IMPACT OF ASA MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM TOWARDS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN MONOHARDI UPAZILA OF NARSINGDI DISTRICT

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that thesis entitled, "**IMPACT OF ASA MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM TOWARDS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN MONOHARDI UPAZILA OF NARS1NGDI DISTRICT"** submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Extension and Information System, 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 bonafide research work carried out by **SAYED JAHURUL HOQUE Registration No. 00957** under my close 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, availed during the course of this investigation has been duly acknowledged by him.

Dated .....
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Professor Md. Rafiquel Islam
Supervisor

DEDICATED TO MY

BELOVED PARENTS

I

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ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATION	FULL WORD
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASA	Association for Social Advancement
BKB	Bangladesh Krishi Bank
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Broad
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CARE	Co-operation for American Relief Every where
CDF	Credit and Development Forum
DCI	Direct Calorie Intake
et al.	All others
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
AGP	Adarsha Gram Project
GB	Grameen Bank
GO	Government Organization
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
INFS	Institute of Nutrition and Food Science
k.cal.	kilo calorie
MFI	Micro Finance Institute
MBSS	Mohila Bittahin Samabaya Samity
NGO	Non Government Organization
NCB	Nationalized Commercial Bank
NNP	National Nutrition Programme
PCB	Private Commercial Bank
PDBF	Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation
PKSF	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
PMUK	Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra
P.	Page
RAKUB	Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank
RCP	Rural Credit Programme
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RDRS	Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service
Th. Tk.	Thousand Taka
TMSS	Thengamara Mohila Subuj Shangha
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNO	United Nations Organization
us$	United States Dollar
VO	Village Organization

ABSTRACT

The main focus of this study was to determine and describe the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women and to explore the relationship between the selected characteristics and impact of micro credit of ASA. Socio-economic development was measured by computing the different dimensions of change, such as change in income, change in food consumption, change in standard of living and change in decision-making ability of the credit receivers after their involvement in ASA micro credit program.

The average annual income, per capita daily calorie intake, standard of living and decision making ability score of the respondents increased at 4.62 thousand taka, 144.87 kilo calories, 0.94 and 1.50 respectively after involvement with ASA micro credit program. Before involvement, 67 per cent of the respondents had mud-builz houses with tin roof, after involvement the percentage was 74. Similarly 33 per cent of the respondents used half sanitary toilet before involvement where after involvement this percentage turned into 51 per cent. Before involvement with ASA micro-credit program, 19 per cent of the respondents' families had own tube well but after program this percentage was 38. The education, farm size, annual savings, cosmopoliteness, credit received, duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program and attitude towards ASA micro credit program had significant relationship with the impact of micro-credit. However, age and family size of the respondents did not show any significant relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit. The inadequate supply of credit facilities against their demand was identified as respondents' main problem and high rate of interest was the prime problem in case of repayment of loan. Based on the finding, it was concluded that micro-credit programme of ASA showed great potential for socioeconomic development on its beneficiaries. Therefore, it may be expanded all over Bangladesh for socio-economic development as well as poverty alleviation of the rural poor women.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

In every developing nation, the crucial issue is socio-economic development and poverty alleviation. All developing nations are in the process of achieving this goal. In the development process, particularly in case of developing countries, the rural sector is a vital place since most of the people in these countries live in the rural areas. Therefore, planners and policy makers have recognized rural development as central to national development.

It is evident that no society in the world provided or provides women equal status with men (Giriappa, 1988). Bangladesh is a country of untapped natural resources, inequality of assets & income distribution, low productivity of agriculture and industry with disproportionate rate of population growth. She has an area of 1, 47,570 sq.km. And a population of 145.6 million and per capita income US$599 (BBS, 2007). The per capita income of the people living under poverty line is very low. With the meager income, the poor cannot meet the basic needs. The slow growth of the resource-poor economy combined with an alarming growth rate of population is continually frustrating all efforts of planned development.

A large portion of the population (76.61%) lives in the rural areas. Still 44% of the rural populations live below the poverty line and 24% are hardcore poor. Agriculture being main occupation employs 63.20% of the labor force and contributes directly about 25.86% of the GDP. Other major contributes are manufacturing (15.40%), wholesale and retail trade (13.38%) and transport (9.24%) (BBS, 2007). According to the recent estimate, total cultivated area is 7195 million hectares and per capita cultivated area is 48.31% (Roy, 2003). Moreover, natural calamities like flood, cyclone and tidal bore take a heavy toll of lives and properties every year in which poor suffer indiscriminately.

Bangladesh is faced with the problem of poverty, which manifests itself in landlessness, unemployment, illiteracy, malnutrition and vulnerability to frequent natural disasters. Considering the importance of the problem, not only government but also NGO has given top most priority alleviation as well as rural development program. As women constitute almost half of the total population where male: female is 105.4:100 (Anonymous, 2005) of Bangladesh, the overall development of the country cannot take place without massive participation of women in development efforts. Participation of women in income generating activities is poor. Out of total lobar force of 56 million only 21.3 million are women (BBS, 1998).

The Non-Government Organizations of Bangladesh are working for socioeconomic development. In fact the NGO first gave loan to the helpless and distressed community without any mortgage. Many distressed women by now have become industrialists or entrepreneurs. Besides the Government and NGO effort various public institutions disburse micro credit for socio-economic development. This micro credit has helped the women and resource poor people to earn their livelihood through it.

Against this background, ASA along with other NGOs such as BRAC, PROSHIKA, Grameen Bank, World Vision, CARITAS, RDRS, TMSS etc. and other development agencies have realized that true development cannot be achieved unless and until the women are made part of the development process.

1.2 Status of women

Women constitute about one-half of the population. Unfortunately they remained economically unproductive for long time.

Like many other developing countries in the world, women of Bangladesh are beset with many socio- cultural problems which act as hindrance towards achieving equal status with men. This social system inflicting upon strict segregation of the sexes allocates to men the control over the means of production or other social and economic resources, but must seek security through their husbands or other male kens. Women constitute about one-half of the population.

Unfortunately they remained economically unproductive for long time. In spite of the fact that women play an important productive role in the family, their contribution to the family is grossly overlooked, often considered unproductive and they are still given relatively lower status in the society. Village women work very, hard but the activities performed by them are often excluded from the official definition of economic activities. Women in the rural areas are mainly engaged in post-harvest grain processing and storage activities although they also grow fruits and vegetables in the homestead for family consummations. They care for poultry and livestock; they supplement families' nutrition and income through homestead gardening and working in cottage industry.

The literacy rate of women members is very low, only 25.5% of women are literate compared to 38.9% men (BBS, 2002). Recent report suggests that women in Bangladesh have a lower life expectancy at birth (59.6 year) compared to men (60.8 years). Maternal mortality is estimated at 3.0 per 1000 live births (BBS, 2002).

The pace of development in any country largely depends upon the participation and commitment of all the women concerned with development activities; the development experts and policy makers have emphatically stated this. They emphasized such participation as a means to achieve the fruits of rural development.

In rural areas, girls are usually married between the age of 12 and 15; and 75% are married by 19 years of age (Cadbury, 1989). After her marriage, she does not obtain security until the birth of a son. There are cases where in spite of already having several children, the husband again married to have a son. In the recent times, a significant change takes place in women's socio economic status and they are earning incomes outside their homes. The expected goal of achieving meaningful development demands recognition of the equal rights of women in the society,

Provision of opportunities for equal partnership of women in development activities and ensuring social justice to women.

1.3 Role of Micro- Credit on Women

Micro- credit is one of the most important factors for enhancing socio economic development of the rural poor. Bangladesh is the first country to introduce micro credit successfully, especially for the poor. At present, more than 1000 micro finance institutes (MFIs), mostly NGOs' are operating in the country. These NGOs' are one of the most important vehicles available to low income people, entrepreneurs and producers. Such NGOs are providing an alternative micro credit model for poverty alleviation that would successfully reduce the problems of low income, low saving, low consumption and other aspects of poverty through their institutional design, credit policy and programs.

Besides, GOs' and NGOs' play the most important role in distributing micro credit to the clientele to overcome poverty and helping the poorer sector to uplift their situations that are living below the poverty line. Till now NGOs' have given about 30 thousand core taka as micro credit and more than one core families are benefited from this. However, it can be noticed that micro credits are mainly distributed among women. Women are highly emphasized because for family maintenance they have more responsibility than the men.

Over the years, most of our women have remained economically unproductive, or in other words, their contribution to Gross National Product (GNP) remained unacknowledged for a long time. A country can never attain economic sustainability, if it keeps half of its work force unemployed or unproductive. Women cannot be brought in the mainstream of development unless their domain of work is expanded further, and women consciousness is raised to the extent that they can go over marginalized position and participate in the development of the country in real sense.

Further, it has been realized that true development cannot be achieved unless and until women are made part of the development process, Consequently, NGO's have been incorporating women into their multifaceted development, activities. The majority of the rural families, especially poor women have limited access to institutional credit. The main reason of this inaccessibility is landlessness. Furthermore, the poor women have no other

household assets. As the time passes, the landlessness is increasing day by day at an alarming rate and making rural people, particularly the women from poor to poorer.

Poverty is a complex phenomenon and its cause and effect are more complex process. Micro credit is considered as one of the tools for poverty alleviation by breaking this vicious circle. There are other areas of social empowerment to lead the poor along with the economic empowerment endowed by micro credit.

1.4 ASA: An NGO in Socio- Economic Development

Association for Social Advancement (ASA), established in March 1978 at a remote village in Manikganj district, aims to establish a just society in Bangladesh for the disadvantaged groups. This goal entails empowerment of the powerless grassroots people, which will enable them to resist oppression, injustice and establishing their right of access to institutional resources. For this purpose, ASA implemented programs for social action, legal aid and awareness building, communication support service and conducted training programs for the organized groups. ASA organized the landless rural poor into groups to convert them as collective forces that could remove injustice and protect their interest and rights. ASA motivated these groups in the rural area and continued implementation of the programs, which generated a honorable and positive impact on the social empowerment.

ASA supported the views that economic empowerment is the vital factor of all development, with other factors such as political and cultural aspects for longterm growth of the economy. Therefore, improvement of economic conditions has been assumed as the key to solving other problems through enhanced income. With this realization, ASA introduced its credit program, which has improved economic status of the poor. Along with this, an integrated program including awareness of education, health care, nutrition improvement, women in development, irrigation, training and post disaster management was undertaken. In 1989, ASA management decided especially for credit services and started working from the middle of 1992.

Being economically important is the key to development and this has been considered as the prime focus of ASA's development strategy. Increased economic capacity can lead the poor to avail different opportunities for their self-development. With this philosophy; ASA becomes specialized in providing credit for income generation of the landless poor where saving mobilization is an integral part of the credit program.

1.5 Statement of the Problem

As ASA work with a targeted socio-economic development program, it impact is expected to be beneficial. ASA 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 ASA.

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 constrains are gender-specific (Mohiuddin, 1991).

But credit is rarely available to the poor at reasonable rates of interest. Commercial banks fail to cater 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, 1988). But ASA provides loan to these poor without any colleteral.

The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the impact of micro credit towards socio-economic development of ASA rural women borrowers. The study aims to find out the answer to the following questions:

i. How rural women were influenced by the credit program of ASA?
ii. How do women participate in the ASA micro credit program?

iii. What contributions are made by the ASA to the target groups in socioeconomic development in relation to:
- increase income
- improve food consumption
- increase standard of living

iv. What is the relationship between the selected characteristics of the women borrowers and their extent of socio-economic development as a result of contribution made by activity of micro credit program?

v. What are the problems faced by the women in receiving and utilizing the micro credit from ASA?

1.6 Objectives of the Study

The main focus of the study was to evaluate the impact of micro credit in socio-economic development of rural women in upgrading their economic and social status. The following objectives were formulated in order to give proper direction to the study:

1. To describe the individual characteristics of the rural women, which included:
    i. Age
    ii. Education
    iii. Family size
    iv. Farm size
    v. Annual savings
    vi. Cosmopoliteness
    vii. Credit received
    viii. Duration of involvement with ASA, and
    ix. Attitude towards ASA
2. To assess the impact of ASA micro credit program on the socio-economic development of rural women in the following dimensions:

i. Change in income

ii. Change in food consumption

iii. Change in standard of living

- Change in housing unit

- Change in toilet condition

- Change in drinking water source -Change in family assets

iv. Change in decision-making ability

3. To determine the dimension of women participation.

4. To explore the relationship between the selected characteristics of the ASA women borrowers and the impact of micro credit on them.

5. To identify the problems faced by the borrowers in getting and repayment of loan.

1.7 Justification of the Study

Economy of Bangladesh largely depends on agricultural development. In spire of sustainable agricultural production overall economic development of Bangladesh also depends upon increased productivity, income, consumption and participation of the beneficiaries in socio-economic development activities are some of the major prerequisites for the overall economic development of Bangladesh. Most of the NGOs are believed to be working to meet-up the prerequisites for socio-economic development since the independence of Bangladesh. The NGOs were welcomed in Bangladesh to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the poorest section of the population. As they do not have sufficient employment opportunities and income sources to maintain their livelihood, they are the vulnerable class of the society and through the involvement with NGO activities, it is expected that their personal, social and economic upliftment would be possible.

A large number of NGOs like ASA, BRAC, RDRS, PROSHIKA and GB have been working now in the country. ASA works at the grass root level for socioeconomic development and employment generation.

Upto June, 2007, ASA has 3.712 million borrowers, 97 percent of whom are women, which is more than 95 percent of the total villages in Bangladesh (ASA. 2007).

Access to credit is an important issue for the poor people both men and women to improve socio-economic condition and their standards of living. Most of the NGOs are working to improve the socio-economic condition. ASA works at the grass root level for socio-economic development and employment generation. But there is a very few study on the impact of its activities.

So, there is a need to conduct study to see and realize the performance of socioeconomic development programs arranged by ASA. The researcher intended to take an attempt to know how the respondents develop their socio-economic condition due to the involvement with ASA micro credit program. To know why and how different changes in varied aspects like change in income, change in food consumption, changes in standard of living, change in decision making ability etc. are taken place. This might be an aspect of the rationality of this study. The findings of this study also might be expected to be useful to the researchers, planners and policy makers, extension workers and debtors of ASA and similar NGOs and to other organizations and personnel.

1.8 Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was formulated to explore the relationship between the selected characteristics of the women and their impact of participation on ASA credit programs as perceived by them. "There is no relationship between the impact of participation of women borrowers in micro credit program with any of their selected characteristics, like age, education, family size, farm size, annual savings, cosmopoliteness, credit received, duration of involvement with ASA, and attitude towards ASA Micro-credit proram.

1.9 Assumptions and Limitations of the study

1.9.1 Assumptions of the study

An assumption is the supposition that an apparent fact or principal is true in the light of the available evidence (Carter, 1945). The following assumptions were kept in mind while undertaking the study.

i. The respondents were capable in answering the questions correctly and accurately, contained in the "interview schedule"

ii. The findings would give a clear indication of the impact of participation on ASA credit program.

iii. The data given by the respondents were considered to be reliable.

iv. The respondents included in the sample were representative of the population of the ASA credit program in the selected study area.

1.9.2 Limitations of the study

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

i. The study was confined to only three unions namely, Chandan Bari, Sukundi and Chalek Chor under Monohardi Upazila of Narsingdi District.

ii. Characteristics of the rural women were many and varied, but only nine characteristics were selected for investigation in the study.

iii. In a peasant-dependent economy like Bangladesh where women are mostly illiterate, it is very difficult to get accurate information with respect to their activities on production, income and the like.

iv. There were many landless rural women in the study area, but only the rural women involved with ASA micro credit program were considered for this study.

v. 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.

vi. For information about the study, the researcher had to depend on data as furnished by the selected rural women beneficiaries during data collection.

vii. 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 ASA staff.

Findings of the study will be particularly applicable to the ASA women beneficiaries of three unions namely Chandan Bari, Sukundi and Chalak Chor union. However, the findings may also have relevance to other areas of same physical, socio-economic and cultural conditions in Bangladesh where similar activities are going on. Thus, the findings are expected to be useful to the researchers, planners and policy makers, extension workers and beneficiaries of ASA and similar NGOs and other organizations and personnel.

1.10 Definition of important terms:

For clarify of understanding, some frequently used terms are defined and interpreted below:

ASA: Association for Social Advancement is it's abbreviated from is called ASA. ASA is one of the biggest non-government organizations of Bangladesh. It started its activities in March 1978.

Absolute and hard-core poverty: Absolute and hard-core poverty lines were defined as the income level below to maintain minimum standards of nutrition. Used DCI (Day Calorie Intake) method in 1998 absolute and hard-core poverty was estimated based on per capita per day calorie intake of 2112 kcal and 1805 kcal respectively.

Annual income: Annual income is the total income of the members of the respondents' family from agriculture any other sources (business, service, day labor etc.) on a year.

Attitude towards ASA Micro-credit Program: An attitude may be defined as predisposition to act towards an object in a certain manner. It is an enduring psychological system consisting to three interacting components which may be classified as:

A. Cognitive component - the beliefs about the objects.
B. The feeling component - the affect connected with the object, and
C. The predisposition or action tendency component- the predisposition to take action with respect to the object.

The term attitude towards ASA of a respondent is, therefore, used to refer to her beliefs, feeling and action tendencies towards the various aspects of ASA activities (Rashid, 2001)

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

Cosmopoliteness: The orientation of an individual external to her own social environment.

Credit received: It refers to the amount of money received by her as credit from ASA and sources.

Education: It is defined as the development of desirable knowledge, skill and attitude in an individual through the experience of reading, writing and other related activities.

Family size: In refers to the number of individuals in the participating beneficiary's family.

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

Impact: impact is term which refers to sustained structural changes which have lasting effect.

Impact of Micro- credit: The term referred to sustained desirable changes due to involvement in ASA Micro-Credit program as perceived by the involving beneficiaries themselves. As the study was concerned with beneficiary's involvement in selected activities, the impact was conceptualized as the after effect of those selected activities in terms of extent of desirable changes occurred in nine dimentions.

Standard of living: Standard of living includes housing unit, toilet condition, and sources of drinking water and ownership of some selected not land assets, which are essential tools in a village life.

Micro-credit: Micro-Credit can be described as collateral free small loan offered to the poor to create self-employment in income generating activities based on group lending methodology.

NGO: An organization developed and managed by private initiatives is ASA a foreign and financed is a Non-Government Organization (NGO). It works independently with and is mandated to collaborate with others unless there is any felt need. (Halim and Ahmed, 1999).

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

Poverty: The condition of having insufficient resources or income. Poverty is a lack of basic human needs including adequate and nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water, and health services. Poverty prevents people from realizing many of their desires.

Poverty line:

Poverty line 1: It is defined as daily intake of 2122 K. cal. energy per person. Poverty line 2: It is defined as daily intake of 1805 K. cal. energy per person.

Poverty line 1 and poverty line 2 were used by BBS (2002). These two poverty lines also were used in this study as standard scale in terms of food consumption condition of the beneficiaries.

Poverty alleviation: The term refers to bring about such changes on an increasing trend in different aspects of economic and social development starting from a level below which minimum standard of living like food, cloth shelter and personal amenities cannot be maintained.

Problem confrontation: It refers to the different problems faced by the rural women at the time of operating different activities related to agricultural practices.

Respondents: Respondents refer to the beneficiaries who are participating in ASA Micro-Credit program.

Rural women: Rural women refer to the women who live in rural areas, aged between 18 to 48 years and engaged in ASA activities.

Women Beneficiaries: ASA beneficiaries are those who get benefit from ASA Micro-Credit program directly. Poor rural women involved in different activities under ASA Micro-Credit program were termed as women beneficiaries. Women beneficiaries and the respondents were used synonymously.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of this Chapter was to review related literature having relevance to the present study and to formulate and construct a framework that will be fitting for accurate understanding of the research. There is a serious dearth of research especially on the analysis of the impact of various activities of micro-credit program of ASA. So, directly related literatures were not readily available for this study. The researcher took an attempt to gather information related to the concepts of the poverty, causes of poverty, poverty alleviation etc. A few of the recent studies which are relevant to this research is briefly discussed in this Chapter. However, the researcher has tried his best to collect required information and putting them together to formulate a conceptual framework at the end of this Chapter. Few of the completed studies relevant to the present one are briefly discussed in this Chapter under the heads impact of micro-credit program and relationship between dependent and independent variable.

2.1: Concepts Related to Poverty

2.1.1 Concept of poverty

Encarta (2006) defined poverty as condition of having insufficient resources or income. In its most extreme form, poverty is a lack of basic human needs, such as adequate and nutritious food, clothing, housing, clean water, and health services.

Begum (2005) reported that poverty is the chronic and complex problem for Bangladesh and women are severely affected by it due to lack of access to resources, income generating activities, decision-making process, and political participation. In Bangladesh women are not allowed for social and cultural development. Government and non-government organizations take multiple means for empowering women by enhancing their political participation and access to property.

World Bank (2003) defines ‘extreme poverty’ as living on less than US $1 per day, and ‘moderate poverty’ as less than $2 a day. It has been estimated that in 2001, 1.1 billion people had consumption levels below $1 a day and 2.7 billion lived on less than $2 a day. The proportion of the developing world’s population living in extreme economic poverty has fallen from 28 per cent in 1990 to 21 percent in 2001. It is estimated that about 8 million people die each year because they are too poor to survive. World Bank (2003) estimates that 33 per cent of the third world population is ‘poor’ and 18 per cent is ‘extremely poor’

BBS (2002) revealed that the number of poor people in urban areas was 52.5 per cent and in rural area, it was 42.3 per cent below absolute poverty line in 2000. At that same time the population below extremely poverty line was 25.0 per cent in urban area and 18.7 per cent in rural area in 2000, at the, national level, the lower poverty line was 33.7 per cent and the upper poverty line was
49.8 per cent of 2000 estimation.

Palli Daridra Bimochan Foundation (PDBF) has given a definition of ‘poor’ person. PDBF is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural development and Co-operatives. According to PDBF (2001), the person whose family income is lower than Tk.3000 per month, whose family farm size is not more than 0.50 acre and whose main source of income is physical labor, is termed as ‘poor’.

Chambers (1983) termed poverty as an interlinked and integrated concept, which involves cluster of disadvantages. According to him poor people are perceived to suffer many forms of deprivation, which lead to lack of income and wealth but also social inferiority, physical weakness, disability and sickness, vulnerability, physical and social isolation powerlessness and humiliation. He termed all these as a deprivation trap (Figure 2.1).

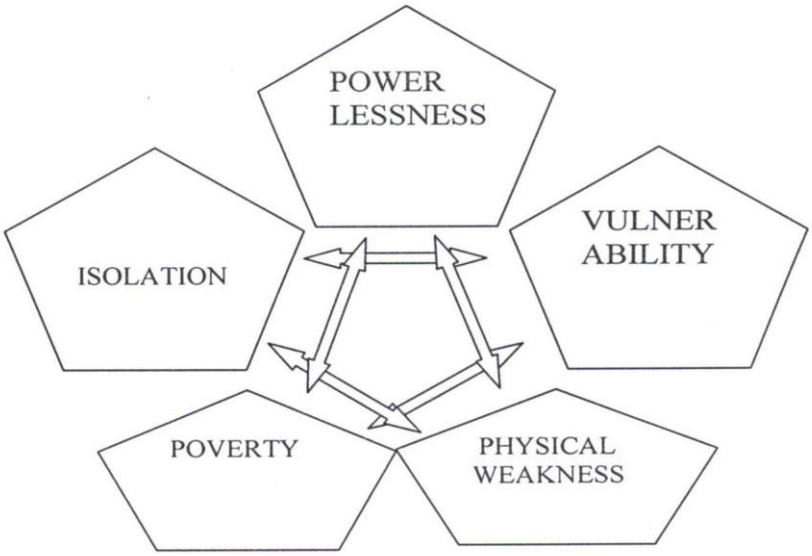


Fig. 2.1 The deprivation trap (Chambers, 1983)

2.1.2 Concept of relative and absolute poverty

Absolute poverty is defined as the income level below which even minimum standards of nutrition; shelter and personal amenities cannot be maintained. A measure of absolute poverty quantifies the number of people below a poverty line, and this poverty line is thought to be independent of time and place. For the measure to be absolute, the line must be the same in different countries. Also, it does not change when the income distribution changes.

Nawaz (2000) said that absolute poverty is a situation in which a person's fails to consume the minimum daily requirements necessary for the normal functioning of a body. He also says that the subsistence concept of poverty has some limitations and include the fact that when a household survey is used per capita calorie consumption is calculated by averaging intra-household consumption that does not take into account intra-household variations in real intakes. That is to say, various members of a family have different energy needs depending on age and occupation.

Sinha *et al.* (1998) on the basis of levels or types of poverty, identified poverty as: absolute poverty and relative poverty

Chossudovsky (1997) argues that population groups in individual countries with per capita incomes is excess of US$1 a day are arbitrarily identified as ‘non poor’. He further argues that income and social inequalities between and within nations have been increasing, whereas the World Bank through the manipulation of income statistics shows that the poor are a minority group in developing countries.

Alam (1993) said relative poverty is considered as a relative deprivation of income emerging from unequal distribution of resources. Measure of relative poverty is almost the same as measuring inequality: if a society gets a more equal income distribution, relative poverty will fall. Following this, some argued that the term 'Relative Poverty' is itself misleading and that inequality should be used instead. They point out that if society changed in a way that hurt high earners more than low ones, then the ‘relative poverty’ would decrease but citizen of the society would be worse off.

2.1.3 Loan disbursement condition and poverty alleviation efforts

NGOs have been engaged in fighting against poverty of Bangladesh for a long time since 1972. At present 80 per cent, villages are now covered by NGOs' activities. More than one thousand NGOs are engaged in distributing microcredit among the poor people. Until June 2001, NGOs have disbursed Tk.77352 million as credit. The number of people concerned with the NGOs is 87 lakhs of which 85 per cent is female (CDF, 2001) participants. Table 2.1 shows the number of some important NGOs and the amount of credit disbursement for socio-economic development program in Bangladesh.

Table 2.1 NGOs' disbursement of micro-credit showing the amount of credit as part of socio-economic development program

Organization	Active members (Million)	Cumulative Amount of Credit Disbursed (Million Tk.)	Rate of Realization (Percent)
ASA	2.14	15952	97.93
PR0SH1KA	1.4	9643	97.03
Sawnirvar Bangladesh	0.7	1736	82..95
BRAC	2.7	34653	98.29
Others	2.8	16888	84.62
Total	9.7	78872	92.16

Source: CDF, 2001

ASA is regarded as the pioneer of the introduction of micro-credit in the country as well as in rest of the world. From the very beginning up to July 2005, the total amount of disbursed loan is Tkl5, 952 crore among its, beneficiaries. The repayment percent is 97.ASA has been working throughout Bangladesh among 21, 40,300 beneficiaries of which 20, 90,865 beneficiaries' are women.

(Source: ASA Annual Report, 2006).

2.1.4 Recent loan disbursement situation of Bangladesh:

GOs & NGOs have been disbursing credit to the hardcore vulnerable people for the betterment of living standard. Some recent figure is presented in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Disbursement of micro-credit by GOs and NGOs

Loan sources	Loan disbursed (percentage)
NGOs	38.47
Government department	8.77
Banking institutions	52.76

Source: The Daily Ittefaq, 5 July 2006

2.2 Studies relating to Causes of Poverty

2.2.1Causes of poverty: Some past research findings and experts' opinions

According to BBS (2006), among the landless in rural areas, 61.8 per cent were very poor and 83 per cent were poor. Among the marginal landless (owning less than 0.50 acre) 27.23 per cent were very poor and 34 per cent were poor. In rural areas, land ownership remains the key element of living standards because land is the most important income-earning asset.

Haider (2001) said that the causes for becoming extreme poor includes river erosion, land redistribution and family break up, flood, bad habit of household heads and inherited poverty.

Nawaz (2000) said that the main causes of poverty in Bangladesh are scarcity of land, Lack of skill, malnutrition, lack of access to the means of production and resources, with a resultant lack of scope for economic activity and employment, vulnerability to repeated natural disasters and. unequal distribution of productive assets, especially land.

*1*3 Impact of ASA micro-credit program

Begum (1998) studied on the status of awareness and potential of credit receiver and credit non-receiver women member in selected area of Dinajpur district. She found that average annual family income of the credit receiver and the credit non-receiver respondents were TK.-62761 and TK 41932 respectively. Average awareness level was 57.66% for credit receiver women and 51.76% for credit non-receiver women. She also found that credit receiver women worker 14.55 hours a day as compared to 12.84 man hours after the credit no receiver women and them status of freedom being enjoyed by the respondents the percentages of participation was 75.25% for credit receiver women and 69.72% for credit on receiver women.

2.4 Studies relating to Reduction of Poverty and Impact of Micro-Credit

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

Parveen (1998) studied on the impact of Grameen Bank on the socio-economic development of women member in Rangpur district. The findings suggested that income of the participants from various sources increased. The study also indicated that new avenues of employment and extra employment were generated among the target families. It was also improved the decision-making status and overall socio-economic development .

Ghosh (1997) in conducting a research on the impact of homestead farming on income and women's development in a Proshika program area in Gabtali thana of Bogra district found that involvement of the House hold with Proshika has increased income, employment, basic need situation' and social awareness and status of the women. She also 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 Proshika.

Khandker *et al.* (1996) in their study mentioned that more than 83% credit was for livestock, small trading, paddy husking, poultry and fisheries. The highest growth in utilization was occurred in poultry followed by livestock and fisheries. This growth pattern is consistent with the increasing membership of women who borrow mostly for non-market activities that compatible with their household chores. In fact, these activities accounted for about 80% of the total credit disbursed to women.

Buckland (1996) studied on the distributional impact of income generation program in Bangladesh. The paper presents results from household survey that compares the distributional performance of credit and sector programs (irrigation and sericulture) maintained by three indigenous Bangladeshi NGOs: ASA, BRAC and Proshika. their participants were not from the very poorest. However, there was little evidence of women distribution of benefits among participants.

Begum (1998) conducted a study on impact of RDRS activities on the socioeconomic 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 122.00% 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.

Aireen (1992) in her study identified women's contribution in farm family in terms of participation in homestead farming and household activities. She also showed women's status in decision-making process of family affairs. She found that on the average women spent 30 percent on daytime in household activities and another 30 percent on agriculture activities. Women contribute 58 to 235 labor days per hectare for production of homestead Vegetables compared to 50 to 212 by men. It further revealed that women earned on an average Tk.4359 per year from different income earning activities. In case of decision making men enjoyed overwhelming right to make major decision.

Arju (1990) conducted a study, which revealed that in household activities female laborers worked for significantly higher duration than male laborers. The study further revealed that out of the total number of laborers employed in-the harvest and post harvest paddy processing activities, 40 percent were female and the remainder 60 percent was male.

2.5 How to Reduce Poverty: Reviews relating to Socio-economic Development and Impact of Micro credit

Pallavi *et al.* (2002) stated that (NGO) led micro credit is an effective and financially viable alternative to the existing methods of addressing rural poverty through the provision of credit for reduce poverty. Also revealed that micro credit programs have been able to bring about a marginal improvement in the beneficiaries income.

Khan (2001) points out that the credit and saving is a very effective tool of poverty alleviation. The essence of credit program in Bangladesh is the sole contribution of NGOs like Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA, Proshika, Caritas etc. By the midnineties the credit program turned as a pragmatic way. An increasing trend of credit program by mainstream NGOs had almost abandoned all other program except credit. By taking the advantage of rural infrastructure few big NGOs disbursed the 91 per cent of that credit in the country. He also argues that another very important input in the poverty alleviations is micro credit.

Murshed *et al.* (1999) conducted a research on the (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 programs, 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 women of rural Bangladesh.

Hossain (1998) found that 91% of Grameen Bank members improved their economic conditions after joining Grameen Bank.

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

2.6 Relationship between Socio-economic Development and Selected Characteristics of Rural Women

Some characteristics of the rural women of ASA were selected as independent variables of this study. The available literatures regarding relationship between the selected characteristics of the respondents and their socio-economic development of the rural women are presented below.

2.6.1 Age and socio-economic development

Directly age and impact of participation in micro-credit program related study was not found, however, a few studies on age and impact of participation in microcredit program related literatures are cited here.

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

Sharmin (2005) observed that age of the respondents did not show any significant relationship with their perception of benefit.

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

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

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.

2.6.2 Education and socio-economic development

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.

Begum (1998) in her study entitled "Poverty Alleviation of the Rural Women Organization by Association for Social Advancement" observed that education of the rural women had a positively significant relationship with their poverty alleviation owing to participation TMSS activities.

2.6.3 Family size and socio-economic development

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.

2.6.4 Farm size and socio-economic development

Khan (2006) in his study indicates 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.

Samad (2004) reported that the farm size of the respondents had positively significant relationship with their poverty alleviation.

2.6.5 Credit received and socio-economic development

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) in his study found that about three-forth (73.17%) of the respondents had small credit recipient. He also indicated that credit is the vital factors for increasing income, if respondents get medium amount of loan then they can increase their income.

2.6.6 Annual savings and 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 (+) ve significant relationship with their socio-economic development of TMSS activities.

Ali (2003) in his study found that majority (98.02%) of the respondents had small savings. He suggested that reduce poverty by increase more savings.

2.6.7 Duration and socio-economic development

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.

2.7 Relationship between socio-economic development and Other Characteristics

2.7.1 Food consumption and socio-economic development

Rozario, (2001) found that inequity in food distribution persisted regardless of family size, income or food expenditure, implying that availability for the family would be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for eliminating the discrimination in food intake of female members of the family.

Kapunda *et al.* (2000) stated that this paper examined the economic and socio-cultural gender differences with poverty and food insecurity. It also draws policy implications and recommendations relevant to food security promotion and socioeconomic development in Tanzania and in Africa

Morduch (1998) points out that food consumption variability from season to season indicates a reduction of 47% for eligible Grameen Bank households and of 54% for eligible BRAC households, compared to the control group.

2.7.2 Income and socio-economic development

Hashemi *et al.* (1996) indicated that the contributions to family income are often small. While 72% of the Grameen Bank members and 40% of the ASA members were classified, only 26% of the former and 12% of the latter declared to be responsible for more than half of the family budget.

2.7.3 Problem confrontation and socio-economic development

Basak (1997) stated that problem awareness of the rural women and their impact of participation in TMSS rural development activities were significantly and positively related.

Karim *et al.* (1997) found that the majority (64 percent) of the respondents had high problem confrontation, while 32 percent had very high and only 4 percent had medium problem confrontation. There, it may be assumed that may have some impact on socio-economic development.

2.8 Conceptual framework of the study

In scientific research, selection and measurement of variables constitute an important task. The hypothesis of a research while constructed properly contains at least two important elements i.e. a dependent variable and an independent variable.

In this study, intervention on socio-economic development of an NGO was the dependent variable and the selected characteristics as, age, education, family size, farm size, annual savings, cosmopoliteness, credit received, duration of involvement with ASA and attitude towards ASA Micro-credit program were independent variables. The conceptual framework for the study is shown below in Fig.2.2.

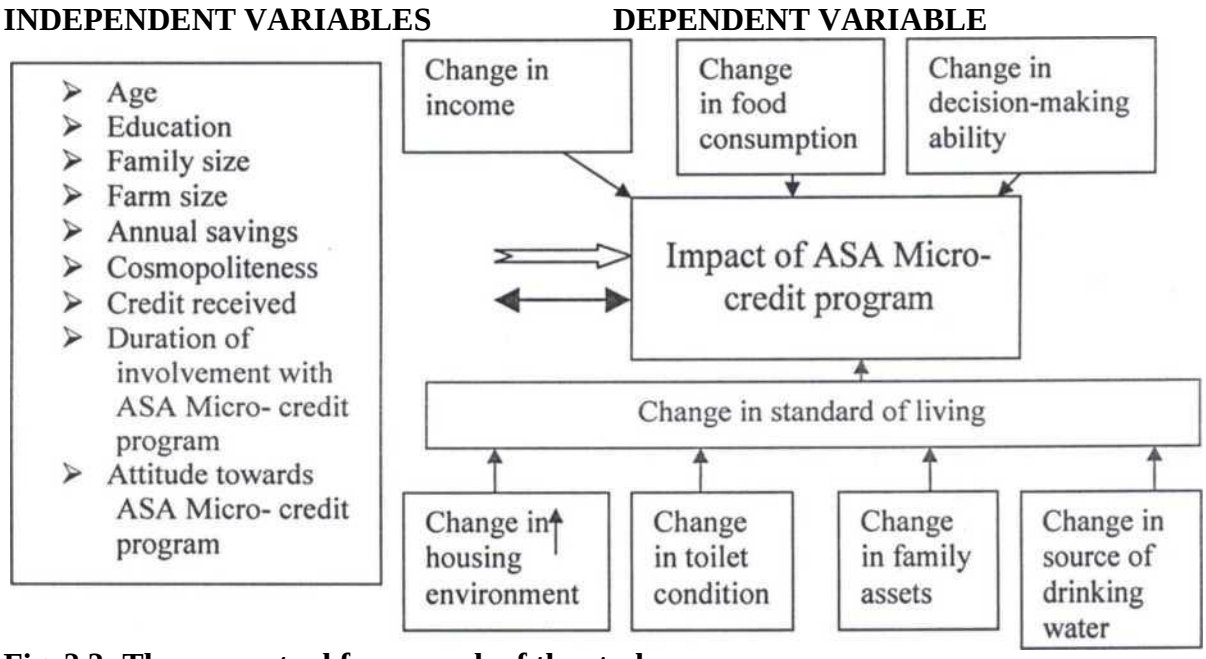


Fig. 2.2: The conceptual framework of the study

CHAPTER 3

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 semi- 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 **Locales and Population**

This study was conducted at the area of Monohardi, Narsingdi, where ASA micro credit program have been operating. This covered three unions namely, Chandan Bari, Sukundi and Chalak Chor union under Monohardi Upazila of Narsingdi district. This union was selected because ASA activities were more concentrated in this union in comparison with the other unions of the Monohardi Upazila. There were 670 credit borrowers of ASA in this union. For clarity of understanding, one map of Narsingdi district showing Monohardi Upazila and another map of Monohardi Upazila showing the study area has been presented in Fig. 3.1 and Fig. 3.2 respectively.

3.2 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis of this study was the women members who are involved in various agricultural and other income generating activities with credit received from the ASA.

3.3 Population of the study

The target population was women members who received credit from ASA. An updated list of the women members was prepared with the help of ASA branch manager and other office staff from the nine villages of three unions and one municipality. In order to get cross sectional view, these nine villages selected purposely for target population from the whole upazila where the ASA runs its credit program. The total numbers of borrowers were 670, which constituted the active population of the study. Finally 100 respondents out of 670 taking about 15% of the population were retained as respondents. This constitutes this sample size of this study.

3.4 Sampling procedure

An updated list of all the women respondents of ASA micro credit program of the selected unions were collected with the help of local ASA officials. The total number of unions under Monohardi upazila was 11 and the researcher selected three unions and one municipality purposely. Data for this study were collected from a sample rather than the whole population. Using the updated list of the beneficiaries involved in ASA micro-credit program, a proportionate random sampling procedure was employed in selecting respondents. A sample size of 100 (out of 670 respondents 15 %) was taken from nine villages **(Table 3.1).**

Table 3.1. Distribution of population and sample size of the respondents

Villages	Population (N)	Sample size (n)
Chandan Bari	80	12
Arjun char	92	14
Moulavi Bazar	71	10
Sukundi	65	9
Narandi	70	13
Monohardi	73	11
Bug Ber	66	9
Hetemdi	78	11
Kutubdi	75	11
Total	670	100

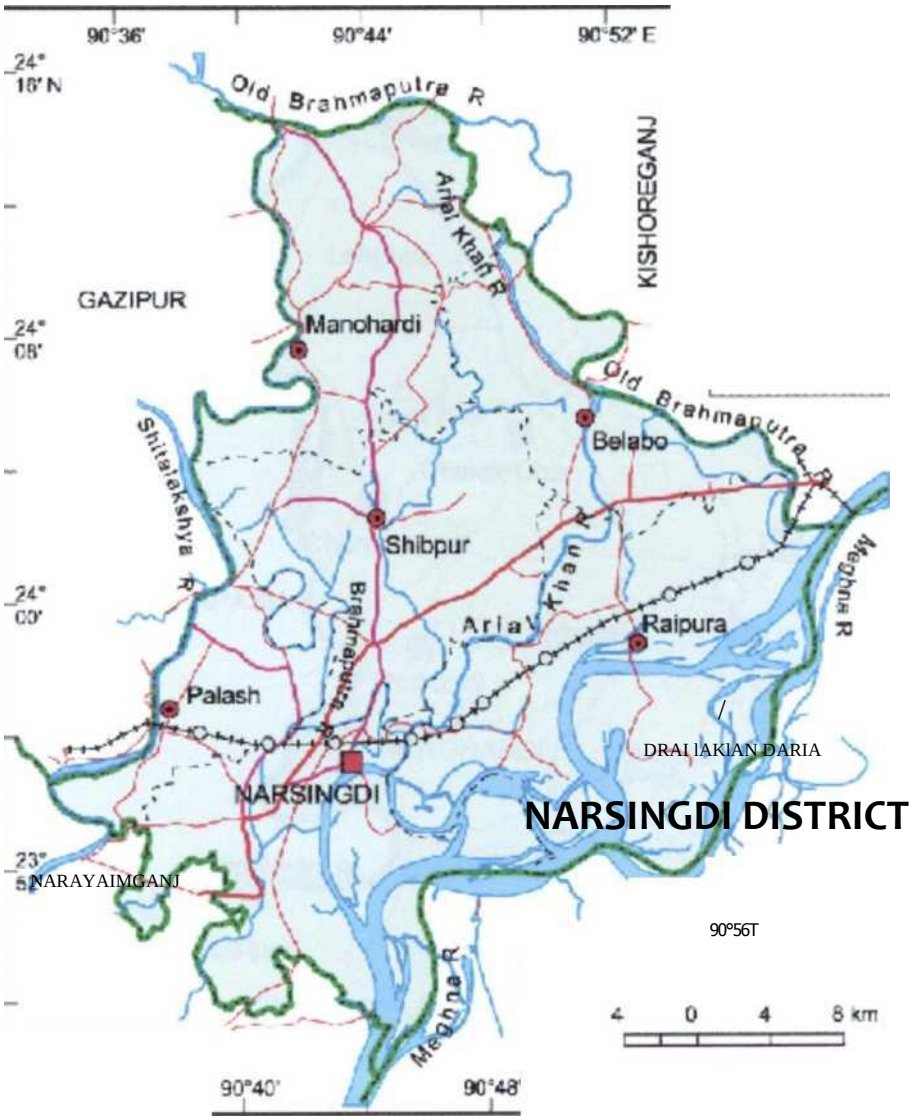
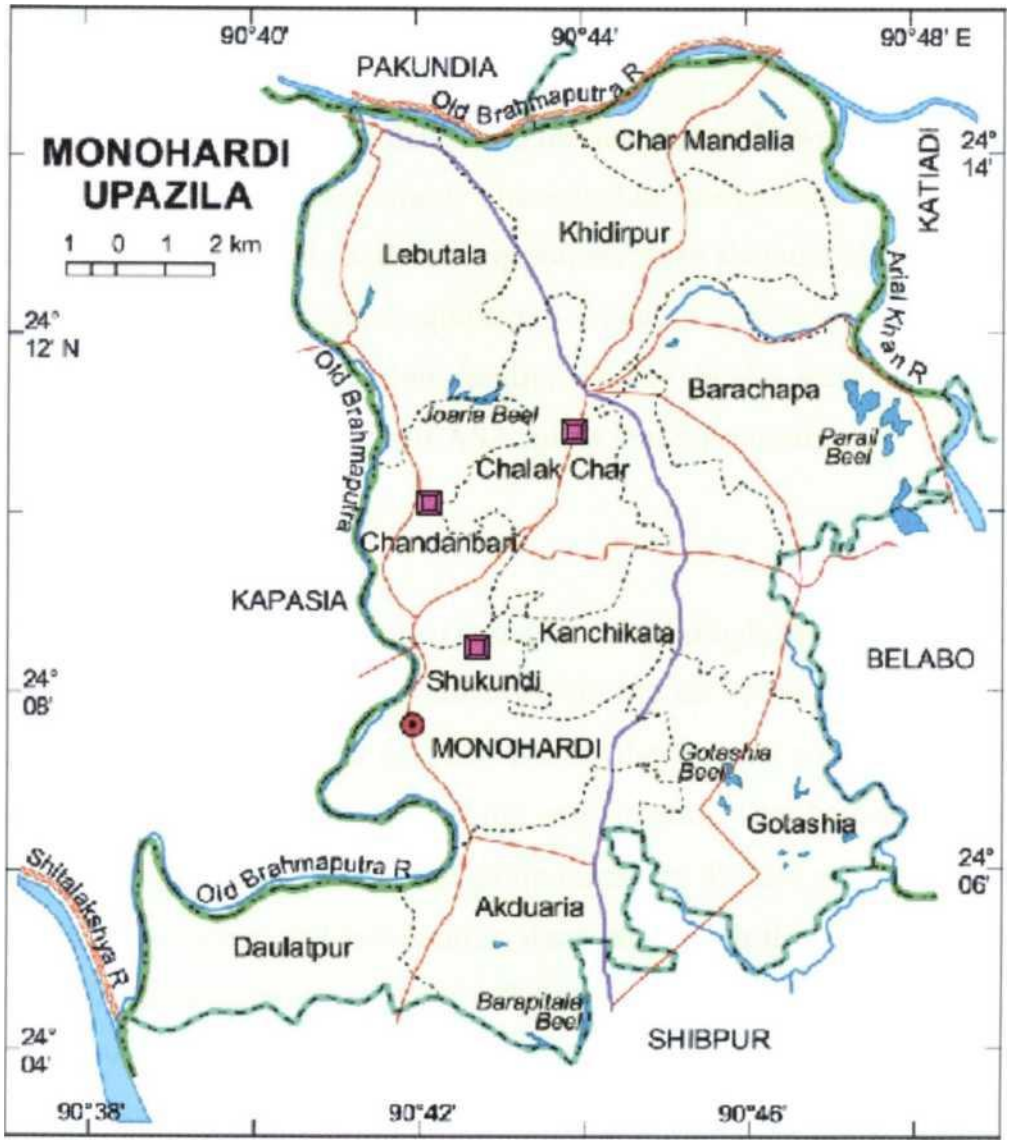


Fig. 3.1 A map of Narsingdi district showing Monohardi upazila



Q Study area

Fig. 3.2 A map of Monohardi upazila showing the study area (Chandan Bari, Chalak Char, Shukundi union)

3.5 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 cosmopoliteness and attitude of ASA micro credit program.

3.6 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 ASA 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 ASA 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 were 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 17 days from 8th December to 25th December 2007.

3.7 The variables and their Measurement

3.7.1 Measurement of independent variables

In this study, nine selected characteristics of the ASA women debtors are considered as independent variables. The measuring procedures of the variables are presented below:

3.7.1.1 Age

Age of a respondent was measured on the basis of time from her birth to the time of interview. One was assigned for each year of her age.

3.7.1.2 Education

The education measured by on the basis of completed years of schooling by a respondent in educational institutions. One was assigned for each completed year of schooling. A score of 0.5 was assign to a respondent who only could sign her name.

3.7.1.3 Family size

Family size of was measured on the basis of the actual number of member a respondent in her family. The family members included her, husband, children and other dependent members who jointly lived and ate together up to the time of interview. The actual number of members was considered as the family size score of a respondent. For example if a respondent had 5 members in her family, her family size score was given as 5.

3.7.1.4 Farm size

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

FS — A1 + A2 + A3 + V2 (A4 + A5)

Where,

FS = Farm size

A1 = Homestead area

A2 = Cultivated area owned by a respondent

A_3 = Others

A_4 = Land taken from others on borga or lease

A5 = Land given to others on borga or lease

3.7.1.5 Annual savings

It was measured by taking the total savings of a respondent and members of her family from different sources during a year. A score of 1 was assigned for each one thousand taka.

3.7.1.6 Cosmopoliteness

Cosmopoliteness refers of an individual orientation outside to her social system. The cosmopoliteness score was computed for each respondent to determine the degree of her cosmopoliteness on the basis of her different outstanding. The following score will be used for computing cosmopoliteness: '3 for regular', '2 for occasional', ' 1 for suddenly' and '0 for not at all'.

3.7.1.7 Credit received

It refers to the amount of money received by a respondent as loan from any institutional source after joining as a ASA member. It was expressed in Taka. 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.

3.7.1.8 Duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program

It was measured considering the period of involvement of the respondents with ASA 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.

3.7.1.9. Attitude towards ASA micro credit program

Attitude of a respondent was used to refer her feeling, belief and action tendency towards ASA micro credit program. For measuring the attitude of the respondents towards ASA micro credit program, a number of eight items analyses were done to cheek the validity and reliability for all attitude statements. These items are called statements. The positive and negative statements were arranged randomly in the interview schedule so that the respondents' real attitude could be reflected. A respondent was asked to indicate her opinion about each of the statements on with a 5-point Likert scale as "strongly agree", "agree", "no opinion", "disagree" and "strongly disagree" Scores was assigned to five scales as 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively for positive statements and a reverse score was give for negative statements. The attitude score of a respondent was computed by adding her scores for response to all the statements. Thus, the possible score could range from 0-32 where 0 indicates highly unfavorable attitude and 32 indicates highly favorable attitude towards ASA micro credit program.

3.7.2 Measurement of dependent variables

In this study, the dependent variable was **"the impact of** ASA **micro credit program towards socio-economic development of rural women's participation".** The dependent variable was measured with the association of four dimensions. These four dimensions were (i) change in income, (ii) change in food consumption, (iii) change in standard of living and (iv) change in decision-making ability. In each case, two situations namely 'before' and 'after' situation. The difference between two situations was determined for each case stated. How the difference was measured is stated below:

3.7.2.1 Change in income

A beneficiary's family income was measured in thousand taka on the basis of her and other family members total annual earning from agriculture and other sources like fisheries, livestock, poultry, business, labor, cottage industry etc. The method of ascertaining income from agriculture involves two phases. Firstly, the yields of agricultural products were noted down. Secondly, all the yields were converted into cash income. Price of each agricultural item was determined based on average of maximum and minimum price quoted by one businessman of agricultural commodities and other five respondents of the study area. Income from other sources (e.g. wage, service, business) by other family members was also estimated. 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:

Change in Income = Income after involvement -Income before involvement

Table 3.2 The scoring of income difference

Types of income difference	Score assign
No income difference	0
Low income difference	1
Medium income difference	2
High income difference	3

3.7.2.2 Change in food consumption

In this study eight items were considered to determine the food consumption behavior. It refers to the improvement of a respondent in respect of her amount of food consumption after involvement. The method of determining food consumption involved three phases. Firstly, consumption of rice, wheat, vegetables, pulses, fruits, fish, milk and egg were 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 and was

expressed in gram. Finally, the amount of items (gm) was converted into energy (kilo calorie) on the basis of their energy content value as shown in Table 3.3. The change in food consumption was determined by the following formula:

Change in Food consumption = F.C.A.I - F.C.B.I

F.C.A.I = Food consumption after involvement

F.C.B.I =Food consumption before involvement

Table 3.3 Energy contents of some selected food items

Food items (100 gm)	Energy (K.cal.)
Rice	364
Wheat	341
Vegetables	53.75
Pulse	338
Fish	89
Meat	127
Milk	61
Egg	158

Source: FAO, 2004

On the basis of intake kilo calories (K.cal.), the poverty level of the respondents were classified into three categories as shown below by following the Household Income and Expenditures Survey, 2004. The scoring procedure of food consumption difference is shown in Table 3.4.

Below poverty line II (Hard core poverty) Less than 1850 K.cal./day. Below poverty line (Absolute poverty) Less than 2122 K.cal./day.
Upper poverty line More than 2122 K.cal./day.

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey. 2004

Table 3.4 The scoring of food consumption difference

Types of food consumption difference	Score assign
No calorie intake difference	0
Low calorie intake difference	1
Medium calorie intake difference	2
High calorie intake difference	3

3.7.2.3 Change in standard of living

It refers to the condition of different dimensions of the respondents both 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro credit program. There were four selected dimensions for standard of living. The change of standard of living was converted into score. All score was added and finally percentage change was measured against each of those four responses. There were four selected dimensions, which were determined by using the following formula:

Change in standard of living=After score from (A+B+C+D) -Before score from (A+B+C+D)

A=Change in housing unit

B= **Change in toilet condition**

C=Change in drinking water source

D= Change in family asset

3.5.2.3.1 Change in housing unit

There are four types of housing in the study area e.g. no house at all; katcha Ghar with straw roof; katcha Ghar with straw or plastic roof; katcha Ghar with tin roof and Paka Ghar. The type of housing unit of the respondents was determined by the following formula:

Change in Housing unit= H.U.A.I - H.U.B.I

H.U.A.I = Housing unit after involvement

H.U.B.I=Housing unit before involvement

Respondents reported which type of house they used before involvement and after involvement with ASA against those five responses. The change of housing unit was converted into score. Score was assigned as follows:(Table 3.5)

Types of house	Score assign
No house at all	0
Katcha Ghar with straw or plastic roof	1
Katcha Ghar with tin roof	2
Paka Ghar	3

3.7.2.3.2 Change in toilet condition

There are four types of toilet facilities, such as open place or bush, katcha toilet, half-sanitary toilet and sanitary toilet. For determining the type of toilet facilities. The change of toilet condition facilities was converted into score. All score was calculated by the following formula: (Table 3.6)

Change in Toilet condition= T.C.A.I - T.C.B.I

T.C.A.I = Toilet condition after involvement **T.C.B.I**

=Toilet condition before involvement

Table 3.6 The scoring of toilet condition

Types of toilet condition	Score assign
Open place or bush	0
Katcha toilet	1
Half-sanitary toilet	2
Sanitary toilet	3

3.7.2.3.3 Change in drinking water source

For determining the drinking water source of the respondents, there are three types of drinking water source namely pond or river water, others tube well and own tube well. Each respondent was asked to indicate type of drinking water source. The change of drinking water source was converted into score. The score was determined by the following formula: (Table 3.7)

Change in Drinking water source= D.W.S.A.I - D.W.S.B.I

D.W.S.A.I = Drinking water source after involvement

D. W.S.B.I = Drinking water source before involvement

Types of drinking water source	Score assign
Pond, River or kua water	0
Others tube well	1
Own tube well	2

3.7.2.3.4 Change in family asset

In this study 25 items were included to determine the asset possession of the respondents' household. Each item was assigned weight on the basis of its price value. All the specific items of asset under possession were converted into family asset score of the respondents. The change in family asset was measured by the following formula: (Table 3.8). Besides, scoring of family asset score and total change of standard of living are shown in Table 3.9 and Table 3.10, respectively.

Change in Family asset= F.A.A.I- F.A.A.I

(F.A.A.I = Family asset after involvement, **F.A.B.I** = Family asset before involvement)

Table 3.8 The scoring of family asset

SL. No.	Item of assets	Unit score
1	Hurricane	1
2	Fishing net	1
3	Table	2
4	Chowki	2
5	Chair	2
6	Wooden almirah	4
7	Hen	1
8	Duck	1
9	Goat	2
10	Cow	4
11	Rickshaw	3
12	Van	3
13	Torch light	1
14	Radio	2
15	Two-in-one	2
16	Wall clock	2
17	Bi cycle	3
18	Aina	2
19	Khat	4
20	Show case	4
21	Electric fan	3
22	Sewing machine	4
23	Black and White TV	5
Total		60

Table 3.9 The scoring of family asset source

Types of family asset source	Score assign
Low asset possession	0
Medium asset possession	1
High asset possession	2

The rage of standard of living was 0-10. Here 0 indicated no change of standard of living and 10 indicated very high change standard of living.

3.7.2.4 Change in decision-making ability

It refers to the condition of family related-decisions, which are governed by the family members of the respondent's household both 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro-credit program. For determining the decision-making ability of the respondents, 15 statements were placed before them. Each of the respondents was asked to put tick against those statements. Those statements were then given score. Thus, score for two situations was found. Change in decision-making ability was measured on the basis of decision-making ability of 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro-credit program. Weights assigned to the responses were determined as follows: (Table 3.11).

Table 3.10 The scoring of decision-making ability

Items	**Score assigned**
Full decision	3
Partial decision	2
Only decision with husband	1
No influence	0

Thus, decision-making score of a respondent was obtained by adding score for statements. The decision-making ability scores ranged from 0 to 45 because the respondents were given 15 statements. Here, 0 indicated no decision-making ability and 45 indicated very high decision making ability.

3.8 Measurement of score of impact of ASA micro credit program on socioeconomic development of rural women

After finding the change in four dimensions, all the unit changes were categorized into low difference, medium difference and high difference, and score 1, 2, 3 were given for low, medium and high difference respectively. The categorized score was then added together to get the impact score of ASA micro credit program on socio- economic development of rural women. The following formula was used for the measurement of impact of ASA micro credit program:

$$Y = Y, + Y_2 + Y_3 + Y_4$$

Where,

Y = Impact score of ASA micro credit program
Y Y1 = Income difference score
Y_2 = Food difference score
Y_3 = standard of living difference score
Y_4 =decision making ability difference score

Then ranks of four dimensions were added together to get a unit-free impact score. The score could range against the probable range 0- 12.

3.9 Problem confrontation in socio-economic development

It refers to the extent to which a respondent faces difficulties in performing various activities after the involvement with ASA micro credit program. I thought that they faced in eight problems. Each respondent was asked to indicate the extent to which she considered each of the selected problems as problematic on an extent of problem. Like, Severe, Moderate, Little and Not at all. The scores assign to are 3, 2, land 0 respectively. The possible problem confrontation score of the respondent may range from 0 to 32. Where 0 indicates no problem confrontation at all and 32 indicates problem confrontation to the high possible extent of problem.

3.10 Data processing and statistical analysis

All the collected data were checked and crosschecked. The data were coded, compiled, tabulated, and analyzed to accomplish the specific objectives of the study. Qualitative data were converted into quantitative form by means of suitable scoring technique whenever applicable. Impacts of ASA micro credit program towards the socio- economic development of the rural women respondents were examined by drawing 'before' and 'after' comparison. Data were presented mostly in the tabular form. Various statistical measures like number, percentage distribution, range, mean, standard deviation, correlation coefficient etc were calculated for describing the selected characteristics of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program. To find out the relationships between the selected characteristics of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program, correlation co-efficient was used. Throughout the study, 1% and 5% level of probability were used as the basis for rejection of any null hypothesis (Ho). Paired t-test was used to identify the significance of difference between two situations namely 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro credit program.

3.11 Hypothesis of the study

The following research hypotheses were put forward to test the relationships between different characteristics considered. Each of nine selected characteristics (age, education, family size, farm size, annual savings, cosmopoliteness, credit received, duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program, attitude towards ASA micro credit program) of the respondents was related to impact of ASA micro credit program 'after' involvement.

However, for statistical advantage, each of the above research hypothesis was changed into 'null hypothesis' (Ho) which states that 'there is no relationship' between the selected nine characteristics of respondents and impact of Microcredit.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study and some discussion on the significant findings have been described in this Chapter. Data were collected from 100 respondents engaged in micro-credit program. Then, those were compiled, tabulated and analyzed in accordance with objectives. The findings have been discussed under the following sections: (a) Socio economic characteristics, (b) Assessing the impact of participation in ASA micro-credit program, (c) Relationship between the selected characteristics of the respondents and their participation, (d) Paired t-test in relation to income, food consumption, standard of living and decision making .ability between 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA activities, and (e) finally, the fifth section contained the problems faced by the rural women in socio-economic development.

4.1 Selected Characteristics of the ASA women respondents

This section describes the findings of the nine selected characteristics. A brief summary of the measuring unit, categories and distribution, with basic statistics has been presented in Table 4.1

4.1.1 Age

Age of the respondents ranged from 18 to 48 years with an average of 24.59 years and a standard deviation of 5.909. On the basis of their age, the rural women were classified i into three categories as shown in Table 4.1. The highest proportion (47 per cent) of the rural women were middle compared to 43 per cent of the being young aged and 10 per cent of the old aged. The maximum portion of the respondents was young to middle aged. These young and middle-aged respondents have potential and energy to develop their life. If they were trained, motivated and guided properly they would be able to fight against poverty.

Table 4.1 A summary statement showing categories and salient features of the selected characteristics of the ASA women respondents (N=100)

Characteristics (with unit of measurement)	Ranges (Observed scores)	Categories	Respondents No	Percent	Mean	S.D
Age (Year)	18-48	Young (upto 30)	42	42	24.59	5.909
		Middle aged (31-40)	48	48		
		Old aged (above 40)	10	10		
Education (**Year** of schooling)	0.5-10	Can sign only (0.5)	38	38	4.355	2.961
		Primary (1-5)	47	47		
		Secondary (6-10)	15	15		
Family size (Number)	2-8	Small (upto 4)	41	41	5.01	1.410
		Medium (5-6)	51	51		
		Large (above 6)				
Farm size (Hectare)	0.01-0.90	Very small (upto 0.32)		60	0.35	0.236
		Small (0.33-0.70)	30	30		
		Medium (above 0.70)	10	10		
Annual Saving (Thousand Taka)	0.5-2.2	No savings (upto 0.5)	14	14	0.74	0.639
		Small savings(.501-1.00)	70	70		
		Medium savings(above 1)	16	16		
Cosmopoliteness (Scale score)	1-8	Very low (upto 4)	30	30	5.03	1.915
		Low (5-6)	48	48		
		Medium (above 6)	22	22		
Credit received Thousand Taka)	5-28	Small (upto 10)	55	42	11.72	6.269
		Medium (11-20)	35	52		
		High (above 20)	10			
Duration of involvement with ASA (Year)	1-10	Very short duration (upto 4)	30	55	4.45	1.708
		Short duration (5-6)	35	35		
		Medium duration (above 6)	10	10		
Attitude towards ASA (Scale score)	10-18	Less favorable (up to 12)	38	38	13.12	1.713
		Moderately favorable (13-14)	52	52		
		Favorable (above 14)	10	10		

4.1.2 Education

Education of the respondent was measured by the level of class she passed. The level of education of the respondents ranged from 0.5 to 10 years of schooling having an average of 4.355 and a standard deviation of 2.961. Based on their educational qualification scores, the respondents were classified into 3 categories as shown in Table 4.1. The highest proportion (47 per cent) of the respondents had primary level of education, while 38 per cent could sign their names only; 15 per cent had secondary level. So education level will increase to get the credit and there need the recipient sign.

4.1.3 Family size

The total persons living together are called family size. The family members of the respondents ranged from 2 to 8 with an average 5.01 and a standard deviation of 1.410. Based on the family size, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1.

Data were presented in the table 4.1 showed that the highest proportion (51 per cent) of the respondents had medium size family category compared to 41 per cent having small size family and 8 percent with large size family. Thus, more than 90 per cent of the respondents had either small or medium size family. So, the NGOs like ASA always work for discouraging the large family size.

4.1.4 Farm size

Farm size of the respondents ranged from 0.01 to 0.90 hectare and with an average being 0.353 and standard deviation of 0.236. Following the DAE 2001, the farm size of the respondents was classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1.

The highest proportion (60 per cent) of the respondents had very small farm size, while small farm size and medium were 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Thus respondents might face resource constrains in managing their farms compared to other categories. It shows that the study group was highly heterogeneous in term of farm size.

4.1.5 Annual savings

Annual savings scores of the respondents ranged from 0.5 to 2.2. An average annual savings score of the respondents' were 0.744 with standard deviation of 0.639. On the basis of annual savings scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1.

70 per cent of the respondents have small savings; 16 per cent have medium savings and 14 per cent have no savings. So it was found that savings tendency was increasing among the ASA women borrowers even among the landless community.

4.1.6 Cosmopoliteness

The observed cosmopoliteness scores of the respondents ranged from 1 to 8. The average cosmopoliteness score of the respondents was 5.03 with standard deviation of 1.915. On the basis of the cosmopoliteness scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1.

30 per cent of the respondents have low cosmopoliteness; 48 per cent have medium and 22 per cent have high cosmopoliteness. These indicate that the study group was highly heterogeneous in terms of cosmopolitenss.

4.1.7 Credit received

Credit received scores of the respondents ranged from 5 to 28. An average credit received scores of the respondents was 11.72 thousand taka and standard deviation of 6.269. On the basis of credit-received scores, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1

The largest proportions (55per cent) of the respondents were small credit recipient, while 35 per cent of the respondents' were medium and 10 per cent of the respondents were high credit recipients. It shows that the study group was highly heterogeneous in term of credit received. They also demand for more credit received.

4.1.8 Duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program

Duration of involvement with ASA ranged from 1 to l0 years. With an average 4.45 and standard deviation of 1.708. On the basis of ASA involvement, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1. Duration of involvement with ASA is a major way of gathering knowledge, information and experience, which are components of socio-economic development.

30 per cent of the respondents had Very short duration of involvement with ASA, while 55 per cent had short duration of the involvement and 15 per cent had medium duration of involvement with ASA. 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 ASA micro credit program.

4.1.9 Attitude towards ASA micro credit program

Attitude of the respondents ranged from 10 to 18. An average attitude score of the respondents was 13.12 with standard deviation of 1.713. On the basis of their attitude towards ASA micro credit program, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.1.fifty two per cent of the respondents had moderately favorable attitude towards ASA micro credit program, while 38 per cent had low favorable and 10 per cent had favorable attitude towards ASA micro credit program.

Most of the respondents were satisfy in different activities of ASA. So, they were showed favorable attitude towards ASA. Existence of moderate and highly favorable attitude among larger proportion of the ASA women credit receivers indicates positive impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.2 Extent of Change in Income, Food Consumption, Standard of Living and Decision-making Ability of the respondents

Participation in micro credit program of ASA has played some role in changing the socio-economic condition of the family in general and socio-economic development in particular. For measuring the impact of micro-credit, the socioeconomic condition of the respondent's prior joining to ASA micro credit program compared with the present conditions. After being involved with ASA micro credit program, the socio-economic conditions of the respondents have changed significantly.

The socio-economic condition of the respondents was assessed by comparing information about 'before' and 'after' condition on change in income, food consumption, standard of living and decision-making ability of the respondents

Table 4.2 Salient features of the different dimensions on the impact of micro credit program

Dimensions on the impact of micro credit	Ranges (observed scores)	Categories	Respondent		Mean	S.D.
			No.	%		
Change in income (Thousand Taka)	-3 to 16	No income difference (Upto 0)	10	10	4.733	4.253
		Low income difference (0.001 to 6.00)	67	67		
		Medium income difference (6.01 to 12.00)	18	18		
		High income difference (above 12.00)	5	5		
Change in food consumption (k.cal.)	-115.4 to 863	No calorie intake difference (upto 0)	11	11	195.800	159.540
		low calorie intake difference (0.01 to 300)	70	70		
		Medium calorie intake difference (300.01 to 600)	13	13		
		High calorie intake difference (above 600)	6	6		
Change in standard of living (score)	0 to 3	No change (0)	27	27	0.950	0.757
		Low change (1)	55	55		
		Medium change (2)	14	14		
		High change (3)	4	4		
Change in decision making ability (score)	0 to 7	No change (upto 0)	50	50	1.340	1.865
		Low change (1 to 3)	35	35		
		Medium change (4 to 5)	10	10		
		High change (above 5)	5	5		

4.2.1 Change in income

Distribution of respondents according to their income differences has been presented in Table 4.2. The distribution of income difference of the respondents ranged from -3 to 16 thousand taka with a mean difference of Tk 4.733 thousand and a standard deviation 4.253. Based on their income difference, the respondents were classified into four categories as shown in Table 4.2. The Table showed that the highest proportion (67 per cent) of the respondents had low income difference compared to 18 per cent medium income difference; 5 per cent of the respondents had high income difference and 10 per cent of the respondents had no difference. This indicates that the study group was heterogeneous in term of income difference.

4.2.2 Change in food consumption

The finding indicated that the average per capita per day energy (calorie) intake of the respondent's households increased to 2192.24 K. Cal. From 2047.37 K. Cal. After involvement with ASA micro-credit program. The calorie intake difference of the respondents ranged from -115.4 to 863 kilo calories with a mean difference of 195.8 kilo calories and a standard deviation 159.540. Based on calorie intake difference, the respondents were classified into four categories as shown in Table 4.2. The table showed that the highest proportion (70 per cent) of the respondents had low calorie intake difference compared to 13 per cent medium calorie intake difference; 6 per cent high calorie intake difference and 11 per cent of the respondents no calorie intake difference. This indicates that the study group was heterogeneous in term of income difference. There are various dimension of socioeconomic development; the food consumption is one of them. The food consumption was measured by the k.cal uptake. Efforts have been made to measure the k.cal intake by the respondents before and after involvement with ASA.

Table 4.2.2 Distribution of the respondents according to their calorie intake

Categories	Before		After		Before Average (k.cal.)	After Average (k cal.)
	Respondents		Respondents			
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent		
Below poverty line II (up to 1805 K.cal)	23	23	13	13	2047.37	2192.24
Below poverty line I (up to 2122 K.cal)	31	31	24	24		
Upper poverty line (over 2122 K.cal)	46	46	63	63		

The average energy intakes by the respondents were 2047.37 and 2192.24 kilocalories before and after involvement with ASA respectively. The above data indicate that on an average the respondents were upper poverty line both before and after the involvement with ASA. According to BBS (2001), national average per capita per day k.cal intake of rural people is 2175 k.cal. While urban people are 2050 k.cal. The average k.cal intake of the respondents was higher than that of the national level after their involvement with ASA.

4.2.3 Change in standard of living

The standard of living score difference of the respondents due to involvement as member was also measured by computing all the housing as set items. Distribution of respondents according to their standard of living score differences have been presented in Table 4.2. The standard of living score difference of the respondent households ranged form 0 to 3 with an average of 0.95 and standard deviation 0.757121. On the basis of the standard of living score difference, the respondents were classified into four categories as shown in Table 4.2. Table 4.2 revealed that the highest proportion (55 per cent) of the respondents had low change standard of living score difference compared to 14 per cent medium change standard of living

score difference. 4 per cent of the respondents had high change standard of living score difference and only 27 per cent respondents had no change of standard of living. The findings indicate that about 73 per cent of the respondents had low, medium to high standard of living score difference. Still 27 per cent of the respondents did not have standard of living score difference.

Table 4.2.3 A summary statement showing categories and salient features of dimension of standard of living

Dimensions of standard of living	Categories	Number		Percentage	
		Before	After	Before	After
Type of housing unit					
Change in housing unit	No house at all	0	0	0	0
	Mud-builz house with straw roof	14	4	14	4
	Mud-builz house with tin roof	67	74	67	74
	Building	19	22	19	22
Type of toilet					
Change in toilet condition	Open place or bush	12	8	12	8
	Katcha toilet	49	25	49	25
	Half-sanitary toilet	33	51	33	51
	Sanitary toilet	6	16	6	16
Type of water source					
Change in drinking water source	Pond or River water	7	1	7	1
	Others tube well	74	61	74	61
	Own tube well	19	38	19	38
Types of family asset					
Change in family asset	Low asset possession	47	36	47	36
	Medium asset possession	51	56	51	56
	High asset possession	2	8	2	8

4.2.3.1 Change in housing unit

The findings of different types of housing unit of the respondents before and after involved with ASA micro credit program has been shown in Table 4.2.3.In before involvement 67 per cent respondents had Katcha Ghar with tin roof; 14 per cent respondents had Katcha Ghar with straw or plastic roof and 19 per cent respondents had Paka Ghar. After involvement with micro credit program 74 per cent respondents have Katcha Ghar with tin roof 4 per cent respondents have Katcha Ghar with straw or plastic roof and 22 per cent respondents have Paka Ghar.

4.2.3.2 Change in toilet condition

The findings of toilet facilities of the respondents before and after involvement with ASA micro credit program have been shown in Table 4.2.3. Before involvement with ASA micro credit program 12 per cent respondents family members had gone to bushes or open places; 49 per cent families did use Katcha toilet; 33 per cent families did use half sanitary toilet and 6 per cent families did use sanitary toilet. After involvement still 8 per cent respondents' families are now using bushes or open places, 25 per cent families use Katcha toilet; 51 per cent respondents' families are using half sanitary toilet and 16 per cent families use sanitary toilet. This indicates that the respondents' toilet condition was developed.

4.2.3.3 Change in source of drinking water

The findings of source of drinking water of the respondents before and after involvement with ASA micro credit program has been shown in Table 4.2.3.

Data in Table 4.2.3 reveal that before involvement with ASA Micro- credit program 74 percent of the respondents' families depend on others tube well, 7 percent depend on river, pond and 19 per cent depend on own tube well for drinking water source; on the other hand, after involvement with ASA microcredit program 61 per cent respondent families depend on others tube-well, 38 per cent depend on own tube well and 1 per cent depend on river, pond for drinking water source. This indicates that sources of drinking water changed due to contribution of micro credit.

4.23.4 Change in family asset

The findings of family asset score of the respondents before and after involvement with ASA micro credit program has been shown in Table 4.2.3. Table 4.2.3 reveals that before involvement with ASA micro credit program 47 per cent respondents' families had low asset possession and this number has decreased to 36 after involvement. 51 per cent families had medium asset possession before involvement and after involvement it changed to 56 per cent and only 2 per cent families have high asset possession before involvement while 8 per cent after involvement with ASA micro credit program. This indicates that family asset possession increased due to the contribution of micro credit.

4.2.4 Change in decision making ability

Distribution of respondents according to their decision making ability differences has been presented in Table 4.2. The distribution of decision making ability difference of the respondents ranged from 0 to 7 with a mean difference of 1.34 and a standard deviation 1.865259. Based on their decision making ability difference, the respondents were classified into four categories as shown in Table

4.2. The table showed that the highest proportion (50 per cent) of the respondents had no change decision making ability difference compared to 35 per cent low change decision making ability difference; 10 per cent of the respondents' medium change of decision making ability difference and 5 per cent of the respondents' had high change of decision making ability difference. This indicates that the study group was heterogeneous in term of decision-making ability difference.

4.3 Impact of ASA micro-credit program

The impact score of the respondents ranged from 0 to 9 with an average of 3.87 and the standard deviation of 1.973. On the basis of their impact score, the benefiaries were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.3

Table 4.3 Number and percentage distribution of the respondents according to their Impact

Impact of ASA micro-credit program	Categories	Respondents		Mean	Standard deviation
		No.	Percent		
	Low impact (0 to 3)	43	43	3.87	1.973
	Medium impact (4 to 6)	45	45		
	High impact (above 6)	12	12		

It is revealed from the table that 43 per cent of the respondents fell under the category of low impact, 45 per cent of them were of medium impact. 12 percent of the respondents belonged to the high impact category.

4.4 Relationship between the respondents' selected characteristics and the impact of ASA micro credit on socio-economic development

This section deals with the relationships of the nine selected characteristics of the respondents with the impact of ASA micro credit on socio-economic development. The nine characteristics of the respondents were: age, education, farm size, family size, annual savings, cosmopoliteness, credit received, duration of involvement with ASA and attitude towards ASA micro credit program. Pearson's product moment Co-efficient of Correlation (r) was used to explore the relationship between nine selected characteristics of the respondents with the impact of ASA micro credit on socio-economic development. One per cent (0.01) or Five per cent (0.05) level of significant was used as the basis for acceptance or rejection of a hypothesis.

The summary of the results of correction analysis have been presented in Table **4.4**

Table 4.4 Co-efficient of Correlation (r) showing relationship between the respondents' selected characteristics and the impact of micro credit on socioeconomic development

Respondents' selected characteristics (Independent variables)	Dependent variable	Co-efficient of Correlation (r)
Age	Impact of ASA micro credit program	0.095 [N]*
Education		0.3141
Family size		0.081 [NI>]
Farm size		0.377**
Annual savings		0.781**
Cosmopoliteness		0.707**
Credit received		0.539**
Duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program		0.201*
Attitude towards ASA micro credit		0.468**

NS= Not Significant

= Significant at the 0.01 level

* =Significant at the 0.05 level

1% level with 98 df is 0.256

5% level with 98 df is 0.196

4.4.1 Relationship between age of the respondents and their socio-economic development

The correlation co-efficient between age of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between age and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Coefficient (r) between these two ariables was 0.095 as shown in Table **4.4.** On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- ❖ The computed value of 'r' was found to be less (r = 0.095) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of probability. Thus, statistically the relationship was not significant.
- ❖ So, the null hypothesis was accepted and there had no relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded that age of the rural women had no relation with the impact of ASA micro-credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.2 Relationship between education of the respondents and their socioeconomic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between education and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Co-efficient (r) between these two variables was 0.314 as shown in table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- ❖ The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r = 0.314) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.01 level of probability. Thus, statistically the relationship was positive significant at 0.01.

- ❖ So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there had positive relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded that education of the rural women had positive relation with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.3 Relationship between the family size of the respondents and their socio-economic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between the family size and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Co-efficient (r) between these two variables was 0.081 as shown in table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences was made regarding relationship between these variables:

- The computed value of 'r' was found to be less (r = 0.081) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of probability. Thus, statistically the relationship was not significant.
- So, the null hypothesis was accepted and there was no relationship between - these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded that the family size of the rural women had no relation with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.4 Relationship between farm size of the respondents and their socioeconomic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between farm size and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Co-efficient (r) between these two variables was 0.377 as shown in Table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- ❖ The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r = 0.377) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.01 level of probability. Thus, statistically the relationship was a positive significant at 0.01.

♦> So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there had a positive relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, the researcher concluded that farm size of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.5 Relationship between annual savings of the respondents and their socioeconomic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on poverty alleviation of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between annual savings and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Coefficient (r) between these two variables was 0.781 as shown in Table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r = 0.781) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.01 level of probability. Thus, statistically the relationship was a positive significant at 0.01.

- So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there was a positive relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded that annual savings of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.6 Relationship between Cosmopoliteness of the respondents and their socio-economic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between cosmopoliteness and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Co-efficient (r) between these two variables was .707 as shown in Table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r = 0.707) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.01 level of probability and significantly. Thus, statistically the relationship was a positive significant at 0.01.

- So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there had a positive relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded that cosmopoliteness of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.7 Relationship between Credits received of the respondents and their socio-economic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between Credit received and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Co-efficient (r) between these two variables was 0.539 as shown in Table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences was made regarding relationship between these variables:

- The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r =0.539) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.01 level of probability and high significantly. Thus, statistically the relationship was a positive significant at 0.01.

- So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there was a positive relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded that credit received of the rural women had a significant positive relationship with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.4.8 Relationship between the Duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program and their socio-economic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis " there is no relationship between the duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Coefficient (r) between these two variables was 0.201 as shown in Table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r = 0.201) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.05 level of probability and significantly. Thus, statistically the relationship was a positive significant at
  0.05.
- So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there had a positive relationship between these two variables.

On the basis of above findings, it could be concluded 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.

4.4.9 Relationship between the attitude towards ASA micro credit program and their socio-economic development

The correlation co-efficient between education of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development of rural women was measured by testing the null hypothesis "there is no relationship between the

attitude towards ASA micro credit program and the impact of ASA micro credit program". The calculated value of Correlation Co-efficient (r) between these two variables was 0.468 as shown in table 4.4. On the basis of the observed "r" values, following inferences were made regarding relationship between these variables:

- ❖ The computed value of 'r' was found to be greater (r = 0.468) than the tabulated value with 99 degrees of freedom at 0.01 level of probability. Thus, statistically the relationship was positive significant at 0.01.

So, the null hypothesis was rejected and there had positive relation between these two variables. On the basis of above findings, the research concluded that the attitude towards micro credit program had positive relations with the impact of ASA micro credit program on socio-economic development.

4.5 Comparative change pattern in terms of 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro credit program

An attempt was made in this section to test the significance (t-test) of the changes in relation to income, food consumption and housing environment of the respondents' families after their involvement with ASA micro credit program. The data is presented in the Table 4.5

Table 4.5 Comparative change patterns in terms of 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro credit program

Variables	Average		Mean differences	S.D.	S.D. error	Observe t-value with 99 df
	Before	After				
Income (thousand Taka)	66.49	71.11	4.62	4.270	0.427	10.827**
Food consumption (k.cal.)	2047.37	2192.24	144.87	202.2	20.22	7.171**
Standard of living (score)	5.07	6.01	.94	0.750	0.075	12.539**
Decision making (score)	17.64	19.14	1.50	2.653	0.265	5.653**

Critical value of ((0.01) = 2.62 with 99 df. ** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

4.4.1 Income

The difference income of the respondents between 'after' and 'before' involvement with ASA micro credit program was tested by testing the following null hypothesis-"there was no significant change in income of the respondents' families before and after involvement with ASA micro credit program".

The findings indicate that the average annual income of the respondents increased to Tk 71.11 thousand from Tk. 66.49 thousand after involvement with ASA micro credit program.

The calculated 't' value was 10.827, which was highly significant at 0.01 level (Table 4.5). The result showed in between the 'before' and 'after' involvement clearly indicate on improvement of income, which is further supported by the highly significant t-value (10.827* *).

On the basis of above findings the null hypothesis was rejected. Hence, it was concluded that income of the respondents after involvement with ASA micro credit program increased significantly.

4.4.2 Food consumption

The difference food consumption of the respondents between 'after' and 'before' involvement with ASA micro credit program was tested.

The findings indicate that the average food consumption of the respondent increased from 2047.37 kilocalories to 2192.24 kilocalories after involvement with ASA micro credit program.

The calculated't' value was 7.171 which was highly significant at 0.01 level (Table 4.5). The result showed in between the 'before' and 'after' involvement clearly indicate improvement of food consumption, which is further supported by the highly significant t-value (7.171**).

On the basis of above findings the null hypothesis was rejected. Hence, it was concluded that food consumption of the respondents after involvement with ASA micro credit program increased significantly.

4.4.3 Standard of living

The difference Standard of living of the respondents between ‘after’ and ‘before’ involvement with ASA micro credit program was tested by testing the following null hypothesis-”there was no significant change in Standard of living of the respondents’ families before and after involvement with ASA micro credit program”.

The findings indicate that the average Standard of living score of the respondent households increased from 5.07 to 6.01 after involvement with ASA micro credit program.

The calculated‘t’ value was 12.53, which was highly significant at 0.01 level (Table 4.5). The result showed in between the ‘before’ and ‘after’ involvement clearly indicate improvement of Standard of living, which is further supported by the highly significant t-value (12.53**).

On the basis of above findings the null hypothesis was rejected. Hence, it was concluded that Standard of living of the respondents after involvement with ASA micro credit program improved significantly.

4.4.4 Decision making ability

The difference Decision making ability of the respondents between ‘after’ and ‘before’ involvement with ASA micro credit program was tested by testing the following null hypothesis-”there was no significant change in Decision making ability of the respondents’ families before and after involvement with ASA micro credit program”.

The findings indicate that the average Decision-making ability score of the respondent households increased from 17.64 to 19.14 after involvement with ASA micro credit program.

The calculated‘t’ value was 5.653, which was highly significant at 0.01 level (Table 4.5). The result showed in between the ‘before’ and ‘after’ involvement clearly indicate improvement of Decision making ability, which is further supported by the highly significant t-value (5.653**).

On the basis of above findings the null hypothesis was rejected. Hence, it was concluded that Decision-making ability of the respondents after involvement with ASA micro credit program improved significantly.

4.5 Problem faced by the rural women in their socio-economic development

Problem confrontation scores of the respondent rural women ranged from 22 to 27 with an average 24.09 and a standard deviation 1.646. On the basis of problem confrontation, the respondents were classified into three categories as shown in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Categories of the respondents according to their problem confrontation

Problem confrontation categories (score)	Respondents		Average	Standard deviation
	Number	Percent		
Low problem confrontation (upto 24)	60	60	24.09	1.646
Medium problem confrontation (25 to 26)	30	30		
High problem confrontation (above 26)	10	10		

Data contained in Table 4.6 reveal that highest proportion (60 per cent) 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.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

This Chapter contains summary of the **findings, conclusions and recommendations**

5.1 Summary of Findings

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

> Describe some selected characteristics of the rural women

> Assess the impact of ASA Micro-credit towards socio-economic development of rural women

> To explore the relationship between the impact of micro credit and respondents' selected characteristics. The selected characteristics were- age, education, family size, farm size, annual savings, cosmopoliteness, credit received, duration of involvement with ASA and attitude towards ASA Micro- credit program.

> To identify the problems faced by the borrowers of ASA in receiving and utilizing the micro credit.

Chandan Bari, Chalak Chor, Sukundi union of Monohardi upazila under Narsingdi district was the locale of the study. A sample of 100 respondents was drawn from a population of 670. Data were collected from 8th December to 25th December 2007 using a interview schedule. However, the major findings of the study are summarized below:

5.1.1 Selected characteristics of the respondents

Age: Age of the respondents ranged from 18 to 48 with the average of 24.59 years. About half (47 per cent) of the respondents had middle aged while 43 per cent had young and 10 per cent old aged.

Education: The level of education of the respondents had found to range from 0.5 to 10 years of schooling with the average of 4.355. About half (47 per cent) of the respondents had primary level; while 38 per cent could sign their names only; 15 per cent had secondary level.

Family size: The family size of the respondents ranged from 2 to 8 with the average of 5.01. More than half (51 per cent) of the respondents had medium size family, while 41 per cent large small size family and 8 percent had small family size.

Farm size: Farm size of the respondents ranged from 0.01 to 0.90 hectare and with an average being 0.35380. Where 60 per cent of the respondents had very small farm size, while small farm size and medium were 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

Annual savings: Annual savings scores of the respondents ranged from 0.5 to 2.2 with the average of .7444. Where 70 per cent of the respondents had small savings; 16 per cent had medium savings and 14 per cent had no savings.

Cosmopoliteness: The observed cosmopoliteness scores of the respondents ranged from 1 to 8 with the average of 5.03. Where 30 per cent of the respondents had low cosmopoliteness; 48 per cent had medium and 22 per cent had high Cosmopoliteness.

Credit received: Credit receiving scores of the respondents varied from 5 to 28 with the average of 11.72. Where 35 per cent of the respondents were medium credit recipient, while 55 per cent of the respondents were small and 10 per cent of the respondents were large credit recipients.

Duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program: Duration of involvement with ASA micro credit program of the respondents ranged from 1 to 10 years with an average of 4.45. More than half that 55 per cent of the respondents had short duration duration of involvement with ASA, while 30 per cent had very short duration duration of the involvement and 15 per cent had medium duration duration of involvement with ASA.

Attitude towards ASA micro credit program: Attitude of the respondents towards ASA micro credit program had found to range from 10 to 18 with an average of 13.12. Where 52 per cent of the respondents had moderately favorable attitude towards ASA micro credit program, while 38 per cent had low favorable and 10 per cent had favorable attitude towards ASA micro credit program.

5.1.4 Extent of change in income, food consumption, standard of living and decision making ability of the respondents

Change in income: Average annual income of the respondent households increased to Tk. 71.11 23.518 thousand from Tk66.49thousand. The income difference of the respondent 4.62 thousand taka. The highest proportion (47 per cent) of the respondents had low-income difference compared to 40 per cent medium income difference; 10 per cent of the respondents' high-income difference and 3 per cent of the respondents' had no difference.

Change in food consumption: Average daily calorie intake (food consumption) of the respondents increased 2047.37 kilocalories to 2192.24 kilocalories. The calorie intake difference of the respondents ranged from -200 kilo calories to 863 kilo calories with an average of 144.87 kilo calories. Highest proportion (70 per cent) of the respondents had low calorie intake difference compared to 13 per cent medium calorie intake difference; 6 per cent high calorie intake difference and 11 per cent of the respondents had no calorie intake difference.

Change in standard of living: Average standard of living score of the household respondents increased from 5.07 to 6.01. The standard of living score difference of the household respondents ranged from 0 to 3 score with an average of 0.94. Highest proportion (55per cent) of the respondents had low standard of living score difference compared to 14 per cent medium standard of living score difference. 4 per cent of the respondents had high standard of living score difference and only 27 per cent respondents bad no change.

Change in housing unit: After involvement with ASA micro credit program 67 per cent of the respondents increased their house that is Katcha Ghar with tin roof from 74 per cent before involvement with micro credit program, present 14 per cent of the respondents tin house while before involvement it percentage was 4.

Change in toilet condition: Before membership 33 percent families had half sanitary toilet while at present this percentage is 51. Before membership 6 per cent families had sanitary toilet.

Change in source of drinking water: Before involvement with ASA micro credit program 19 per cent of the families used to drink water from own tube-well, while after involvement with ASA its percentage was 38.

Change in family asset: Family asset of the respondents in medium category had 51 per cent before involvement and after involvement its' percentage was 56.

Change in decision-making ability: Average decision-making ability score of the household respondents increased from 17.64 to 19.14. The decision-making ability score difference of the household respondents ranged from 0 to 45 score with an average of 1.50. Highest proportion (46per cent) of the respondents had medium decision-making ability score difference compared to 42 per cent low decision-making ability score difference. 12 per cent of the respondents had high decision-making ability score.

5.1.3 Summary of hypothesis testing

Relationship between the selected characteristics of the respondents and the impact of ASA micro credit program

Education, farm size, cosmopoliteness, credit received and attitude towards ASA micro credit program had significant relationship with impact of ASA micro credit program. But age, family size had no relationship with impact of ASA micro credit program.

5.1.4 Difference between 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro credit program

The changes between 'before' and 'after' involvement with ASA micro credit program in the income, food consumption, standard of living and decision making ability were statistically significant at 0.01 level of probability.

5.1.5 Problem confrontation by the rural women on their socio-economic development

The problem confrontation scores of the respondents ranged from 22 to 27 with an average 24.29. Most (60 percent) of the respondents had low problem confrontation, where 30 per cent medium and 10 per cent had high problem.

5.2 Conclusions

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drown:

- The findings indicate that the respondents having marginal farm size were more likely to have higher impact of micro credit. It may, therefore, be concluded that income-earning ability of rural women was increased who had marginal farm size.

- ❖ Majority (70 percent) of the respondents had small savings. Annual savings of the respondents showed a strong positive relationship with their impact of micro credit towards socio- economic development. Therefore, it may be concluded that annual savings of the respondents had influence on the acceleration of impact of micro credit.

- ♦> Ninety percent of the respondents were small to medium credit recipient. Amount of credit received the respondents showed a significant positive relationship with their change in income and standard of living. Amount of credit received had a great influence on socio-economic development of the respondents.

- ❖ Involvement with micro credit had a great influence on socio-economic development of the respondents. Thirty five percent of the respondents had involvement within the 3 to 4 years. So it is likely that impact on women will be high in the course of time.

- ❖ The 52 per cent respondents having moderately favorable attitude towards ASA was likely to have higher impact of micro credit. It may therefore, be concluded that motivational work and various training programs may increase favorable attitude towards ASA micro credit program.

- ❖ It might be concluded that food consumption of the respondents after involvement with ASA micro credit program increased and they can change their economical condition.

- ❖ Sixty percent Respondents faced low problem when they were involved with ASA micro credit program. So, other NGOs can follow the activities of ASA micro credit program.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Recommendation for policy implication

On the basis of the conclusions of the study and also on the present and past experience, the following recommendations were formulated:

♦> ASA micro credit availability among the respondents had significant and positive relationship with their socio-economic development. Credit is an important input, which supports other inputs for higher production, and raising income of the women. It is, therefore recommended to supply sufficient amount of credit, which must be provided timely to the respondents at low interest rate, with simple terms and conditions.

❖ The credit borrowers should be allowed more time to return their money after receipt. Otherwise, they may have the tendency to borrow money from village moneylenders and return the ASA loan as per schedule.

❖ Special care should be taken by ASA authorities and concerned others to enhance participation of the women with micro credit program.

❖ ASA needs to take steps for wider literacy programs in order to accelerate different activities of the women.

❖ As cited by the respondents, there were some problems in receiving and utilizing the micro credit. All those problems deserve to be addressed by the ASA personnel. It is, therefore, recommended that the ASA authorities should give attention for the solution of those problems as far as possible in order to make their programs successful.

❖ The women, having favorable attitude towards ASA, were more likely to have higher impact of micro credit. Motivational work and various training programs should be strengthened to increase favorable attitude of the respondents towards ASA.

5.3.2 Recommendation for further research

Short term and sporadic study being conducted in some specific location cannot provide all information for proper understanding related to actual impact of microcredit program towards socio-economic development of rural women. Further studies should be undertaken covering more dimensions in the related matters.

- ❖ Impact of Micro- credit on socio-economic development of the ASA rural women was conducted in Monohardi upazila of Narsingdi district. Findings of the study should be verified and compared by similar studies in other upazila of different districts in Bangladesh.

- ❖ This research examined the effect of nine characteristics of the respondents on the impact of micro credit towards socio-economic development. Therefore, it is recommended that further research should be undertaken involving other characteristics of the respondents and impact of micro credit in this regard.

- ♦> To assess the impact of micro credit on socio-economic development, in this study, four dimensions like change in income, change in food consumption, change in standard of living and change in decision making ability have been considered. Further study should be undertaken involving other dimensions like change in social status, change in purchasing power, and change in confidence of the respondents.

- ❖ Similar study may be conducted on the credit program of other leading NGOs of the country such as BRAC, Grameen bank, PROSHIKA and RDRS etc. in order to gain more meaningful insights.

- ♦> A study on problems faced by the participating members of ASA in different dimensions of micro credit program could also be undertaken.

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Appendices **Appendix- A**

An English Version of Interview Schedule

Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System

Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Dhaka-1207

An Interview Schedule for a Research Study entitled:

"IMPACT OF ASA MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM TOWARDS SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN MONOHARDI UPAZILA OF NARSINGDI DISTRICT"

Sample No.....
Date .....

Name of the respondent .....
Village or ward no.....
Union or pourashava .....

(Please answer the following questions .Put tick wherever necessary)

1. Age
How old are you? ..... Years

2. Education: Please mention your educational status

(a) I can not read or write -
(b) I can sign only---------
(c) I read up to class ------
(d) Others (specify) -------

3. Family size:
Please mention total number of members of yours family

(a) Male (b)Female Total

4. Farm size:

Please indicate the area of land owned and homestead area by your family

SL. No.	Type of land use	Local unit	hectare
ক)	Own land Homestead area (Including ponds, garden etc)		
খ)	Land under own cultivation Land given to others on borga or lease Land taken from others on lease or borga Others		
গ)			
ঘ)			
ঙ)			
Total	farm size		

5. Annual family savings:

Please, give the information relating to your annual family savings

SL. No.	Type of savings	Amount of savings
1.	Saving in NGO group	
2.	Saving in Bank	
3.	Saving on own hand	
4.	Others way	

6. Cosmopoliteness:

Please indicate the places you visit within the specific period.

SL. No.	Place of visit	Frequency of visit			
		Regular	Occasional	Suddenly	Not even once
1.	Visit market or relatives or friends home out side your own village				
2.	Visit union parishad				
3.	Visit own upazila sadar				
4.	Visit another upazila				
5.	Visit own district sadar				
6.	Visit another district				
7.	Visit divisional head quarter				
8.	Visit Capital city				

7. Credit Received: Have you received any credit from any organizations? Yes / No

If yes, mention, the following information.

SL. No.	Sources of Credit received	Amount of Credit received
(a)	**Institutional**	
1. 2. 3.	ASA Bank (Sonali, Krishi, Janata etc.) Others NGOs	
(b)	**Non Institutional**	
1. 2. 3. 4.	Village money lenders Friends or relatives Neighbors Other sources	

8. Duration of involvement with ASA: How many years you are involved with ASA Micro-credit program?

..... Years.

9. Attitude towards ASA: Please express your attitude towards ASA Micro-credit program in the following aspects

SL. No.	**Statement**	SA	A	NO	DA	SDA
1(+)	It is better to receive credit from ASA than village money lenders					
2(-)	ASA is doing such things which are harmful to people and society					
3(+)	This program is very important for improving Socio-economic development of the rural women					
4(-)	ASA brings the women outside their homestead which seems very unpleasant					
5(+)	This Micro-credit programme is better than any other poverty alleviation					
6(-)	High rate of interest rather than other organizational rate of interest					
7(+)	My social prestige has been increased due to my involvement in this program					
8(-)	ASA provides insufficient credit to the rural women against their need					

SA= Strongly Agree, A= Agree, NO=No Opinion, DA= Disagree, SDA= Strongly Disagree

10.1. Change in overall income:

Please give the information relating for income to you and your family member/year.

Source of income	Before involvement with ASA (TK)	After involvement with
Agriculture		
Crop production activities (Rice or other cereal crops, vegetables, fruits, seed production) Livestock and poultry rearing Fisheries Agro-forestry including nursery Others		
Non-agriculture		
Small business Service Day labour Small or Cottage industries Fish net making Grocery Tailoring Beauty parlouring Others		

10.2. Change in food consumption or calorie uptake (head/day):

Please, mention the quantity of the following food items you uptake "before" and "after" involvement with ASA

Food items	Before involvement with ASA (gm)	After involvement with ASA (gm)
Rice (daily)		
Bread (daily)		
Vegetable (daily)		
Pulse (weekly)		
Fish (weekly)		
Milk (weekly)		
Meat (monthly)		
Egg (monthly)		

10.3. Change in standard of living:

SL.	Items	Before taking	After taking	Changing score
(A)	Housing unit			
(B	Toilet condition			
(C	Sources of drinking water			

A. 0(No house at all), l(Mud-builz house with straw roof), 2(Mud-builz house with tin roof), 3(Building)
B. 0(0pen place/ bush), **1** (Katcha latrine), 2(Half sanitary latrine), 3(Sanitary latrine)
C. 0(Water from pond or river), l(Tube well of other people), 2(Tube well of your own),

10.3. Change in standard of living:

D. Change in family asset: please give the information relating to following items:

SL No	Items of assets	Unit score	Before involvement with ASA			After involvement with ASA		
			No.	Score	Total	No	Score	Total
1.	Khat							
2.	Chowki							
3.	Chair							
4.	Table							
5.	Show-case							
6.	Wooden-almirah							
7.	Aina							
3.	Radio							
9.	Two-in-one							
10	Black and white							
11	TV Wall clock							
12	Fan							
13	Bi-cycle							
14	Rickshaw/							
15	Van							
16	Torch							
17	Sewing machine							
13	Cow							
19	Goat							
20.	Hen							
21.	Duck							
22.	Hurricane							
23.	Fishing net							

10.4. Mention your ability to make decision as the following items before and after receiving the Credit:

SL No	Items	Level of decision making (Before)				Level of decision making (After)			
		Decision made by others (0)	Decision made with husband (1)	Decision made with family member	Decision made by own (3)	Decision made with others (0)	Decision made with husband (1)	Decision made with family member	Decision made by own (3)
1.	Utilization of credit								
2.	Purchase, sale or mortgage of land								
3.	Education of children								
4.	Making and purchasing of furniture								
5.	Family health care and treatment								
6.	Casting vote								
7.	Observe of social solemnity								
8.	Marriage of sons or daughter								
9.	Family planning Crop								
3.	production								
11.	Vegetable cultivation in homestead								
12.	area Landing and borrowing of money								
13.	Increase in family income								
14.	Making new house Daily expenditure								
15									

0(not influence), l(only discussion with husband), 2(partial decision), 3(full decision)

11. Problem confrontation on socio economic development of ASA: Mention extent of the following problems you faced in receiving and utilizing the Microcredit.

SL. No.	Problem faced in receiving the Micro credit	Extent of problem			
		Severe	Moderate	Little	Not at all
1.	Inadequate credit amount as per				
2.	The total amount of credit could not proper use due to shortage of grace period.				
3.	Not getting credit at the time of need.				
4.	The misue of credit for repayment of former loan or other activities				
5.	High rate of interest.				
6.	New loan is not issued until final repayment of installments.				
7.	Loan cannot be taken until making group				
8.	Others (please specify)				

Thanks for your kind co-operation.

Signature of interviewer

Date.....

APENDIX- B

Approximate nutrient requirements (per capita per day) for a Bangladeshi adult

Nutrients	Amount	Nutrients	Amount
Carbohydrat	300 g	Vitamin B	3 mg
Protein	80 g	Vitamin C	50 mg
Fat	70 g	Folic acid	100 mg
Vitamin A	4000 IU	Calcium	500 mg

Different food items requirement and the present consumption level

Food item	Requirement (g)	Consumption (g)	Difference
Cereal	408	475	67 (+)
Sugar	29	6	23 (-)
Milk	58	28	30 (-)
Meat	15	10	5 (-)
Fish/egg	29	27	2 (-)
Pulse	58	12	46 (-)
Vegetables (including potato)	233	72	161 (-)
Fruits	75	34	41 (-)
Oil	15	16	1(+)

Daily requirement of nutrients per head per day

Nutrient	Daily requirement			Average Daily Intake	Deficit (+ Excess (-)
	Male	Female	Average		
Calories	3000	2000	2500	2172	-
Protein(gm)	58	43	50.5	58.0	+
Fat (gm)				15.0	-
Carbohydrate(gm)	500	500	500	457.5	-
Calcium(gm)	10	28	19	16.0	-
Iron (gm)	2500	2500	2500	1160	-
Vitamin A (I.U.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.56	+
Thiamin (mg)	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.70	-
Riboflavin (mg)	15.0	15.0	15.0	22.5	+
Niacin (mg)	30.0	30.0	30.0	24.5	-
Vitamin C (mg)	30.0	30.0	30.0	24.5	-

APENDIX- C

ASA: The Organization

ASA (Association for Social Advancement) a Non- Government Organization set up in 1978 by its founder and president Md. Shafiqual Haque.ASA turned its focus on the long-term issue of socio-economic development and empowerment of the poor in rural areas of the country. At present, ASA promotes income generation for the poor, mostly landless rural people through Micro-Credit and programmes on small business, healthcare, agriculture development, literacy, education and training.

ASA's MISSION

Reducing poverty as well as introducing positive changes in the living standard of the poor through providing micro finance services and making it poor friendly and successful globally.

The group and the centre

Interested persons are asked to form groups consisting of five like-minded having similar economic standing who enjoy mutual trust and confidence. ASA has settled on a group of five through trial and error. Initially loans are given to individuals.

Only one person from household can be a member and relatives must not be in the same group. Each group elects a chairperson and a secretary, and this position rotates among members on a yearly basis so that all members have the learning experience that accompanies the responsibilities of these positions. The chairperson is responsible for maintaining discipline in the group and the supervision of loan utilization by the members.

A Number groups from the same village is federated into a centre and the weekly meeting are held at the centre level. The group chairpersons elect a centre chief and deputy centre chief, who hold office for one year only. Center chief ensures attendance at the weekly meetings, payment of loan installments, and overall discipline and conduct the programs of the meeting. ASA workers attend the centre meeting.

Income generating activities matched with credit program

- Bamboo basket
- Rickshaw purchase
- Cloth business (tailoring)
- Rickshaw business
- Agricultural equipments
- Family planning
- Rice business
- Fruit business
- Fish cultivation
- Tree plantation
- Vegetable cultivation
- Poultry rearing
- Cattle rearing

Key Features of ASA'S Innovative Management and Factors Behind Success

* Dynamic leadership
* Participatory process in decision-making
* Low-cost culture practiced from top to bottom
* Effective fund management
* Specialization in micro finance and fast expansion policy
* Always strong monitoring and supervision from all levels
* Members' group transfer among the LOs after every six months
* Simple and shorter loan processing
* No group guarantee for providing loan
* Education loan for the members' children
* Male loan for the members' husband/guardian
* Health assistance for the clients without taking premiums

ASA: THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of ASA is very simple as well as cost effective. There are 72 and 64 members respectively from the general public and the representatives of the landless poor to the General body. These members elect the 07 (seven) members of the Governing Body. Members of the Governing Body play a key role in the policy making of the institution through counseling the chief executive, that is, the President of ASA.

The central office of ASA is situated in Dhaka and it is divided into different sections. These are: Human Resource Management (HRM), Operation, Audit, Finance & MIS, Accounts, Research, Documentation and Management Monitoring, IT, Media Relation, etc. There are 174 staffs in the central office to assist 64,55,979 members all over the country, through 18.226 field level staff and 2,931 branches.

There are mainly two layers in the basic concepts of ASA that is the central office and the field office. In between the central and the branch office there are three distinct tiers, Zonal, District and Regional Officials, but without a separate office swt-up. The zonal managers act as the representatives of the central office, whereas the District officials maintain the role of the field office representatives. Most of the operational and administrative responsibilities have also been decentralized to the field offices for quick as well as effective implementation of all the activities.

APPENDIX D

CORRELATIONS

Correlations matrix showing inter-correlations among the concerned variables

	V, v_2		v_3	v_4	v	v o	v_7	v_8	v_9	Y
V,	1.000									
V_2	.074	1.000								
V_3	-.007	-.790(2)	1.000							
V_4	-.053	.321(**)	.057	1.000						
Vs	.095	,525(**)	-.087	,329(**)	1.000					
V_6	.052	,521(**)	-.127	,322(**)	.716(**)	1.000				
V_7	.059	,457(**)	.074	.290(**)	.673(**)	.555(**)	1.000			
V_8	-.087	542(**)	-.020	*.21%**)*	,603(**)	.522(**)	,196(*)	1.000		
V_9	.157	.312(**)	.120	,296(**)	.414(**)	.310(**)	.142	.138	1.000	
Y	*.095*[NS]	,314(**>	.081 [NS]	.377(**)	.781 (**)	,707(**)	.201(*)	,539(**)	,468(**)	

(Done in association with SPSS 11.5 program)

Where,

V1= Age

V_2= Education

V_3= Family size

V_4= Farm size

V_5= Annual savings

V_6= Cosmopoliteness

V_7— Duration of involvement with ASA

V_8= Credit received

V9= Attitude towards ASA

Y= Impact of ASA Micro credit program

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2 Correlationn is significant at the .01 level = 0.2557 with 98 df

* Correlationn is significant at the .05 level = 0.1959 with 98 df

NS= Non significant