**Street Entrepreneurship in Food and Restaurant Sector of Bangladesh**

**Dr. Md. Shamsul Arefin**

Assistant Professor, School of Business, Uttara University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Email: [arreefin@gmail.com](mailto:arreefin@gmail.com)

**Toufiq Nazrul**

Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA

Email: [tnazrul15@ole.augie.edu](mailto:tnazrul15@ole.augie.edu)

**Kazi Nafisa Hasan & Mahedi Hasan Omi**

Bangladesh University of Professionals, Dhaka Cantonment, Bangladesh

Email: [kazinafisahasan@gmail.com](mailto:kazinafisahasan@gmail.com), [mahedihasan620g@gmail.com](mailto:mahedihasan620g@gmail.com)

**Dr. Nazrul Islam**

Professor, School of Business, Uttara University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Email: [nazrulku@gmail.com](mailto:nazrulku@gmail.com)

**Abstract**

Bangladesh is a densely populated country of the world. More than 170 million people live in this country of which 60 percent people are very poor. Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh where more than twenty million people live. To fulfill the need for food and nutrition, street entrepreneurs are playing an important role in Dhaka. There are about one hundred thousand street entrepreneurs are engaged in food and restaurant business of Dhaka city. These entrepreneurs are a major part of informal business sector of Bangladesh. Hence, this paper aims at indentifying the factors influencing the development of the street entrepreneurship in food and restaurant business and the problems they face to develop and run these businesses in Dhaka city. This study is based on a survey of 210 street food entrepreneurs or vendors doing business in Dhaka city. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the present situation of the entrepreneurship development in food and restaurant sector of Bangladesh. Inferential statistics like factor analysis, multiple regression analysis and structural equation modeling were used to see the relationships between the overall situation of the food industry and the specific problems concerned with it. Results show that due to high demand of the customers, food and restaurant businesses are developing in a geometric rate in Dhaka city. The major problems faced by these entrepreneurs are concerned with infrastructure, legal and regulatory framework, education and training on business, financial support, economic and political climate, social and cultural problems, and knowledge of technology required preparing the food. This study suggests that food and restaurant entrepreneurs should focus more on the business development aspects like infrastructure, legality of the entity, training and development, and customers aspects like change and development of tastes and preferences of the customers, location of the customers etc. Government of the country can also come forward to make this sector of business more systematic by providing financial support, technology training, and removing social problems for its sustainable development in future.

**Keywords:** Street Food, Business Space and Operations, Business Knowledge, Attitude towards Street Food, Food Technology, Local and Political Pressures.