

## Empowering Women through Cattle Ownership



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Empowering Women through Cattle Ownership\_Badarganj Rangpur

**Background:** The empowerment of women in the livestock sector is fundamental to achieve gender equality. It also is instrumental for increased household productivity and improved household health and nutrition. Diverse strategies exist to empower women, yet these strategies are difficult to prioritize without a reliable and adapted means to measure women's empowerment

**Fact:** Empowerment in livestock through specific activities—rather than through livestock keep-ing overall—seems more appropriate to obtain quality information. Notably, livestock farming provides specific gendered challenges and opportunities, with implications for the empowerment of all farmers, their household food security, and the security of their livelihoods. Livestock are a strategic entry point to enhance the nutrition of the poor given that livestock provide nutrient-rich foods, such as milk or meat, which are shown to improve growth and cognitive functioning, respectively. Women have a central role in most countries as food producers and providers and control livestock products that are essential for food and nutrition security. Also, women represent the majority of poor livestock keepers. On these bases, supporting the empowerment of women involved in the livestock sector.

Therefore, developing a measure to capture the empowerment of women involved in the livestock sector is important to explore how livestock and women's empowerment inter-connect, and particularly, how women's empowerment can be supported through livestock

Women play an important role in agricultural growth in developing countries, but face persistent obstacles and societal and economic constraints that limit their further inclusion in agriculture. A renewed interest in agriculture as a vehicle for inclusive growth and for potentially empowering women has highlighted the need to develop indicators to measure women's empowerment and to monitor the impact of interventions to empower women.

**Conclusion:** Women are key actors within the agriculture and food system in Bangladesh. As the 2013 National Agricultural Policy of Bangladesh recognises, empowering women, encouraging their participation in production and marketing for income generation, and ensuring their nutritional status are vital for improving food security in the country (MoA 2013). Women's economic and social advancement are also stated goals of the Ministry Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA). However, about 77 per cent of rural women in Bangladesh are disempowered, as this study shows using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and the data from the 2012 Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey. Participatory Human Rights Advancement Society strongly believe that, "Women are key actors within the agriculture and food system in Bangladesh". So our organization always try to be empower women.