



The Factors Affecting on Women Participation in Household Decision Making in Dhaka City: A Sociological Study

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Abstract

Women participation in decision making is one of the important aspects for empowerment of the women in developing countries like Bangladesh. Women empowerment is very essential for a country's enormous progress. Although the socio-economic status of women in our country has increased, women have not being observed to get equal right in decision making. For this reason, this study is designed to examine the factors affecting on women participation in household decision-making in Dhaka city. The study used primary data age (18-40), both married and unmarried women whose family income are minimum 40000 Taka per month. Statistical data analysis is performed to determine the association of women participation in decision making on household, measuring education, financial independence, family type etc. with possible determinants followed by fitting multinomial logistic regression model to assess the effects of these variables. Qualitative analysis has been done by case studies which found how education, income source, aging can keep a vital role in participation of decision making in household. The outcome has been showed that graduation to above women participate in household decision making rate has been increased by 1.378 units. Superstition about women empowerment is another finding from qualitative study. However, this research tries to find out the barriers of women participation in household decision making and attaches some recommendation to increase women participation in decision making.

Keywords: Women, Decision-making, Household, Participation

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Introduction

“Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls” is one of the most important goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). According to the United Nations Development Program’s (UNDP) Human Development Report 2016, the Gender Inequality Index ranks Bangladesh 119th out of 159 countries, reflecting gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Though Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh, still the scenario of women inequality is not much better than other cities. Women face numerous discriminations and atrocities from birth to death. They do not have the right to choose their educational path, career path, life partner, and so on (Kabir, 2017). In maximum family decision about women and households are taken by parents, husband, elder siblings and other elder members. Due to lack of decision making power women becomes victim domestic violence, dowry killing, raped and trafficking by family members. A large number of women are dominated in all aspects of life, (Arsalan et al., 2019).

Bangladesh has placed 16th position among 19 countries in the "2021 Asia-Pacific Girls Report: Voice, Choice, and Power" conducted by the Plan International. Bangladesh received the fourth-lowest index score (0.477) only ahead of Brunei Darussalam (0.462), Afghanistan (0.405), and Pakistan (0.392). Though Female students in tertiary education of Bangladesh increased from 19% in 1985 to 41.7% in 2014, growing at an average annual rate of 5.96% women couldn't utilize their education to solve the practical life problems. The percentage of women worker is increased from 29.85% (2010) to 36.37% (2019), (BSS, 2020). But women participation in household decision making isn't still visible in broader way. For reducing this inequality and discrimination, women have to participate more in household decision making.

Though the women of Bangladesh have moved forward in the educational sector and the economic sector, many educated women cannot get priority in the family to make decisions which is an obstacle for women empowerment. This study may find out the factors and it tries to illustrate the condition of women in household decision making participation in Dhaka city.

Statement of the Problem

In Bangladesh, women are more than half of the population of the country (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2022). But, in the case of decision making participation, they lag behind (Jahan, Hossain & Mahmud, 2015). In addition, women often have unequal access to education, health care, food and property, limited opportunities to earn incomes, restricted access to and control over, productive resources, also very few effective legal rights. Bangladeshi women are further disadvantaged by a lack of awareness of opportunities and their legal rights (The Daily Asian Age, 2017). For this reason, they have been deprived and may not be able to protect them from gender-based violence. Moreover, women are now working and running business side by side

with men (Henely, Dede, 2018). They also work in important government and non-government organizations and contribute their valuable ideas along with decisions to handle critical situations (UN Women Advocacy Brief, 2021). But in their household, still they face barriers to participating in decision making. Besides, UNO Liza has mentioned that family members haven't showed any appreciation for their opinions and efforts (Dhakatimes, 2022) Women participation in decision making is more important for the development of next generation. Moreover, without participation in decision making, women will face gender-based discrimination and deprivation in all aspects of their life. Additionally, half of the country's population will fail to utilize their talents in difficult time period and will be a major cause of deterioration of Bangladesh (BBC, 2020).

Literature Review and Research gap

In Bangladesh, it is really important to acknowledge, measuring and perceiving women empowerment and autonomy from each other by abolishing indices in three tangible dimensions namely economic decision making, household decision making, and physical movement. Haque, M.M., Islam, T.M., Tareque, M.I., and Mostofa, M.G, (2011), process BDHS-2004 data for the study "Women Empowerment or Autonomy: A Comparative View in Bangladesh Context". The author accomplished that there persuaded a mid-level of women empowerment, but autonomy level of Bangladeshi women was thoroughly low. Moreover, the level of women autonomy diminished with the rise of education whereas education raised the level of women empowerment but not easily. The author also included that women's existent age, place of residence, education, religion, media exposure etc. were the main measures accepting women empowerment and their autonomy.

Kagy (2014), in the case of impetuous outgrowth in Bangladesh's garment industry, arrived about by trading policy liberalization, and paid Bangladeshi women new scopes to turn in the regular labor market. The author experimented the raising employment scopes on women's decision-making power, the possibility that women perception domestic violence, and offers in children's education. Using four waves of the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), she invoiced the influence of rise employment scopes for women favoring a deference-in-deference clarification that contributions spatial changing in storehouse location and the process of trade liberalization. After trade liberalization, an area with high storehouse consistency proficient rises in female labor nipping participation, specifically in storehouse positions. The author added that entrance to labor market scopes improves the raises of women; etiological standard on the comprehensive influence on women's lives was scarce. (Kagy, 2014), differentiated to areas with low storehouse consistency, these high consistency areas Conversant raised female decision-making power in the family and a raised possibility that children aged 6 - 12 are recently initiated in school. However, these raised in female empowerment are paid a visit with a raised possibility of domestic violence. Author included heterogeneity exploration publishes upshots are centralized among lower socio-economic class women and current migrants are not conducted results. These consequences are clinched by fieldwork she acted in Bangladesh.

The study of Chanda & Howlader (2012) mainly highlighted married women participation in decision making process at different arena of rural household of Bangladesh. They processed their study at Maharajpur, the unions of Jhenidah district in Bangladesh in 2011. The authors took the population of the research remained of 120 married women who were purposively chosen from the study area. Data were gathered through visible interview method conducting an interview catalog. Data were indicated on univariate, as well as bivariate statistical tables and then explored. Authors expressed that an important percent (93.3) of higher level of education entire women had their assent of getting married whereas no assent was created by illiterate women. Also, in the same way 46.7 percent higher level of education completed women had high level of purchasing power in compared to illiterate (0%) and primary (14.6%) level entire women for the same level of acquiring. In the political choice making 86.7 percent higher level of education entire women had own consent to vote for election in contradict to 77.8 percent illiterate and 70.7 percent primary level entire women were impacted by their husband to decide voting, (Chanda &Howlader, 2012).

Roy, P. K., Haque, S., Jannat, a., Ali, M., and Khan, M.S. (2017) have conducted research on “Contribution of women to household income and decision making in some selected areas of Mymensingh in Bangladesh”. They tried to measure the contribution of women to their household income, to analyze the model of women participation in decision making procedure, their perceptions and effect of income on decision making procedure. As authors carried out at three villages of Mymensingh SadarUpazila, its findings are applicable for rural area. The outcomes about of ponder appeared that the design of women’s commitment to families salary has been changed. Within the think about region, ladies were taking an interest in different pay producing exercises such as trim generation, post-harvest exercises, poultry rising, administration of animals and fisheries, etc. Male and female rendered their association in salary producing exercises for 220 man-days and 204 man-days per year, separately

Sen, K. K., Islam, M., and Hasan, M. M. (2014) found out several factors like socio-economic & demographic determinants are influencing on women decision making power in households. To fulfill this purpose, they mentioned that the cross-sectional data obtained from the Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey (BDHS), 2014 was used in their study. The authors generalized linear mixed model approach has been applied to calculate the adjusted effects of the covariates by considering the correlation among subjects within clusters. Moreover, their study reveals that women with age at marriage ≥ 18 years, having family size ≤ 4 , having leastwise one baby, expressed to media, belonging to NGO, staying in urban areas, and working outside home have greater influence on autonomy in household decision making.

Several researches brought up women participation in decision making from different aspects. This realization motivated the researchers of this study to indentify the gaps in previous researches in this connection. From these literatures, it has been found that researchers were conducting researches on rural and slum areas mostly in Bangladesh on women participation in household decision making. So, the researchers of this study decided to conduct the research on urban area using primary data. Many researches from different countries have been done on this topic in their capital city. But there was no research on women participation of household decision making in the capital city of Bangladesh with primary data. However, this motivation

has pushed the researchers to do analyze a further study about the participation of women in household decision making in Dhaka city and also from the perspective of urban area.

Objectives

The broad objective of this study is to find out the factors affecting on women participation in household decision making in Dhaka city. The specific objectives are:

- To explore the obstacles why women cannot participate in household decision making.
- To know the current condition of women participation of household decision making in Dhaka city.

Hypothesis

- The main regression of this paper can be written as

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_{10}X_{10} + \beta_{11}X_{11} + \beta_{12}X_{12} + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3$$

Here, priori expectations tell that X_1 , X_2 and X_3 have some dependency with dependent variable Y which refers that β_1 , β_2 and β_3 has some value rather than zero.

Therefore,

Null hypothesis: $\beta_i = 0$

Alternative Hypothesis: $\beta_i \neq 0$ Where, $i = 1, 2, 3$

- Hypotheses for correlation-
 1. Giving opinion on financial matter of the family has strong relation with participation in household decision making.
 2. Wearing own choice dress has strong relation with participation in household decision making.

Theoretical Framework

Feminist approaches focusing on the theory of patriarchy as a system of power that organizes society into a complex of relationships based on the assertion of male supremacy. Mary Ann and Weathers (2007) drew attention to the ways in which white women face a different form of discrimination than working class women of color, who additionally must fight racism and class oppression. The study has been found that male dominance is one of the major issues for women

inequality. Most of the time, male dominance rate varies in terms of the color of a woman skin tone (kabir et al., 2011). Fair women get some extra facilities more than the non-fair women.

Another perspective from Conflict theory argues that men try to maintain power and privilege to the detriment of women. Therefore, men can be seen as the dominant group and women as the subordinate group. Conflict theorists have argued that the dominant group naturally works to maintain their power and status. According to conflict theory, social problems are created when dominant groups exploit or oppress subordinate groups. Conflict between the two groups caused Women Suffrage Movement and was responsible for social change. Similarly, family structure and gender roles from Marxist perspective studied by Friedrich Engels stated that in household, men women relationship had owner – worker relationship, where women had seen as proletariat and men were owner. According to the suggestion of Contemporary conflict theorists, when women earn money, they may gain power in the family structure and may take decision about more democratic arrangements in the house. In this research the researchers have found that, there is a significant difference between earning women and not earning women. Women who can earn wage, can participate in household decision making but who do not earn wage, can't participate in household decision making most of the time.

Methodology

The paper is following mixed method which strongly acquainted on quantitative but also features qualitative data. This research is basically descriptive in nature. Statistical analysis, descriptive analysis and case studies have been used with a view to explore the potential factors on women participation in household decision making. This study is based on opinion of women about their participation in household decision making. The study was centered on primary data which was collected from various residences of Dhaka city. To avoid biasness, the residential areas had chosen from both north and south of Dhaka city.

The researchers adopted the simple random sampling for this study so that the probability of each respondents getting selected would be unbiased. Researchers conducted 135 questionnaire based survey for quantitative section and managed few case studies for qualitative section. The target population was those women who were above 18 years old and their family income was minimum 40000 in a month. The questionnaire-based survey ran with household drop-off method where researchers went to home or business of respondents and handed the respondents the instrument. The participated women were assured that all the collected data would be only used for research, and all of their responses would remain confidential. After receiving the verbal consents from the respondents, one to one interview had been conducted in-person. Besides, for the qualitative part, case studies were formulating on the basis of in-depth interview.

The data analyzing techniques followed Multinomial logistic regression, Simple linear regression and Correlation of coefficients. The paper used 6 regressions to depict the valuation of their participation in household decision making. The regression models are-

$$\text{Participation in household decision making} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{age} + \beta_2 \text{education} + \beta_3 \text{Family Type}.$$

Here, all the variables rest are categorical variables. The rationality of the variables is given below:

Age is very important variable. It is assumed that decision making practice may increase with age. Due to have more experience and courage with age a female should have gain the ability to make decision.

Education plays vital role. The priori knowledge says that more a female is educated the more that female has the opportunity to be self-sufficient and mature which boost her confidence and help her to make her own as well as her family decision.

It is assumed that female in higher social class knows the value of decision making and therefore practice it very often.

Family type is important because the participation in decision making may vary in the structure of a family. The joint family consists of a greater number of people than single family which may influence the result of household decision making.

The variable and its levels are shown in table 1-

Table 1

Age	Education	Family Type	Participating Ability in household decision making
18-25 = 0	Below graduation = 0	Single = 0	No = 0
26-35 = 1	Graduation to above = 1	Joint = 1	Yes = 1
36-45 = 2			
45+ = 3			

Three different correlations are used to figure out how much valuation of participation is mean to the respondents. The correlations are done with the dependent variable participation in household decision making and two other variables such as wearing own likable dresses and participating to decide daily life cooking and marketing stuffs.

The formula use for correlation is-

$$r = \frac{\sum (xi - \bar{x}) (yi - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum (xi - \bar{x})^2 \sum (yi - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Data analysis & Discussion:

From 135 sample of women, below graduate women were 51.85% and graduate to above women were 48.14%. In the case of family type, there were 51.11% women who lived in joint family and 48.88% women who lived in single family. The percentage of earning and not earning women were 38.51% and 61.48%.

Regression Analysis:

Having no family income decrease the valuation of their participation in household decision making by 1.039 units. Moreover, increase in family income does not have any effect in the participation in household decision making. This regression resulted that there had no strong relation between participation of women in household decision making and family income. It indicated that family income cannot add any value in participation of women in household decision making.

Table 2

Variables in the Equation

		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1 ^a	Family Income	.000	.000	12.091	1	.001	1.000
	Constant	-1.039	.356	8.514	1	.004	.354

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: Family Income.

In the first multinomial logistic regression, it is found that if the respondents are from Honors graduate or above the valuation of their participation in household decision making is increase by 1.378 unit than that of below Honors education background. Moreover, if the respondents are in a single family, the valuation of their participation in household decision making is decreased by 1.353 units than that of from being in a joint family. Age plays a significant role in the decision making in the overall female participation in the household decision making. Females who are 18-25 age have least value in their participation in household decision. However, females who are at 26-35 have more participation rate than 18-25 ages. The value of participation in household decision becomes higher with increase in age. Lastly, at the age of 45+ the participation of females become most valuable than rest of the females. Though the coefficient value shows negative value and insignificant at 26-35 and 36-45 age, but it clearly shows the positive relationship of factor age with the value of female participation in the decision making of household.

Table 3

Parameter Estimates

Participation of Women in Household Decision Making		B	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval for Exp(B)	
								Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	Intercept	-.343	.682	.252	1	.615			
	Family Type	1.353	.490	7.616	1	.006	3.867	1.480	10.107
	Education	1.378	.484	8.120	1	.004	3.969	1.538	10.243
	[Age=0]	-1.627	.722	5.076	1	.024	.196	.048	.809
	[Age=1]	-1.039	.712	2.128	1	.145	.354	.088	1.429
	[Age=2]	-.452	.702	.415	1	.519	.636	.161	2.518
	[Age=3]	0 ^b	.	.	0

a. The reference category is: 0.

b. This parameter is set to zero because it is redundant.

From this analysis, it has found that $\beta_0 = -0.343$, $\beta_{10} = -1.627$, $\beta_{11} = -1.039$, $\beta_{12} = -0.452$, $\beta_2 = 1.378$, $\beta_3 = 1.353$. However, only β_{10} , β_2 and β_3 are statistically significant with 95% confidence interval. The P-value is less than 0.05 which means that the values of those coefficients are in the rejection area. Which means Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted with statistically significant for β_{10} , β_2 and β_3 coefficients. So, it has indicated that participation of women in household decision making has strong relation with education, family type and age (18-25).

Now in case of married and unmarried women, unmarried women have higher education value than that of married women. Moreover, for married women, aging does not have any significant values on participation. But in the case of unmarried women, aging has showed significant values. As unmarried women are free from dominations and boundaries of in-laws they can participate in decision making more than married women.

Table 4

	Married	Unmarried
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Education (honors to above honors)	0.689**	2.775***
Age (18-25)	0.147	15.28***
Age (26-35)	-0.201	17.97***
Age (36-45)	0.196	20.84***
Age (45+)	-1.142	21.97***

However, the difference between earning women and not earning women education value are 1.989 & 1.217 on 5% significance of coefficients. It has indicated that earning women may keep an impact on participation in household decision making more than not earning women. Financial independence makes more value so earning women can participate in household decision making. Besides, age 45+ has showed a significant result in both earning and not earning women with participation of household decision making. As earning women are financially solvent so when they are in higher age, their value in decision making has been increased more. But, in the case of not earning women, when their age increases, their value in family has been decreased more. So, age plays a very significant impact on women participation in household decision making in both earning and not earning women.

Table 5

	Earning	Not Earning
Education (honors to above honors)	1.989**	1.217**
Age (18-25)	-38.143	-.104
Age (26-35)	-19.415	1.860
Age (36-45)	.800	2.661
Age (45+)	16.375***	-3.728**

Correlation Analysis

- 1st Correlation

H0: Giving opinion on financial matter of the family has no strong relation with participation in household decision making

H1: Giving opinion on financial matter of the family has strong relation with participation in household decision making

Table 6

Correlations

Participation of Women in Family Decision Making	Giving Opinion on Financial Matters in Family

Participation of Women in Family Decision Making	Pearson Correlation	1	.761**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	135	135
Giving Opinion on Financial Matters in Family	Pearson Correlation	.761**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	135	135

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

The correlation between Participation of Women in Family Decision Making and Giving Opinion on Financial Matters in Family is 0.761 refers that Participation of Women in Family Decision Making and Giving Opinion on Financial Matters in Family are highly positively correlated which is statistically significant on 95% confidence interval. That means null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. Because P value is tested at the significant level 0.01 so, it is showed from above correlation is that participating in family decision making has strong relation with giving opinion on financial matter in family.

• 2nd Correlation

H0: Wearing own choice dress has no strong relation with participation of women in family decision making.

H1: Wearing own choice dress has strong relation with participation of women in family decision making.

Table 7

Correlations

		Participation of Women in Family Decision Making	Wearing Own choice Dress
Participation of Women in Family Decision Making	Pearson Correlation	1	.391**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	135	135
Wearing Own choice Dress	Pearson Correlation	.391**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	135	135

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

The correlation between Participation of Women in Family Decision Making and Wearing Own Choice Dress is 0.391 refers that Participation of Women in Family Decision Making and Wearing Own Choice Dress are weakly correlated which is statistically significant on 95% confidence interval. That means null hypothesis is accepted and alternative hypothesis is rejected. So, it is showed from above correlation is that participating in family decision making has no strong relation with wearing own choice dress.

• 3rd Correlation

Table 8

Correlations

		Participation of Women in Family Decision Making	Participating to Decide Daily Life Cooking and Marketing Stuffs
Participation of Women in Family Decision Making	Pearson Correlation	1	.359**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	135	135
Participating to Decide Daily Life Cooking and Marketing Stuffs	Pearson Correlation	.359**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	135	135

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

The correlation between Participation of Women in Family Decision Making and is 0.359 Participating to Decide Daily Life Cooking and Marketing Stuffs refers that Participation of Women in Family Decision Making and Participating to Decide Daily Life Cooking and Marketing Stuffs are weakly correlated which is statistically significant on 95% confidence interval. So, it is showed from above correlation is that participating in family decision making has no strong relation with Participating in Decide Daily Life Cooking and Marketing Stuffs.

From these correlation analyses, it comes out that participation of women in household decision making is strongly related with giving opinion on financial matters in family. But, the matter of wearing own choice-able dress and daily life cooking, marketing stuffs have not much important relation with household decision making of women. So, the women who give their opinion on financial matters of their family can participate in household decision making strongly.

Qualitative Analysis

The socio economic condition of women in Bangladesh is so vulnerable. The present era is not much female friendly than the past era. In the present society, women are facing problems for patriarchal structure of society, social factors such as illiteracy, economic dependence on male partners within family, superstitions about women empowerment, religion etc. Though women are educated more day by day, they can't utilize their education in practical life. Patriarchic societal system is one of the biggest barriers for women participation in household decision making. Men get all the priorities & facilities in every aspect just because of their gender identity. In fact, Participation in household decision making is unimaginable where women may not be allowed to take their own decisions most of the time.

One of the women interviewed Neelima Rahman, (32 years) shared her experience. She introduced herself as a housewife. Her family didn't allow her to continue higher study though she was a brighter student than his brother. Her family was economically solvent to contribute her study but it was a dissipation to contribute in girls' education, according to her family. She added that she couldn't take part in decision making in her father's family as well as at in-laws. She had 2 children but she was not allowed to take any decisions about them because of her less educational qualification. But, as her brother-in-law's wife was highly educated, her opinion was accepted on the family matters. Education is a prime factor to participate in household decision making according to Neelima Rahman. She also mentioned that male domination and patriarchic laws were further reasons which create barrier to decision making of women.

Another respondent Samira Jahan (27 years) was a private job holder who lived in Mohammadpur with her in-laws. She mentioned that educated and financially independent women were facing embarrassing situation when they tried to participate in household decision making. Samira stated, "Before marriage all my decisions have taken by my parents and after marriage it is my husband who takes all. Though I am taking important decisions at workplace but my opinion is not accepted in household decision making. My parents along with my in laws believe that whatever may be the qualification of women, they can't think rationally. So, according to them women should not be allowed in decision making". In accordance with her, superstition about women had an important obstacle to participate in decision making. She shared a point of view that men saw women as their competitor because of this they felt threatening when women tried to give her opinion or did something according to her own choices.

49 years old Jhuma Akhter was a housewife, lived in Mirpur with her husband and 3 sons. She shares, "I was only 19 years old when I got married. That time, I was very young to understand about my own rights in every aspect. My husband decided everything along with my mother-in-laws. After some years later, I tried to do something according to my choice. Also I provided suggestions about household matters. But nothing was accepted from my husband". Her participation in decision making was valued when she was growing old more. She mentioned that she was the main decision maker in her house in several matters like shopping, menu selection for meal, financial matters, children matters etc. According to her, early marriage had created barrier for women participation in household decision making. Because of early marriage

she couldn't make herself confident and couldn't gather proper knowledge, which were actually important for making decisions.

Respondent Shayla Ruksana (37 years) was a widow, lived in Uttora with her in-laws and child. She was the prime decision maker in her family after her husband's death. She was running a business currently. She shared her views about women participation in household decision making. According to Shayla, her decisions got priority in the family because she was well known about her rights. She mentioned that she was respected for her business reputation in her family. She contributed financially in family and tried to make decisions from the beginning of her married life. For that reason, also after her husband's death, her in-laws relied to her in every household matters.

Entrepreneur Jarin Ferdoushy (25 Years) lived with her parents and siblings at Dhanmondi. She started her business in online and established two showrooms at present. She stated that even though she still hadn't completed her study, her parents involved her in every decision making. And sometimes, her relatives came to her for opinion on different matters. She mentioned that not only higher education, financial contribution etc but also unbiased environment along with equal mentality influences on women participation in household decision making.

There are many literatures which indicate different factors about women participation in household decision making. In Ghana, a study described that the factors of woman participation in household decision making were not limited to age, education, parity, occupation and religion. They found out sex of household head, residence, household wealth index, presence of co-wives, number of children less than 5 years and numbers of household members etc were the main factors of women participation in household decision making (Amugsi et. al., 2016). On the other hand, in Nepal, Women autonomy in terms of decision making was positively associated with their age, employment and number of living children (Archarya et. al., 2010). Similarly, in rural community of Bangladesh, women education, income, occupation, gender-based awareness had a significant effect on household decision-making (Sultana et. al., 2011). However researchers from this study found that age, education, family type, financial independence, superstition about women, patriarchal society were the main factors which affected women participation in household decision making in Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh.

Recommendation

- As the findings has indicated that higher educated women can participate more in decision making. Hence, women education rate should be increased in tertiary level so that women can build their confidence and self esteem which will be resulted to increase their participation rate in household decision making.

- As mentioned earlier that financial independence can create more the capability in decision making of women in household. So, women should be encouraged to make their selves financially independent for assembling their participation valuable in household decision making.
- Case studies have indicated that domination of patriarchy society is one of the major obstacles of women participation in household decision making. People should raise their voice against domination and support women to grow.
- World Bank (Development for Peace, 2018) reported that gender equality would solve the problems of gender discrimination. So, government should take necessary steps to increase gender equality to ensure women participation in household decision making.
- Superstitions need to be overcome about women participation in household decision making and highlight the negative side of not being able to participate in decision making of women.
- Media can keep a vital role to decrease gender based violence (Lucia, 2022). So, media should forward a few steps to make more awareness contents for spreading positivity about women participation in decision making.

Conclusion

This study is formulated on the experience of women in terms of participation in household decision making in Dhaka city. It is found that education, aging, family type, marital status, financial independence etc are the factors of not being able to participate in household decision making of women. In family women are called potential mother and homemaker. For a family, women play fundamental role for house caring and child rearing. But from this study, researchers found that a large number of women still are simply unaware about their right of making decisions. A woman not only keeps vital role for making a commendable family but also making a consolidated nation In this era of development, women's visible involvement in decision-making will strengthen the acceleration of sustainable developmental goals on the society. Bangladesh government tries to break the barrier for women and make opportunities for them so that they can contribute in decision making from all aspects. Moreover, gender discrimination is deep rooted in our patriarchal society which can be spotted in household sector too.

Discrimination is another factor which has been felt by women for their low participation in household decision making. Such discriminatory practices must be removed from household so that the women can prove their capability of making decisions with their opinion and ideas.

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