

# Rural Socio-Economic Development and Role of Women in Bangladesh- A Sociological Study

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**Abstract** - This paper explores the interrelationship between participation of rural women and socio-economic improvement in Bangladesh. Rural women are quiet specialists and significant supporters of provincial economy. Their financial commitments are frequently valued yet not broadly perceived. The fundamental motivation behind the investigation was to find the job of women in country financial advancement and furthermore was to make the cooperation of provincial women in ranch and non-ranch exercises noticeable and their commitment in producing family unit salary. Information were gathered utilizing quantitative research structure and purposively-drawn example of 60 rustic family units comprising of 60 families consisting of 20 low, 20 medium and 20 high salary families. Essential information was gathered by utilizing organized and unstructured meeting polls. They got information were broke down by utilizing unthinkable and measurable systems. Female investment of low as well as medium salary family units is uniquely advanced in non-ranch exercises than the elevated pay families. The aftereffects of the examination indicated away from of more prominent degree of women' cooperation in ranch and non-ranch exercises just as in different family unit dynamic occasions. The discoveries of the examination recommend that, so as to upgrade women investment in ranch and non-ranch exercises and their commitment to family unit salary, the eminence and position of help administration like info supply, credit offices, augmentation and inspiration, need-based preparing ought to be enhanced. A fruitful government and non-government community oriented program can best concentrate on these matters in a coordinated way both in national as well as international arena of academic and research interest.

**Key Words:** Development, Rural Development, Socio-economic Development, Women Empowerment,

## Introduction

Provincial women are addressing the female masses as those are living in rural domains. In ordinary society which determinedly applied in the nation areas, the activity of women is compelled to a supporting activity to men. This can be seen from the sorts of tasks they perform, for instance, their activity in the work field is to help their life partners with planting and reap crops. In working up their individual families, women perform diverse ordinary commitments for helping family and society as well. Be that as it may, women likewise contribute in the primary exercises of monetary improvement particularly in supporting their families. The economy of Bangladesh is prevalently founded on farming and different exercises identified with agrarian division. Henceforth a lion's share of provincial populace is predominantly reliant on farming area both for its work and occupation. Simultaneously, different non-horticultural exercises are likewise assuming significant jobs in giving the chances of work and livelihoods to the work power having a place with both cultivating and non-cultivating family units. The rustic financial system of Bangladesh has seen wonderful auxiliary changes and broadening throughout the 1990s. The ongoing insights demonstrate that the extent of country families relying upon non-ranch exercises is growing after some time at a quicker rate; contrasted with family units relying upon ranch exercises and that in specific zones, the degree of association in such exercises might be very high. A second sort of progress shows a relative decrease in significance of agrarian pay work, which suggests a potential ascent in the extent of families subject to independent work or non-ranch wage business. Current circumstances of women are a lot of subordinate in condition than that of men. Women address a segment of the country's HR and as needs be a bit of its inactive limit. Their capability rate is simply 49.8 percent, much lower than that of men 57.1 percent; future is 64.7 years for men and 65.9 years for women (BBS, 2007). Outrageous mortality among women on account of partition has achieved a disproportionate sex extent in the people whereby there are 103.8 men for every 100 women. Dietary status of women and young women is separate by sharp diverges from that of men and youngsters. As indicated by Labor Force Survey 2005 - 06, of the full scale 49.5 million work powers, 37.4 million are male and 12.1 million are female.

In Bangladesh, nation women present a horrid picture. Socially they don't have solitary character. Women who are fighting hard to pick up their employment and endeavoring to beat desperation all things considered don't get any rousing power from the influential people of the zone. In Bangladesh the advancement for women' freedom is going on as a bit of the methodology of social change and not as a dynamic improvement. In the country they attempted genuinely and contributed in a general sense to agricultural creation and family pay. But on the off chance that the authentic and potential responsibility of women to the rustic creation process is seen, tries to improve the flourishing of property nuclear family and ensuring sustenance security will be hampered. In the present society, the activity of women grows way past the home and raising the youths. Women need to play out the double job of housewife and breadwinner. In provincial regions, women are occupied with ranch activity as cultivators, collaborators to male cultivators and farming workers. Women are successfully connected with pre-planting, post-planting, gathering, post-procure action similarly as creating vegetables and natural items generally for family use, be worried for pullet and creatures, upgrade families sustenance and jobs through raising kitchen nursery and working in home industry, handloom weaving, etc. Women having a spot with low money related strata are successfully busy with green work. They in like manner show their relationship in masterminding, dynamic and supervisory activities.

Women participation in home and estate practices is penniless upon social, social and money related condition in their areas of living. It similarly moves from region to zone and even inside a region; their commitment varies comprehensively among different developing systems, positions, classes and money related status (Kada and Kada, 1985). Despite a couple of restrictions, women of the low compensation nuclear families are found working outside their home due to outrageous budgetary loads, while women of the medium and significant compensation families search for work in order to reduce dependence and to construct the lifestyle. The pace of progress in any country, as it were, depends on the people's speculation including women. In Bangladesh women set up for all intents and purpose half of the masses. Thinking about the current circumstance, this examination has been endeavored to research women' compensation level and enthusiasm for farm and non-farm works out, their responsibilities to agrarian and nuclear family decisions with the going with express targets.

### **Objectives**

- To survey the environment with degree of association of provincial women in ranch and non-ranch exercises;
- To assess commitment of countryside women to family pay;
- To assess the commitment of provincial women in family unit dynamic procedure.

### **Statement of Problem**

There are barely any reasons which push a woman to remember for the business as one of the financial activities or as a wellspring of making living pay. Wonder on the commitment of women in working up their nuclear family pay has spread additional time especially in natural regions. This marvels unmistakably occurred in most of the family establishments who are living under dainty compensation and resources for supporting the high living cost which influenced by the extension. Despite the fact that different motivating forces are given by government and non-administrative associations in helping women for inspiring their expectation for everyday comforts, for example, giving cash-flow to beginning a little scope business, a ton of disappointment has showed up on them they despite everything depend on the administration sponsorships and motivators for their self-advancement. The projects are explicitly intended for women particularly in provincial zones by the administration and non-legislative associations by seeking the high prospective for them to exceed expectations in the fields that are identified with the business. Level of training in the country region impacts a large portion of the financial advancement. Women are prevalent among them who need total essential instruction up to undergrad training for the foundation of their family unit. This has caused a particularly unenthusiastic effect on the provincial women from the financial progress on women' work as they have no other decision other than to acknowledge to work in uncertain local circumstance or to be jobless.

### **Literature Review**

These days enterprise among women is fundamentally turning into a significant player in forming the scene of business enterprise (Pages, 2005). Omorode (2014) presumed that sorting out women is a necessary part of financial progression of any country. Women' endeavors in creating financial advancement will be ideally used on the off chance that they are engaged socially, socially, strategically and monetarily. Karl. M (1995) expressed that women' support is essential and being developed procedure and to meeting the improvement objectives and it couldn't have the option to accomplish without their full association. The vast majority of the examination reasoned that larger part of the women' performing arts double job in the family which are conceptive and profitable, which making them over-burdening in performing additional activity load. Anyway their exertion was not been perceived as needs be particularly their job as a fundamental financial donor in network when all is said in done and explicitly in the family. As indicated by Malaysia Economic Planning Unit measurement (Economic Planning Unit Report: 2010), women speaks to practically half of the Malaysia populace by sex contrasting with men. Disregarding the rate which for all intents and purposes enjoys men, their odds and points of interest in getting the progressions has not been researched and displayed to general society. As of doubts on the women who are slanted more to the task on the "home and kitchen", their abilities in dealing with a test obligations in regards to the headway of their family and in their area, especially in commonplace zone was considered as incapable and clumsiness to hold and executing the commitments.

Gries,T., and Naudé,W. ( 2010) through their profundity investigate on women and enterprise, in normal old enough of women include in the field of business visionary are inside 31 years to 45 years of age. There are hitched and in normal having in any event 2 youngsters, originated from huge number of family. Their exploration result is comparative as study conveyed by Kim (1996). This examination found that in Singapore, normal old enough of women including in the business is 41 years of age with larger part of them are hitched with at any rate having 2 youngsters. For this assessment, near examination will be act in getting known the resemblance and complexities of women responsibility towards the money related headway in the North Perak provincial region with the focusing an area in Selama district. Gries,T., and Naudé,W. ( 2010) found that 33% of women business visionaries having a working experience before starting their endeavor. Women businessmen experienced are including their preparation level, definitive, secretarial, breathtaking, individual exhibiting, arrangements, provoking, and finance (Kim, 1996). As acknowledged, women been brought into the world with characteristic professional aptitudes and had experienced informal instruction from their folks about fundamental abilities, for example, cooking, organize dressing and all assignment identified with the family. In legitimately, this ability can be creating to be come as one of business angle which can produce a salary for them. Notwithstanding, there is likewise an examination that demonstrating there is no connection among

instruction and the accomplishment in business enterprise. As indicated by Stuart and Abetti (1990) there is condition subject to the assessment where the high preparing degree holder clumsiness and lacking in playing out a better than average show task related to the business. Considering Rajani and Sarada (2008) investigate result, it was revealed that 85% of the women businessmen are having low level of preparing up to helper capacity. The result from their assessment has exhibited that an effect factors for women to remember for business are not reflects from their preparation level (Rani, 1992). Isolated of obligation to the family, Gries,T., and Naudé,W. ( 2010) found that by far most of the women business visionary having a relationship with managing their children, training their adolescents and managing the nuclear family. As they in like manner expecting an occupation as a mother disregarding agents, this factor has confining their time and effort in the business field. The factor on the commitment on the families on the feebleness to contribute sufficient vitality with their family has become an essential impediments experienced by women venture in Malaysia as indicated by observed by Alam et.al (2011).

As showed by the ninth Malaysia Plan report, Malaysia desperation rate was at 11.9% including 219,700 nuclear families for year 2004. From the general nuclear families, 70.6% from it started from natural zone with Malay at most critical rate. 2.6 Factor of women relationship in socio-economy practices Nordin (2005) and Hasni (2012) through their examinations in Malaysia on the consideration of women in socio-economy practices revealed the factor of mental perspectives, for instance, in getting vanity, to be free and sourcing for budgetary is a factor that decided women to look into inventive field and start-up the business. Khaairuddin (1996) expressed that there is no appropriate vocation in satisfying the longing for autonomy other than business. The decent variety of territories can be investigated by innovative profession to pull in light of a legitimate concern for any individual who needs to work autonomously. Stuart and Abetti (1990) there is condition subject to the assessment where the high preparing degree holder clumsiness and lacking in playing out a better than average show task related to the business. Considering Rajani and Sarada (2008) investigate result, it was revealed that 85% of the women businessmen are having low level of preparing up to helper capacity. The result from their assessment has exhibited that an effect factors for women to remember for business are not reflects from their preparation level (Rani, 1992). Isolated of obligation to the family, Gries,T., and Naudé,W. ( 2010) found that by far most of the women business visionary having a relationship with managing their children, training their adolescents and managing the nuclear family. As they in like manner expecting an occupation as a mother disregarding agents, this factor has confining their time and effort in the business field. The factor on the commitment on the families on the feebleness to contribute sufficient vitality with their family has become an essential impediments experienced by women venture in Malaysia as indicated by observed by Alam et.al (2011).

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## Methodology

This is a quantitative study that uses a sample of 60 participants who are rural women in Bangladesh. The study consists of individual survey in order to capture both individual-level and household-level impacts related to women's socio-economic development in rural context. These 60 rural households consist of 20 low-income, 20 medium-income and 20 high-income households. The study at individual level is run disaggregated .To cover the individual-level impact, questions of financial position, contribution and savings were provided as well as the frequency and intensity of decision making in the family. To measure the workload of the participants, questions regarding the amount and diversity of household activities were generated in the questionnaire. For the household-level impacts, questions were proposed addressing how other members; especially male ones play roles in the socio-economic lives of the participants. Both open ended and close ended questions were used in this study to capture a wholesome experience; close ended questions for the basic numeric questions like earning or savings or contribution supported by income generating activities and qualitative findings for a deeper and better understanding of the social reality of rural women who are bound by patriarchal structure in every aspect of their lives. Collected data were investigated by using tabular and numerical performances. The study had potential for providing evidence against or for the hypotheses, however, by the associations with the data collected afterwards. The findings of the quantitative components of this research should be read with this possibility in mind. Finally, the consistency and integration of quantitative methods was guaranteed by continuous use of the research questions and research objectives.

## Results and Discussion

Education is the determiner of every aspect of our daily life; without education it is very hard to reach one's goal. Education can lessen the sufferings of a nation. Table 1 shows that many people of the rural community are not well educated (45% are uneducated), have little knowledge and the income condition they belong to is not well in accordance (38.33% people earn below 3000tk) to their livelihood. As they live in rural areas and always were in fear of sudden hazard, they do not make well-constructed house rather they feel comfortable in raw houses made by mud, bush, bamboo, and wood. Table 1 reveals that most

of the respondents in the selected areas are not well-educated and are categorized accordingly uneducated, primary, secondary and higher secondary, graduate at the composition of 45%, 26.66%, 15%, 10%, 3.33% respectively. People of the rural community had a superstition that the more the family members the more they can earn a profit, but this belief has become less important towards them as the above data shows that most of the families (45%) in this area have 3-4 members, where 35% have 1-2, 20% have more than 4 members.

Table 1 Socio-demographic characteristics of the rural community			
Major characteristics	Variable categories	Number (n=60)	Percentage (%)
Age	0-15 age	03	5
	15-25 age	37	61.66
	25-35 age	20	33.33
Marital Status	Married	41	68.33
	Unmarried	19	31.66
Religion	Islam	35	58.33
	Hindu	18	30
	Buddhism	7	11.66
	Christianity	0	00
Education Status	Uneducated	27	45
	Primary	16	26.66
	Secondary	9	15
	Higher Secondary	6	10
	Graduate	2	3.33
Family members	1-2 members	21	35
	3-4 members	27	45
	More than 04	12	20
Occupation	Service	13	21.66
	House wife	33	55
	Voluntary	11	18.33
	Entrepreneurship	03	5
Monthly Income	1000-3000tk	23	38.33
	3000-5000tk	18	30
	5000-7000tk	12	20
	7000-9000tk	13	21.66

**Source: Field Survey**

As a natural outcome in a country where Muslims are the majority, around 59% of the participants of this study are Muslims. In the study area, there were significant numbers of Hindus (30%) and Buddhists (around 12%). In terms of occupation, around 22% of the respondents are service holders, around 18% are associated with voluntary works and not a significant percentage but mentionable, 5% are engaged in entrepreneurship. Traditionally enough, 55% of them are housewives.

Monthly income of the rural women in the study area is not so high to meet all of their daily necessities. But they can meet up their basic rights with their lowest income like 38.33% for BDT 1000-3000, 30% for BDT 3000-5000, 20% for BDT 5000-7000 and 21.66% for BDT 7000-9000 in a month.

In comparison with monthly income and monthly expenditure, the data shows that why most of the respondents could not save their money as their expenditure is higher than their income. On the other hand, those who have a moderate income like 1600-2000 BDT can save a little portion of the income.

Table 2 Types of Household tasks		
Household tasks	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
Cooking	50	83.33
Cleaning	47	78.33
Taking care children	55	91.66

Shopping	48	80
House maintenance	35	58.33

**Source: Field Survey**

As table 2 shows to what extent rural women are engaged in household chores, it reflects that majority of them spend the most of their time in taking care of their children (almost 92 %). In patriarchal societies where mothers are still the primary and sometimes only care giver of their children, this finding is not something surprising. They have other important tasks like cooking and cleaning to do on a daily basis.

Table 3 Types of Income Generating Activities		
Income Generating Activities	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
Engagement of income generating activities		
Yes	45	75
No	15	25
Types of income generating activities		
Rearing livestock	13	21.66
Harvesting	09	15
Sewing and Crafting	11	18.33
Food drying	03	5
Agricultural and animal production	20	33.33
Handicrafts	04	6.66
Income from income generating activities		
Below 5000	31	51.66
5000 - 10000	23	38.33
Above 10000	06	10

**Source: Field Survey**

Despite of all these household chores, 75% of the respondents are actively engaged in income- generating activities (Table 3). Time spent on income generating activities that include agricultural job and animal production consists 33.33% of them to be exact. Rest of the majority earns money by rearing livestock (21.66%) and sewing and crafting (18.33%). This study finds that rural women also earn money by harvesting, food drying and dealing with handicrafts. Though these women are contributing into various types of activities that generate earning, most of them (almost 52%) get an amount below 5000 BDT from these activities on a monthly basis. However their monthly earnings are, majority of them (55%) have savings accounts and most of them (48.33%) have saved 500-1000 BDT at least from their last month’s earning. Another great finding from table 4 is the larger share of the respondents (nearly 44%) save money on their own decision. Rest of them does that jointly with their husbands or any other male member from the family.

It was discovered that women had taken part in various kinds of family choices; yet in certain perspectives their privileges to settle on choice was smothered by the predominance of men. Women' support rates in settling on choices with respect to cultivate exercises were evaluated at 69, 70 and 78 percent in low, medium and high salary family units, individually. Women' interest rates for property planting and animals and poultry raising and post-collect activity remained at 91 and 96 and 93 percent in low salary family units and 74 and 88 and 72 percent in medium pay families and 90 and 87 and 89 percent in high pay families individually (Table 3).

Table 4 Savings of Individual		
Account for Savings of Individual	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)



Yes	33	55
No	27	45
Savings amounts of last month		
500-1000	29	48.33
1000-1500	17	28.33
1500-2000	09	15
2000-2500	03	5
2500-3000	02	3.33
Ways of used savings		
I decide on my own	26	43.33
I decide jointly with my husband	19	31.66
My husband/ father/ brother decides for me	15	25

Source: Field Survey

Women' support rates in choosing land buy and deal were evaluated at 54, 63 and 73 percent in low, medium and high pay family units, separately. Accordingly it was clear that women had moderately higher opportunity in settling on firm choices with respect to post-reap tasks; residence cultivating and raising domesticated animals and poultry. The moderately more elevated level of opportunity in such choices can be there because of the way that these employments were generally done by women. The general women' cooperation rate in family and get-together related choices was higher in high salary families (80 percent) than in medium pay (76 percent) and low pay families (71 percent) individually (Table 4). The variety in women' investment rate was very little extraordinary for the choices about issues like kid care, marriage, training, youngsters and taking an interest in NGOs.

Table 5 Family Contribution and Decision Making		
Family Contribution and Decision Making	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
If contribute financially		
Yes	39	65
No	21	35
Amount of money contributed		
1000	17	28.33
2000	21	35
3000	13	21.66
4000	05	8.33
5000	04	6.66
Decision maker		
Father	21	35
Mother	03	5
Husband	29	48.33
Self	07	11.66
Contribution in decision making		
To greater extend	17	28.33
To some extend	28	46.66

Not at all	15	25
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**Source: Field Survey**

Table 5 shows that 65% of the respondents contribute monetarily in their separate families. Despite the fact that the sum that lion's share contribute (35%) might appear not unreasonably critical (2000 BDT), it is huge in the truth of a provincial lady whose pay is particularly restricted. Be that as it may, in spite of having monetarily solid position, the vast majority of them (practically 47%) can contribute in settling on different choices about family somewhat as it were. The more prominent degree of dynamic is done either by spouse (almost 49%) or father (35%), which is the customary truth of a provincial man centric family in a creating nation.

Table 6 Loan from Outside of Family		
Loan from Outside of Family	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
Loan taken from outside of family		
Yes	37	61.66
No	23	38.33
Organizations for taking loan		
Bank	21	35
NGOs	33	55
Money lender	04	6.66
Others	02	3.33
Reasons for taking loan		
Marriage	29	48.33
Assets	09	15
Medicine	05	8.33
Education	17	28.33

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 6 shows that 61.66% of the country women take advance from outside of the family. Larger part of them (55%) takes credit from NGOs. Rustic women take advance explicitly for marriage purposes (48.33%).

Table 7 Income Generating Activity and Training		
Income Generating Activity and Training	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
Reasons to borrow from income generating activities		
Buying cattle	19	31.66
Buying goods	23	38.33
Buying machinery	11	18.33
Buying land	07	11.66
Time spent for income generating activities		
6-8 hrs	41	68.33

8-10 hrs	13	21.66
10-12 hrs	06	10
Training for income generating activities		
To greater extend	08	13.33
To some extend	33	55
Not at all	19	31.66
Types of organization for training		
GOV	23	38.33
National NGO	29	48.33
International NGO	08	13.33
1000-2000	24	40
2000-3000	20	33.33
3000-4000	09	15
4000-5000	05	8.33
Above 5000	02	3.33

Source: Field Survey

Table 7 shows to what degree rustic women are occupied with various kinds of pay producing movement. Women' cooperation rates for purchasing merchandise is 38.33%. Women go through (6-8 hour) time on salary producing exercises and take an interest in trainings for money creating exercises (68.33%). It was discovered that women had partaken in various kinds of association for preparing, yet it was insufficient for rustic women.

Table 8 Financial Aid for Community Services			
Financial Aid for Community Services	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)	
Financial aid for community services			
Yes	38	63.33	
No	22	36.66	
Part of community services			
Planting trees	29	48.33	
Repairing embankment & dam	23	38.33	
Rebuilding houses after natural disaster	08	13.33	
Amount spent for community services			
500-1000	31	51.66	
1000-1500	19	31.66	
1500-2000	10	16.66	
Activities for rural economic development			
Education	20	33.33	
Loan	17	28.33	
Hand loom	15	25	
Poultry Farm	08	13.33	

Source: Field Survey



Table 8 shows 63.33% of the respondents give budgetary guide to network administrations. The general women' contribute rate is 51.66% which is spent for networks' administrations and all monetary guide exercises for country financial improvement.

### **Conclusion**

With respect to the discovering, by and large it very well may be reasoned that women assume a noteworthy job in improving country zones and in expanding network's financial advancement despite the fact that the criticalness of commitment might be questionable to the men who are excluded from this examination. Women as business visionaries in provincial zones are capable in managing their own business disregarding low educational ability and limited capital in working up their business. In any case, they can win in the inventive field if real aides are given to them to have better supervising systems for their business and moreover as an effort for getting dynamically genuine in the market. It is typical that the components in moving nation women to become agents are influenced by their family establishment and these factors drive them to find a way in checking for their own pay. Vehemently this has raised them to the level of confronting a test in new organizations self-rulingly with limited resources available. In owning privately owned business, normally the individual related with business is either having a motivation from positive internal need in starting up the business or has been influenced by outside factor, for instance, need to be free, for getting wealth and for change in lifestyle (Burke et.al, 2002; Birley and Westhead, 1994). As needs be from their constructive motivation, they prepared to make their own occupation as an agent and have pay as individual cash related prize. To develop a system socio-monetary, it must start from the dedication of each individual in the system from themselves to their family followed by the system. Therefore, both of the results in improving family and individual budgetary condition that move those women business visionaries have solidly made a change and improved Tangail area's money related headway.

Clearly from the meetings' arranged outcome, there is nobody who prevents the job from claiming women in creating country zone's financial improvement. Their jobs as business people are corresponding with Schmitz (1989) on the solid connection between's pioneering exercises and financial exercises. Either deliberately or unwittingly, many don't accept the capacity of women in dealing with their business or that it's anything but a major hazard for funding the happenings run by women (Goyal and Parkash, 2011). Be that as it may, result from this exploration has demonstrated that women can oversee and make progress in their business. Likewise, the entirety of the talked with respondents can support their business for a more extended period. In any case, despite the fact that they can get by in enterprising field, it was seen that their advancement in broadening their organization execution into next more significant level is moderate and confined. In light of the discoveries, it was concurred by the entirety of the women business visionaries that the primary difficulties they are confronting is the money related impediment which has become a typical issue for any little scope entrepreneur in provincial territory.

By and large of this exploration, it is conceded that there is a lot of confinement and the examination ought to be stretched out for making speculation about the job of country women. As the examination is just concentrating on the restricted country zone with center around the chose women business people; results from this exploration may not speak to the circumstance in other rustic regions. By the by, despite the fact that this exploration is affected with those elements of constraint, from the correlation and complexity through scholastic audit for the comparable research directed, similitude is seen in the outcome got from this specific research. Be that as it may, it is conceded that for a speculation, more research is required for the future investigation. Besides, the social, financial and social points of view in Tangail region may contrast from other rustic region to another that may fundamentally impact the last research result.

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