge interest and commendable of forecast and investigate a situation of the state as regards the scarcity status.

III. Research Aim and Objective

In Bangladesh what degree the microcredit programmers are gifted to transport optimistic 'changes' and payment in scarcity mitigation this investigate seeks to observe.

The exact objectives were since follows on the other hand.

- To appraisal rented by the NGO associates, the position of microcredit
- For evaluating the efficiency of microcredit on scarcity alleviation
- For providing proposals regarding the habits of civilizing the scarcity alleviation skill of microcredit.

IV. Limitations of the Study

The lessons have some limits. Few limits are here out underneath:

- a) If the data could be in use from better example it would have been improved than what has been measured at this point
- b) If information could be in use as of all the scarcity alleviation actions in rustic areas in the lessons it would have been improved
- c) The preponderance of the loan respondents does not preserve any evidence to their spending, income, facts of bank credits, etc. they depend on top of their reminiscences, which complete the investigations incomplete therefore.

V. Methodology

Throughout the months of November 2013 to March, 2014 as of twenty-five villages of Comilla, Chandpur, Noakhali, and Brahman Baria Districts of Bangladesh. The current study is based resting on main data composed by the investigator herself. As well as Grameen Bank, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and Association for Social Advancement (ASA) the inhabitants of the current research are the women associates of well-known Non-Government Associations (NGOs). Since the NGOs recognition agenda is mostly for women intended for this reason every one of the respondents elected for the current learning were women. By means of the assist with pre-structured interview guides the main data have been composed by consultation the chosen 300 stakeholders. On or after obtainable literature, yearly reports, textbooks, administration publication, agenda bulletins, etc., the minor information has been composed. The information thus composed have been agreed actually and investigated by means of relevant methods.

VI. History Of NGO and Micro-Credit in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, so as to understand the real situation of the NGO's micro-credit plan in scarcity mitigation it is necessary to have an obvious idea regarding the pursuit of progress of NGOs, some connected conditions and its micro-credit plan in Bangladesh.

VII. What is NGOs?

In natural world the most ordinary meanings of NGOs are unenthusiastic. As these associations are not fractions of the administration and do not live to make an income. To create income and administration exists to give an necessary arrangement of rule and order and endorse universal welfare, commerce exists, but to give some armed forces or move forward a number of causes in the dissimilar sectors of existence NGOs characteristically survive. Helping a public reason NGOs are personal organizations [3].

A self-governing from administration is any group or organization and slightly than profitable objects that has caring or helpful [4].

As a consequence of the individual plan of a person or a group of persons to voluntarily take on developmental labor at the proletariat NGO resources an official non-profit non-partisan confidential corps it aims at improving the life of the rustic poor in general speaking. By means of a thought of the kind of people needed in unpaid actions and the environment and range of NGO processes this meaning of an NGO offers one [5].

VIII. History of NGOs in Bangladesh

Merely a small number of NGOs maneuvered in the East Pakistan, then, now recognized as Bangladesh previous to autonomy in 1971, just following the usual disaster occurred, in the coastal regions in 1970. Merely after the freedom war of 1971 the NGO operation in Bangladesh began and in the direction of tackle relieve and treatment activities an amount of NGOs appeared throughout this period. Turn over 1974 this well-being direction in NGOs extended. They instigated growth activities through society growth approach thereafter; importance was set on boosting foodstuff production from side to side the use of recent farm equipment throughout this time. Therefore, some NGOs customized their policy and administered their plans and armed forces to advantage the deprived from the start of 1976. As the aim group move toward where the deprived similarities with financial interests were grouped jointly, this is at the present recognized. The NGOs to supply various bear services ranging as of teaching, acclaim, income generation, physical condition, etc. to increasing the capability of the deprived and their financial empowerment, as well mobilizing the deprived [6].

IX. A short description of selected three NGOs

Association for Social Advancement (ASA)

In unusual divisions of the state ASA is a foremost non-governmental association implementing scarcity mitigation. In 1978 it began toward service and later on entirely changed its loom. In two dissimilar stages we can split its epoch of purpose in terms of loom. 'Foundation phase' is described by us there 1978 to 1984. ASA was occupied in the actions heading in towards exiting the low awareness level of the deprived populace at this stage. Prospect of awareness of the deprived was the center of this stage. Figure of actions such as consultation, awareness about lawful rights, work-related skill or message support, repair and preparation for managerial are also included. By means of the transform of state of mind and approach the deprived people would finally take plan to alter their condition the fundamental; hypothesis was that. ASA began a new phase called the 'reformative phase' and concentrated on the 'credit program for income age group in the glow of this practice. Sandwiched between the years 1985 to 1991 this stage extended. Contrasted with the monetary need of the rustic poor, chiefly the women, obtainable tribute based plans were not sufficient and it was time overwhelming to assemble the deprived populace to appoint them in public group. ASA's organization then sensed that. Focusing powerfully on investments and credit for profits age group from 1992 the figure of borrowers were concerning named 'specialization phase'. The statistics of borrowers were regarding 150 thousand and enlarged to further than 1400 thousand immediately in six years. In the equivalent era the numeral of loans also went awake throughout the year 1992 [7].

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

In 1972 by serving the immigrants returning residence from India to Shalla, a distant and an unapproachable community at the northeastern center of the state BRAC in progress its ride just after the freedom of Bangladesh. In their war-torn habitats and communities the asylums had to set up life anew. By as long as those materials required for residence manufacture and apparatuses worn in earning a living BRAC helped the village dwellers. BRAC appreciated that release and modernization oriented actions within a small while BRAC initiated in 1973 a plan with an integrated society expansion approach in 200 communities in the similar area counting Shalla therefore so as to get together long-term require of the populace. It was not acceptable to the expansion of the village-wide society spirit. Later than the breakdown of the included society progress move toward BRAC led to assume as substitute approach to expansion – participatory growth program. BRAC commenced a credit helpful program for a number of the inferior subgroups explicitly, the landless, women and the fisherman therefore, in 1974. By means of the participatory expansion plan in several of the communities in which it was previously in accomplishment, the plan worked plane by plane. BRAC saw that because of the survival of a basic relationship inside the rural control structure the sharing of resources from side to side community expansion approach was actually benefiting the wealthy at the charge of the deprived in the

community with the passageway of time. BRAC was persuaded that therefore: (1) plan that is intended for the deprived must speak to the rural control arrangement, and (2) for tackling the rural control arrangement, the abilities and the organizations of the deprived must be urbanized. BRAC transferred from the idea of praise cooperatives intended for the deprived to the idea of organizing collections of the deprived – target collection move toward as a result in 1978 [8].

Grameen Bank (G. B.)

In Bangladesh the invention of Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Vanderbilt cultured economics lecturer at Chittagong University and a social scientist is Grameen Bank. To experiment the theory that if monetary wealth are made existing to the deprived at sensible terms and circumstances, can they produce industrious self-employment with no external help in 1976. The Grameen Bank created from a small deed research mission undertaken, the Grameen Bank as a scheme was started in 1979 following three years of testing. The scheme distorted into the Grameen bank, a particular financial organization for the rustic poor from side to side a decree following going through a procedure of learning until 1983. Even if Grameen Bank is a dedicated Bank till nowadays it is operational like NGO replica.

In Bangladesh The Grameen Bank is single of the majority victorious experiments in expanding acclaim to the deprived. Being deposit aside at the point in time of payment, which is accrued in the collection fund each associate of Grameen Bank is complete to put aside Tk. 1.00 per week by means of 5% of the credit amount. For creative actions Grameen bank merely provides micro-credit. With 20% attendance rate the acclaims are paid back in 50 equal payments, which is extremely elevated compared to additional NGOs [9].

X. Micro-credit program of NGOs

Because one of the majority influential and effective tools to reduce scarcity Micro-credit has haggard global concentration. With an observation to eliminate scarcity, assignment to go to the entrance of the deprived populace by means of appropriate monetary services (e. g. Micro-credit) agreed by them. Collection-based praise amenities are presented by all NGOs and in the state these collections are completed with person's women who are living being barred from the amenities of continuing profitable banking system. They do not contain sufficient resources, which they are able to stay as an advance in the store so they are barred in the intelligence. Micro-credit plan of NGOs has increased tremendous impetus as an effectual mode of shortage mitigation so currently [10].

XI. Micro- Credit And Poverty Reduction In Bangladesh: Respondent's View

In this section, the researcher tried to analyze the impact of micro-credit program of above discussed three NGOs such as ASA, BRAC and Grameen Bank in alleviating and reducing poverty in 25 villages from different districts of Bangladesh. A questionnaire was provided to 300 stakeholders. Among them, 250 respondents responded properly, which indicates response rate of 83.33 % (250/300) [11].

Impact of Micro-credit on poverty reduction and alleviation

In order to hypothesize the impact of micro-credit program on poverty alleviation and reduction, 300 stakeholders were chosen as respondents, but among them 250 responded properly and the sample size has stood since 250. Several questions were asked for them. Some of them were yes/no questions and some were 5-scale Likert scale questions where they express their opinion and converted it to a scale of 5 to 1 i.e. very satisfied to very dissatisfied.

Response about the age of the respondents:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-1 in the following presented the results:

Table 1: Age of the Respondents

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
18-25 years	060	24.0	24.0
26-35 years	150	60.0	84.0
More than 35 years	040	16.0	100.0
Total=	250	100.0	

From the above table, it can be seen that 60% (150) of total respondents were within the range of 26-35 years. It indicates that women within this range of years took loan from the NGOs the most because during this time period they need to take the responsibility of their family, bear the expenses of their children and so on. More than 35 years of women normally could not dare to take loan because there leaves little chance for them to repay the loan within the scheduled time period[12].

Response about the timeframe of involvement with the micro-credit operation of NGOs by respondents:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-2 in the following presented the results:

Table 2: Timeframe of involvement with micro-credit operation by respondents

Credit receiving time period	BRAC	ASA	GB	Total
0-2 years	40	10	10	60
3-5 years	45	25	10	80
6-8 years	15	10	15	40
9-11 years	25	18	15	58
12-14 years	05	02	05	12
Total=	130	65	55	250
Average=	6.5	7.5	8.5	7.5

The question asked to the respondents was: For how long the respondents were involved in micro-credit program of NGOs? From the above table, it can be concluded that the respondents on an average were involved in credit borrowings from the selected three NGOs for approximately 7.5 years. BRAC borrowers borrow for on an average of 6.5 years, whereas ASA borrowers borrow for on an average of 7.5 years and GB borrowers borrow for on an average of 8.5 years. Moreover, from the above table, it can also be seen that people took most of the loan for 3-5 years. Below this time period, they also took the loan. But taking loan greater than this period, ultimately, would increase their interest, thus they weren't interested until or unless extreme situation occurred. One more conclusion can be drawn from the table: the respondents were happy at taking a loan from NGOs because if they didn't like it or were not satisfied with it, they would have left the program within 2 years. Since they took a loan for more than 1 and 2 years, it indicates that micro-credit program plays a role in poverty reduction[13].

A response about the opinion of respondents about their satisfaction on the amount of credit they got from NGOs:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-3 in the following presented the results:

Table 3: Satisfaction on the amount of credit got from NGOs

Name of NGOs	No. of Respondents	Options	
		Yes	No
BRAC	130	40	90
ASA	065	25	40
GB	055	20	35
Total=	250	85	165

The question asked to the respondents was: the respondents satisfied at the amount of credit they get from NGOs? From the above table, it can be concluded that the respondents on an average werenot satisfied at the amount of credit they got from NGOs. Majority respondents (165 out of 250 respondents) taking a loan from different NGOs answered in a same way that expressed their dissatisfaction towards the amount of credit they got from NGOs. There is a reason behind this. NGOs do this in order to increase the dependency of poor women to their institutions. Moreover, the NGOs aimof alleviating poverty so if they sanction full amount of money as a loan, credit holders won't be able to repay this loan amount within a prescheduled time period. But despite the fact, since credit holders could not get sufficient amount of the loan, they could not perform their expected business, this loan amount needs to be enhanced. Otherwise, this would become a barrier to poverty reduction in this country[14].

Response about the economic condition of the family of respondents before and after micro-credit loan:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-4 in the following presented the results:

Table 4: Change in economic condition before and after micro-credit loan

Name of NGOs	No. of Respondents	In better economic condition	
		Before receiving loans from NGOs	After receiving a loan from NGOs
BRAC	130	05	125
ASA	065	03	062
GB	055	02	053
Total=	250	10	240

The question asked to the respondents was: does the respondent actually thinks her economic condition of families get better after taking the loan from NGOs than that of the earlier time when she did not take a loan? From the above table, it can be said that the majority of respondents (240 out of 250 respondents) expressed a positive attitude towards the betterment of the economic condition of their family after taking the loan from NGOs. According to them, after taking the loan from the NGOs, they made themselves keep in better position than that of the previous. Moreover, after receiving the loan they invested this money in different sectors and from the investment they could earn a profit, which helped to make them better off than the previous. This micro-credit can contribute to alleviate the poverty from the country[15].

Response about the involvement of respondents in income generating activities:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-5 in the following presented the results:

Table 5: Involvement of respondents in income generating activities

Name of NGOs	No. of Respondents	Opinion on involved in income generating activities	
		Yes	No
BRAC	130	120	10
ASA	065	060	05
GB	055	052	03
Total=	250	232	018

The question asked to the respondents was: the respondents involved in income generating activities after taking the loan? From the above table, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents (232 out of 250 respondents) responded positively that they were involved in income generating activities after taking the loan. There exists a reason for this. The respondents need to pay the amount of the loan, so they need to involve themselves in income generating activities to repay the loan. On the other hand, their involvement contributes to the national income and GDP, which help to alleviate the poverty from the country [16].

Response about the duration of involvement of respondents in income generating activities:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-6 in the following presented the results:

Table 6: Duration of involvement of respondents in income generating activities

Name of NGOs	No. of Respondents	Opinion	
		Before receiving loans from NGOs	After receiving a loan from NGOs
BRAC	130	03	127
ASA	065	02	063
GB	055	01	054
Total=	250	06	244

The question asked to the respondents was: At what time the respondent got themselves involved in income generating activities: before or after taking loan from NGOs? From the above table, it can be said that the majority of the respondents (244 out of 250 respondents) expressed a positive attitude towards micro-credit program since they started to involve in income generating activities after taking loan from micro-credit institutions. There is also a reason behind this. In order to repay the loan amount in time, they need to involve in income generating activities and make profit to leave at least with happiness. Their involvement indirectly contributes to GDP, which helps to reduce poverty from Bangladesh[17].

A response about the opinion of respondents about contribution of income generating activities to alleviate poverty:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-7 in the following presented the results:

Table 7: Opinion of respondents about contribution of income generating activities to reduce poverty

Name of NGOs	No. of Respondents	Opinion	
		Yes	No
BRAC	130	130	---
ASA	065	065	---
GB	055	055	---
Total=	250	250	---

The question asked to the respondents was: Does the increased income generated from the involvement in income generating activities contribute to alleviate poverty? From the above table, it can be concluded with a guarantee that increased income earned by respondents through involving in income generating activities contributes to poverty alleviation since all of the respondents said yes to this question[18].

Response about opinion of respondents about the relationship between micro-credit and income generating activities:

The researcher used the frequency tabulation to present the age of the respondents. Table-8 in the following presented the results:

Table 8: Relationship between micro-credit and income generating activities

Name of NGOs	No. of Respondents	Opinion	
		Yes	Yes
BRAC	130	126	04
ASA	065	062	03
GB	055	052	03
Total=	250	240	10

The question asked to the respondents was: Is there any relationship between micro-credit and income generating activities? From the above table, it can be summarized that micro-credit program helps to the involvement in income generating activities and finally reduce the poverty since the majority (240 out of 250) respondents said yes[19].

Influence of micro-credit program on poverty alleviation:

Based on the response on a 5-scale Likert table, the following table presents the percentage of each alternative of each item, its mean, t-test value and significance level:

Table 9: Relationship between micro-credit and income generating activities

Question	Very Satisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)	Neutral (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Mean (5)	T-test value	Sig. Lev. (2-tailed)
1. Economic condition of the family	60.0	35.0	02.0	01.0	02.0	4.96	13.76	0.000
2. Involvement in income generating activities	58.0	32.0	04.0	04.0	02.0	4.90	09.35	0.000
3. Loan amount got from NGOs	05.0	31.0	06.0	50.0	08.0	3.76	01.58	0.072
4. Contribution to GDP	52.0	28.0	15.0	03.0	02.0	4.82	07.55	0.002
5. Financial condition change	64.0	32.0	01.0	02.0	01.0	4.97	14.32	0.000
6. Confidence build-up	52.0	30.0	14.0	03.0	01.0	4.86	08.12	0.003
7. Motivation towards small business	65.0	30.0	01.0	02.0	02.0	4.96	14.22	0.000
Total average=						4.75	09.84	0.011

From the above table, it can be seen that, except the condition of getting a sufficient loan from NGOs in all other cases, respondents thought micro-credit has become able to reduce poverty and initiated financial solvency. Here, t-test expressed significance at 0.05 levels and degrees of freedom at 249 equals 1.98. The mean value is 4.75, t-value is (9.84) is higher than the tabulated value of 1.98 and the significance level is 0.011 which is lower than 0.05. It indicates that poverty alleviation, micro-credit program has positive influence[20].

Relationship between micro-credit program and poverty alleviation:

Pearson correlation was used to express the relationship between micro-credit program and poverty alleviation.

Table 10: relationship between micro-credit program and poverty alleviation

		Poverty Alleviation
Micro-credit program	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	0.582**
	[Sig. At 1% level]	0.000

The above table states that correlation co-efficient, r is 0.582 and p-value is 0.000, which is significant. It concludes that the more the spread of micro-credit program will be, the more the poverty alleviation will be possible[21].

Regression analysis on influence of micro-credit program on poverty alleviation:

The dependent variable is poverty alleviation and the independent variable is a micro - credit program. Proxies for independent variable are: loan given, involve credit takers in income generating activities, make credit takers, self-dependent, change their financial and economic condition and motivate them to start a small business. Regression results are given below:

Table 11: Regression analysis on influence of micro-credit program in poverty alleviation

Variables	Coefficients	P-value (P> t)
Poverty Alleviation	-----	
Loan given	42.785	0.003**
Involvement in income generating activities	73.623	0.001**
Self-dependency of women	46.408	0.004**
Financial and economic condition development	96.961	0.001**
Motivation toward small business development	75.635	0.001**
Constant	754.6834	0.031**
	Number of observations= 250 F (5, 249)= 89.95 Prob>F= 0.0001 R-squared= 0.9875 Adj. R-squared= 0.9850 (** Sig. Level at 5%)	

From the above table, it can be said that independent variables can explain 98.75% of the dependent variable. Since, Prob>F value is less than 0.05, the model is significant and p-value of less than 0.05 indicates that all the variables are significant. Thus, it can be said that micro-credit program has a positive impact on poverty alleviation[22].

XII. Conclusion

In Bangladesh more than thousands of NGOs are carrying out micro-credit operations. But, unfortunately the morbid situation of our socioeconomic condition, especially in the rural settings is evident. What has been explained earlier in this writing is just a model. A model is which tries to attain some sort of success with its perseverance, devotion and commitment. Not only selected three NGOs, but also other NGOs are also playing a significant role in reducing poverty in Bangladesh. To some extent, selected three NGOs have been successful too, as the case of study areas reveals such. In the light of the above discussion, it can be said that as a powerful tool of poverty reduction programs of NGOs, micro-credit helps the creditors to reduce poverty more effectively. On the other hand, creditors have been able to engage with income generating activities after receiving credit for NGOs and income-generating activities positively influences poverty reduction. So it is obvious that NGOs are playing a positive and significant role in reducing poverty in Bangladesh by providing micro-credit to the poor people. The following conclusions and recommendations may be drawn to the source of the findings in this study:

1. Special care should be given to the ultra-hard core poor and destitute group of people.
2. Women should be given special concern in micro credit activities. So that they can be well-off economically.
3. NGO should increase social awareness which influences poverty reduction.
4. Poverty alleviation should be the single aim.

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