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**Original Article**

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**ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE OF BANGLADESH: IN THE CONTEXT OF  
URBANIZATION**

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**Abstract:**

Urbanization is a population shift from rural to urban areas, "the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas", and the ways in which each society adapts to the change. Bangladesh is moving towards more and more urbanization. Bangladesh, with a rich cultural heritage and unique resource potentiality, is passing through a transition phase where the ultimate goal is to achieve urbanization, i.e., a particular way of life. Demographic changes leading to the increase in number of million cities is responsible for significant changes in socio-cultural setup of the country. All such changes affect on the environment, both- rural and urban. The paper shows how continuous urbanization has changed the cultural values and the regional environment of the country.

**Key Words:**

*Urbanization, Environment,  
Culture, Bangladesh.*

## **1. Introduction**

Development is a phenomenon which is time-specific, region-specific and dynamic. It generally varies from person to person and region to region. According to A.P. Thirlwall (2011), “if the process of economic and social development is defined in terms of an increase in society’s welfare, a concept of development is required which embraces not only economic variables and objectives, but also social objectives and values for which societies blossom. Thus development means the up gradation of a country’s economy and society to get a positive effect on society’s wellbeing. For any country, the economic and social development is perhaps the greatest challenge. The total amount of goods and services produced per head of the population is generally termed as the standard of living of people of a region. In other way, it is determined by the number of people who work and their productivity. Productivity depends on various other factors including education, training, levels of technology, levels of capital accumulations etc. On the regional scale, it is also determined by rural and urban areas as there is huge gap at all levels of social and economic development among these two.

Urbanization is the shift of population from rural to urban settings, which is changing the face of Bangladesh for the last few decades. During 1980, only about 17 percent of the total populations of the country were urban dwellers, which have grown to about 31 percent in 2013 census (BBS, 2012). Urbanization and its accompanying problems are well-known on which the developed world has accumulated a wealth of experience. Urbanization and health issues are mainly related to the process of urbanization in recent years. Studying rural-urban differentials in mortality, morbidity and their causes become significant along with imperative to recognize and understand the ongoing interaction between rural and urban areas. The influence of urbanization goes beyond the limits of towns and cities, which influences on the living conditions, behaviors, values, cultures, political, social and economic processes and on surrounding environment of the urban population (CUS; 2006).

This paper aims at finding the relationship between the process of urbanization and the issues of cultural change among urban population. The discussion will focus on various aspects of urbanization including urban values, urban cultures, spatial divisions and social differences which effect significantly on the urban life style.

## **2. Urbanization in Bangladesh**

As mentioned by Perry and Perry that urbanization is a process. With the movement of people from rural to urban areas, along with the increase in number of population in the latter region, there is change in values, change in way of life among migrant people which in return change

the whole environment of the recipient area. When a young boy come from village area and starts residing in the town after getting admission in a well-known College or University, his attitudes take a different shape which is a mixture of his native village culture and the new urban environment. When he gets job in that town, his attitudes and values again undergo some different form in a more confident and strong manner. During his visit to his native village, his new vision and way of thinking causes major change in the village environment. Here the environment is not merely a physical one; rather it covers the social and cultural spheres of the region. Thus, with the numerical increase in urban areas, movement can cause a major change in the social and cultural domain of both – rural and urban areas (Islam, N. and Z. Mahjabeen; 2003).

### **3. Role of Culture in Development**

As according to Louis Wirth an “urban way of life” results in an “urban type” of character and personality. Wirth developed a pioneering body of urban sociological theory which is still an important aspect of the study of Urban Sociology. According to Ralph Linton, “The culture of a society is the key of life of its members; the collection of ideas and habits which they learn, share and transmit from generation to generation.” Actually, culture is the way of life and it provides the guideline which is shared by the members of a society. Communication and interaction among members of a society is based on the culture which people acquire from their earlier generations. Learning the cultural attributes from elderly people of the society and sharing such acquired culture with the present fellow-members and transmit this to younger family members to make the new generation to think and feel in a right direction- are the major characteristics of a society and its cultures.

The process, by which an individual learns the attributes of the cultures of a society, is called the socialization. At the infancy, a child learns the basic behavioral patterns of its society from the family members. This is the most important stage of socialization. It is a life-long process which starts from infancy and operates till death of an individual. Ethnocentrism is the belief that one’s own society or culture is superior to the others. Such an attribute is based mainly on judgment in relation to other society with the standard of an individual’s own society and culture. It reflects ones “cultural indoctrination that all customs that differ from our own are somehow abnormal- strange at best, uncivilized at worst.” In this present age of globalization, such an attitude exerts positive impact of promoting unity within one group or society (Islam, N and S. Shafi; 2010). But, in other way, it leads to conflicts and tensions among various groups or society and cultures. However, to counter these negative effects of

ethnocentrism, proponents of cultural relativity suggest that cultures must be analyzed on their own terms, in the context of their own societal setting. In other words, any society or any individual has no right to use their own values and norms to judge the other society or culture. It merely means that other cultures should be approached with attitudes of tolerance, respect and understanding.”

In urban centers, life is very busy and very fast. An individual in an urban centre keeps contact only with those persons who are of interest to the individual. In contrast, in rural areas, the relationships are personal, intimate, long lasting and without a motive of personal benefit (Islam, Md. A; 2000).

#### **4. History of Urbanization in Bangladesh**

The history of urbanization focuses on the processes of by which existing populations concentrate themselves in [urban localities](#) over time, and on the social, political, cultural and economic contexts of cities. Most urban scholars focus on the "metropolis," a large or especially important city. There is much less attention to small cities, towns or (until recently) to suburbs. However social historians find small cities much easier to handle because they can use census data to cover or sample the entire population (Wikipedia of Urban).

Historically, the level of urbanization in Bangladesh has been low but it is urbanizing rapidly now. At the beginning of the last century, in 1901, only 2.43 percent (or about 0.7 million) of the total population of present Bangladesh areas of British India lived in urban areas. During the first half of the century urban population growth was almost static. In 1941, less than 4 percent of the population lived in urban centres,

The total urban population was 1.54 million. Urbanization received impetus after 1947, when the Indian subcontinent became independent of the British rule and Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, earned a new political status. Since then a change has been observed in terms of the growth of urban population and also of urban centers. The total urban population rose from 1.83 million in 1951 to about 2.64 million in 1961. The important factor responsible for this rapid growth was a large scale migration of Muslims from India after 1947, who mostly settled in urban areas. A phenomenal growth took place during the 1961 to 1974 period, the increase being as high as 137.6 percent. The growth rate was 6.7 percent per year during the period as against 3.7 percent per year in the previous decade. This rapid urban growth is largely due to migration of people from rural to urban areas. The rural push factors, caused by economic impoverishment following the liberation war in 1971 and environmental disasters

in the following years contributed significantly. Rate of Natural growth of population was also quite high.

In 1974, urban population increased to 8.9 percent from 5.2 percent in 1961. In 1981 this rose to 15.5 percent. The inter-censal change during this period (1974-81) was 110.7 percent with annual growth rate of about 10 percent (Table 1). Like the previous decade both migration and natural growth partially contributed to this growth. But the most important contributory factor for the 1974-81 periods was the redefinition of urban places. The extended definition of the urban area with the inclusion of all 460 Upazila Head Quarters as urban accounted for 30 percent of the total increase in urban population during this period. This indicates the role of political administrative decision in shaping the quantitative demographic status of urbanization rather than quality of Urbanization. During the 1981-1991 period - a slower growth of urban population, 5.4 percent, has been observed compared with the previous decade. At about 20.0 percent level of urbanization the total urban population was 22.45 million in 1991 and that at 23.1 percent level, the total urban population rose to 28.6 million in 2001. Only the total population figure is available so far for the 2011 census, this (in the revised count) has been stated to be 150.4 million. With an estimated level of urbanization to be 28 percent the total urban population would be approximately 42 million.

The rate of growth of urban population is likely to fall to some extent in the future, but would still be quite high. The UN (2004) projection for urban population of Bangladesh for 2030 was 86.5 million. No projection for urban population in 2050 was, however, given. The proportion urban would possibly cross the 50% mark by 2040 and the 60% mark by the year 2050 when the total urban population would rise above 100 million (Islam Nazrul; 2010).

## **5. Current Scenario of Urbanization**

Bangladesh had some 522 urban centers of various size categories in 1991, now the number is 570. Of these, one (Dhaka) is a megacity, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet are metropolitan areas, 25 are cities (with population of over 100,000) each and the rest are smaller towns. There are 7 City Corporations and over 315 Pourashavas (Municipalities). The other towns have the Union Parishad type of local government.

Bangladesh's urban population has been growing at a yearly average rate of 6 percent since independence, at a time when the national population growth was 2.2 percent. As a result, urban population has grown six-fold, compared with a 70 percent increase in rural population (World Bank, 2007). As per recent UN data, approximately 25 percent of Bangladesh's current population currently lives in urban areas. Of this urban population, more than half

lives in the four largest cities: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. With a population of almost 12 million, Dhaka is the capital and largest city in Bangladesh. It is also the 11<sup>th</sup> largest city in the world. At the same time, it is consistently ranked as one of the world's least livable city. Although income growth is higher and the poverty incidence is lower than the rest of Bangladesh, Dhaka still is a low income city with large numbers of poor when compared with most mega cities of the world. Holding the prospects for better income opportunities than most parts of Bangladesh, rapid migration is causing Dhaka's population to grow much faster than the rest of the country. This fast urbanization is putting pressure on the city's limited land, an already fragile environment, and weak urban services. The population density is now believed to have reached around 34000 people per square kilometer, making Dhaka amongst the most densely populated city in the world.

Poor city management and low efficiency are exacerbating the problems. Urban traffic has reached nightmare proportions, often causing huge delays in covering small distances with associated productivity losses. Water and air pollution from poor waste and traffic management poses serious health risks. The already acute slum population is growing further, contributing to serious human and law and order problems. All major cities in South Asia are facing similar problems. In general, poverty, deplorable condition of slums, corruption and inefficiency in service delivery, weak governance and poor finances are characteristic of all South Asian mega cities: Dhaka, Kolkata, Karachi, Mumbai and Delhi. Dhaka probably ranks the worst, however, in terms of infrastructure, service delivery and city governance (A.K.M. Helal uz Zaman, Khan Md. Tariqul Alam, Md. Jahirul Islam; 2010).

## **6. Cultural change due to Urbanization**

As mentioned by Perry and Perry (2011), any type of change may be experienced either on macro level or middle level or on a micro level. Cultural change on a macro level is generated by large- scale and revolutionary social forces which affect the entire society and a large region. Urbanization is the most important example of such type of forces which have the ability to transform the structures and institutions of the society. At the middle level of change, communities experience alterations in the economic and political field. As for example, with the establishment of any industry, there is a huge demographic as well as economic change in the whole region as more and more people started to move towards the industrial region. It should be mentioned here that, the urban setting provides more opportunities to individual or to a society which was formerly excluded from the political process. Finally, on a micro level, change is generally felt through new patterns of

interactions where an individual or a small group interacts with each other. As for example, some changes are experienced by a family as a result of adoption of new norms, new values and new manners by some of the family members.

If we consider the Neolithic period as the first phase of development with agricultural revolution, then urbanization can be considered as the second phase of development with a marked socio-economic revolution. The urbanization process is quite an old process of cultural change (United Nations; 2004).

## **7. Urban Environment in Bangladesh**

Among the most significant environmental challenges we are facing now-a-days, is the global climate change, excessive fossil fuel dependency and growing demand for energy. “Tertiarization” of productive economic activities has significant repercussions on socio-cultural setup of the urban area. Household expenditure requirements and economic opportunities increase with the size of urban centers. The size of city also affects on the average productivity of the various informal activity and hierarchy of the modern activity. Hence, urbanization is considered as a condition and also as an expression of economic development.

The development in communication sector has totally changed the rural-urban condition of interaction. Extension of peri-urban areas helps in the changing socio-economic way of life in rural and urban areas. Urbanization is characterized by growth in rural sector productivity generated by an increase in the demand to be made.

With a rapid rush to adopt urban way of life, most of the youngsters of surrounding rural areas or suburb areas are trying to convince their earning family members to invest some portion of their income in various socio-cultural activities. Increase in private transport is one important change in this direction. Such a tendency can also be seen among slum dwellers. When earning members are unable to fulfill such requirements, then some type of disturbances generate within the family.

Increase in number of vehicles in towns and cities, help in increase the atmospheric pollution within the urban centers. A large numbers of health and mental disorder generate from such type of pollution.

The proper disposal of human waste is a huge problem in urban areas. Traditional technologies are unable to solve in this regard. Besides, existing toilets are extremely dirty and unhygienic. As a result, most urban slum dwellers relieve themselves in open air surrounding their locality. These results in extremely dirty and unhealthy conditions, with

streets and lanes dotted with human excrements. Such a habit creates lots of problems for women members of the area (Shaw, Margaret; 2007).

### **8. Scenario of Urban Culture in Bangladesh**

The level of urbanization in Bangladesh has increased from about 17 percent in 1980 to about 31 percent in 2011 and will be 50 percent within two decades. Rapid urbanization is witnessed in the country where the urban population ratios doubled. This, with a high population growth, has exerted enormous pressure on urban centers throughout the country. Access to labour, capital and markets, basic infrastructure, skills, technical know-how, networks and market linkages etc are the characteristic feature of efficient cities. But, for urban poor all these facilities are not equally distributed (UN world urbanization prospect; 2007).

In urban areas, the slums represent a huge economic failure. Sprawling urbanization has failed to produce corresponding economic growth which leads to huge gap between urban dwellers. Alcoholism is a disease endemic to slums and it leads to moral and economic degradation. Consuming alcohol by men restricts the amount of income that can be spent for their family which again leads to social diseases of domestic abuse and as serious health disorder.

In countries like Bangladesh, rural to urban migration and the resulting urbanization is related with a vertical shift in the labour force from the agricultural sector to the urban-industrial sector. These urban people, mostly slum dwellers, after recognizing themselves as “temporary workers” in the urban work field, tend to neglect the importance of economic and social changes- though it would improve their lives (World Bank Bangladesh Development series 2007).

### **9. Recommendations**

There is a strong need to engage the informal sector in urban planning processes by making them an equal stakeholder in it. Integration of informal settlements into city planning exercise through parallel efforts of regularization and up gradation of informally developed areas should be taken as utmost importance in urban planning procedures. It is necessary to include the following-

- ✓ Construction of trunk infrastructure to attract investments in preferred locations
- ✓ Opting measures of land development in environmentally sustainable areas which will ensure future expansion of lands. Such areas are generally identified 20-30 years before and be defined by a grid of secondary roads following neighborhood principles

staying clear of areas where development is not desired like ecologically sensitive areas. After identifying, these areas are provided with main infrastructure in a phased manner.

- ✓ Provision of land re-adjustment in some parcels of land, which are consolidated for effective provision of services through mutually beneficial agreements with landowners (Alamgir M; 1973).
- ✓ Provision of transport, energy, water and communication with urban development is also necessary. The availability of trunk infrastructure for water, sewage, roads, electric and telecommunication lines which influence significantly the spatial pattern of growth of urban centers.
- ✓ Access to a range of facilities for urban dwellers irrespective of caste, class, gender, and religion including education, hospitals, markets, community halls, clinics, safe space for recreation, safe space for religious and cultural practices, regional markets and so on (Ahsan,M.,R, & Islam,N; 1999).

## **10. Conclusion**

While Bangladesh is undergoing a rapid rate of urbanization and urban development, urban related problems must be addressed. Proper policy should prepare to address all kinds of negative values and sub-cultures, crimes and violence, poverty, deprivation, social ills, environmental degradation, socio-cultural relations etc. From psychological point of view, all types of urban problems, directly or indirectly, have caused certain form of value change among urban residents ( Barkat, A., & Akhter, S. (2001). The issue is how to improve the existing urban environment into such a place which is peaceful, safe and conducive for each and every single urban resident. Within limited space and resource, all parties concerned will have to continue to make our cities a better place for the benefit of our next generation. It is necessary to formulate the policy to achieve sustainable urbanization in Bangladesh.

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**Original Article**

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**POLICY OPTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND FOOD SECURITY IN HAOR AREAS OF BANGLADESH: A THEORETICAL APPROACH**

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**Abstract:**

This study consists of two theoretical approaches on the policy options regarding the link between entrepreneurship, resource utilization and food security in the haor-basin areas. The first one deals with a Cobb-Douglas technology to investigate the relationship between entrepreneurship and food security. In particular, we suggest that, while more entrepreneurship could mean more productivity in the production sectors, productivity growth in turn could affect the individual arbitrage between different haor's occupations (including entrepreneurship) and expected payoffs. The second question is concerned with the types of haor resource management to which the individuals or local communities direct their talents. We distinguish between community management and government management on the efficient utilization of haor resources. The impact on household food security and resource utilization can be assessed in static and dynamic frameworks.

**Key Words:**

*Policy Options, Sustainable Resource Utilization, Food Security, Haor Area, Bangladesh.*

## **1. Introduction**

Haor- Basin in Bangladesh is one of the world's most valuable ecosystems, located in the north-eastern region of Bangladesh encompassing an area of around 8,000 km<sup>2</sup>, is home to about 19.37 million people. Haors are unique, performing a variety of important ecological functions with their rich ecosystems and bio-diversity. It is a wetland characterized by a large, bowl-shaped tectonic depression that becomes an expansive body of water in the monsoon season, receding in the dry season. They contribute directly to food security through the production of rice, fish and vegetables. The main harvest in these areas, in the early September to end of March is indeed a critical survival mechanism and serves as a source of food security for those local people. However, it is important to mention that the magnitude of food security provided by haors varies with areas and socio-economic status. The variations by socio-economic group are to do with differential access to haors and varying ownership of resources with which to use these areas. Haors also contribute indirectly to food security by providing products which people can collect and sell to avail themselves with cash for purchasing food. Some of the poorer people make a living from collecting craft materials, and fish which they either sell or themselves. Medicinal plants are also found in haors and these items contribute to the well-being of households through direct use or through sales.

The various ways in which haors contribute to food security and the potential for degradation which can occur as a result of increased usage these areas, suggest that a major initiative is needed to help ensure sustainable use of these areas. In addition, recognizing the role of haors in moderating stream flow, especially during rainy season, but also in maintaining the flow during the dry season, shows the clear need to consider the role and functioning of haors and 'beels' not just for immediate food security and livelihood benefits, but also for the wider community and bio-diversity. It is with these multiple goals in mind that the efficient use of haor resources and efficient management of haors need to be examined.

Haor is subject to very peculiar conditions and suffers from extensive annual flooding. This makes livelihoods extremely vulnerable and limits the potential for agriculture production and traditional enterprise growth. For 6 to 7 months of the year, the cultivable land remains completely inundated. Strong wave action adds to the vulnerability as it can potentially wash away the land and poses a major threat to many villages in the haor (Haor Master Plan- 2012). Despite the economic importance of the haors, people in the region are poorer than those in any other part of the country. More than 28% of the total population here lives below the Lower Poverty Line (LPL). Natural disasters are the main reason of poverty, which is

aggravated by lack of availability of basic infrastructure and social amenities, inequity in resources acquisition and poor access to natural resources. Development potentials are huge, but need an integrated approach for maximizing the utilization of resources (both human and natural resources). In this regard, the present study aims to investigate the food security and productivity impact of entrepreneurship and institutional interventions in haor-basins in more details.

Several haors are under increasing pressure and in the process of losing many of their important functions, with serious consequences in the form of changed water regimes, significant conflicts over resource use, and loss of livelihood opportunities. Many haor-basin areas experience a rapidly growing population with poor people moving into the areas in search of livelihood opportunities leading to a strong economic pressure for conversion of haor resources to other functions, and only limited considerations are given to the sustainability of the changes. Management of haor is still very sectoral and does not recognize the multiple functions of haors and existing experiences on sustainable haor management in Bangladesh are not generally available or used by key stakeholders. Planning for land and resource use in haors is limited and furthermore plans are seldom put into practice. Coordination of the activities taking place on the ground in the haors is exceedingly difficult and the skills for undertaking haor management are insufficient. The knowledge-base about haor resources, status and key management problems is limited and no proper policy guidance is in place. So this study is important to examine the policy options for an efficient utilization of scarce haor resources.

The main contribution of this study is threefold. First, we propose and develop two quantitative models to examine efficient methods of haor resource utilization covering general household's problem as well as specific resource utilization issues and pro-poor haor development policy. We believe that rather than examining solely the socio economic concern in general, adding information about some specific issues and attitude measures also in the present study would certainly help us learn more about a haor-basin people's true preference towards their food security and resource utilization. Second, we have reviewed the haor master plan and identified some policy gaps towards food security and haor development. Finally, there has been no literature published to date that has examined haor-basin food security issue on the basis of entrepreneurial activities and comparative resource management policy. This blank space must be filled. In addition, we believe that our theoretical contribution based on haor-basin resource utilization policy options would make national

comparison between haor-basins and other areas possible, which as a result enhances the future research opportunities in this field.

## **2. Objectives and Outcomes**

The study and its theoretical approach will build on the presumption of the collection and availability of data and more innovative elements of the institutional financed project which are operating in the haor-basin districts and have very positive results on different indices. The first objective of the study is to examine the haor master plan and the existing haor-basin resource utilization process, its management system and how the management and utilization process are contributing to the households food security in the haor basin areas. The second purpose of this study is to propose a theoretical model of entrepreneurship and innovation in the haor areas with the aim of improving food security and efficient resource utilization. Finally they study will compare the haor management options between government and community management systems on the basis of a theoretical model. In general, the study will deal with the topics outlined below:

- To evaluate the haor master plan and its policy gaps to ensure efficient and sustainable resource utilization and household's food security.
- The role of innovation and entrepreneurship in the economy of haor, including its growth and productivity impacts, its linkages to other sectors and position in national production chains, and its impact on poverty and health.
- To compare the Community Based Haor Resource Management (CBRM) and indigenous development initiatives in haor areas and the role of knowledge of local population in sustainable livelihoods, reduction of household vulnerability and in facilitating haor-urban resource mobilizations.
- Technological innovation – opportunities or threats for haor development? What skills are needed for haor resource utilization and how can it be developed and explore the policy gap, if any?

## **3. The Main Outcomes Expected from The Study Include**

Policy targets of haor-basin development and policy gaps in the proposed haor master plan-2011, an entrepreneurship model to enhance productivity in the agriculture, access to markets, livelihood opportunities, diversification and marketing of crop and livestock production , a comparison between institutional and Community Based Haor Resource Management (CBRM),

way to improve living standards and reduce vulnerability of the poor, process to enhance village mobility, reduction in production losses and protection against extreme weather events , innovation to enhance access to fishery resources and conservation of biodiversity and methods of efficient, cost effective and equitable use of haor resources.

#### **4. Methodology**

The study is a theoretical and conceptual one whose basic foundation comes from various secondary sources. The linkage of entrepreneurship for haor people's food security is the new idea originated from the Cobb-Douglas function. To remain with the focus of the paper, the study will follow the Cobb-Douglas production technology to develop an entrepreneurship model. Following classical linear regression model we also develop an econometric approach to compare the government and community management system in haor areas. For theoretical motivation the study mainly reviews haor master plan-2011 and other previous research work. The next section presents a review of haor master plan and its policy gap relevant for efficient resource utilization and food security issues along a description on haor areas of Bangladesh. Section five deals with a literature review on the previous research work. After that, section six presents the theoretical model on entrepreneurship and haor development and section seven presents an econometric model to examine the different institutional arrangements of haor resource extraction for haor people livelihoods and sustainable haor resource utilization and finally section eight concludes the study with some policy recommendations.

#### **5. Haor, Haor Master Plan and Policy Gap**

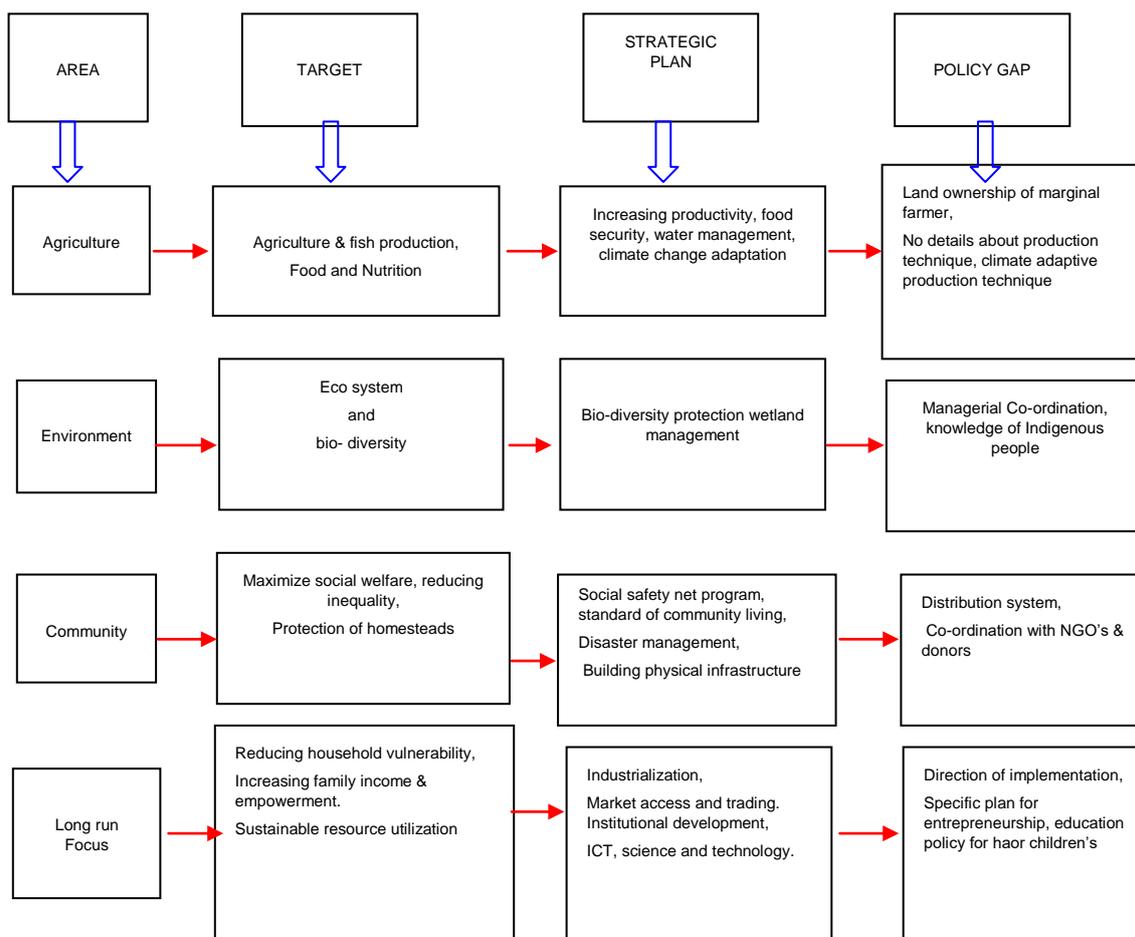
A haor is a wetland ecosystem in the north eastern part of Bangladesh which physically is a bowl or saucer shaped shallow depression, also known as a backswamp (Alam, 2004). Haor-basin area comprises two units, namely Haor and Beel. Haor is a large-scale lakes or hollows where flood- water depth is high, and beels are countless shallow lakes or ponds, surrounded by flooding fields. There are about 373 haors/wetlands located in the districts of Sunamgang, Habiganj, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sylhet, Maulvibazar and Brahmanbaria. There are 47 major Haor, and 6 of them are ranked as internationally important wetlands. There are 6300 Beel, and 3,500 of them are permanent and 2,800 of them are seasonal (Yoshitani et. al 2007). Population of the haor-basin area is tending to increase every year. Transport in this area is mainly by boats in both the rainy season and the dry season. Industries of the Haor area are mainly agriculture and fishing. Residents do agricultural work during the dry season that is

from the middle November to the end of April, and fish in September and December adapting to the life cycle of flooding inhabitant fish sorts. However, during the rest of the flood period in Haor, approximately 40% of the population engages in fishing while the others work as migrant workers or are unemployed (Haor master plan-2012, CEGIS, Yoshitani et. al 2007).

<b>District</b>	<b>Total Area (hectare)</b>	<b>Haor Area (hectare)</b>	<b>No. of Haor</b>
Sunamganj	367,000	268,531	95
Sylhet	349,000	189,909	105
Habiganj	263,700	109,514	14
Maulvibazaar	279,900	47,602	3
Netrakona	274,400	79,345	52
Kishoreganj	273,100	133,943	97
Brahmanbaria	192,700	29,616	7
Total	1,999,800	858,660	373

Source: Haor Master Plan 2012

The government has approved a 20-year master plan for haor areas of the country aimed at development of resources of the haor regions for welfare of the inhabitants of the area, provide adequate living standard, social services and ensure equitable distribution of income and property. The master plan prepared by Ministry of Water Resources is an 'integrated development plan' to ensure optimum utilization of the available resources of haor areas for future development of potential by incorporating all relevant social and environmental considerations. Similarly, local or indigenous knowledge develops over time from a detailed understanding of local environmental conditions, and is modified in response to changing conditions. It is a resource that can help development processes become more sustainable. This has not always been recognized and respected by all haor related stakeholders. If these opportunities can be utilized, the development benefits in terms of greater food and nutritional security, a better diversified and less vulnerable haor economy, growing national revenues and ultimately more, better and sustainable employments for haor poor may be the result.



More than two thirds of local communities carried out their economic activity in the haor areas, including commercial fishing, trade in fuel wood, hunting and trapping waterfowl, the harvesting and sale of grasses and reeds, and farming. People have managed haors sustainably for generations. However, planners have often seen haors as wasted areas, which need to be made economically productive. New management approaches, as designed by government's master plan that depends heavily on technology, innovation, organizational efficiency together with environmental change, mean that many haors are now threatened. In many of the most pressing development challenges today, haor areas agriculture and food security is central. Food and water security, transforming scarce land to be more productive, environmental degradation and climate change, and the capacity of entrepreneurship and innovation in production systems, are but a number of key issues that are currently at the top of community and national agendas.

The development objective of the sustainable haors management component is sustainable haor management approaches implemented widely in the haor-basin areas and contributing to improvement of livelihoods. This is a long-term goal and 10-15 years of support is envisaged

to be needed to achieve this. Another important objective is wise use policy being applied in selected haors and integrated development framework and support functions for sustainable haor management operational. The first immediate objective reflects the existence of GO/NGO base institutional activities and the importance of progress on the haor livelihood with tangible examples of more sustainable management output. The second immediate objective stresses the need for ensuring that the institutional level provides better support to field level implementation. A number of haor-related programs, projects and activities are undertaken in haor-basin areas supported to a great extent by external donors. Many of these activities are comprehensive and achieving a number of important results. Their co-ordination can, however, be improved, as they work somewhat in isolation and their selection of field activities should be better linked to national priorities. The master plan must point out and design the avenues so that there will be a continued opportunity to enhance co-ordination via the work of GO/NGOs and the haor unit as well as through the framework of the haor master plan management strategy.

### **5.1 The Specific Objectives of the Haor Master Plan**

- Integration of haor issues into planning processes and implementation in haor-basin regions in general and improvement of sustainable haor management
- Develop integrated programs to ensure efficient resource utilization prevent degradation of resources and ensure sustainable management.
- To establishment of haor inventory and monitoring activities as well as to strategic studies in support of policy development
- To increase agricultural production, protection of homesteads and infrastructures compatible with the ecosystem.
- Sustainable utilization of haor resources to the benefit of local people in a way compatible with the conservation of biodiversity
- Strong emphasis on the poverty alleviation, redesign the expansion of settlements and infrastructural development for wise management of wetlands.
- To increase awareness on the maintain aquatic environment, preserve natural water bodies such as haors and beels, and facilitate drainage among key target groups.
- To improve skills among key stakeholders to provide support to keep and maintain existing wetlands in and around natural canals for mitigation of flood risk and damage.

□ Research and recommend integrated approach oriented interventions and future action programs based on proper survey, investigation as well as department/agency-wise action plans.

□ Strategic information and analysis available to guide policies, frame projects in line with local demands and implementation of wetland management projects through local government institutions or any other appropriate organizations.

A long term development strategy behind the master plan approach is that haors management will need to develop new and innovative approaches towards integration of land-use planning, production techniques and adaptations, water resource management and natural resource management and that this integration and innovation needs to include not only the haor communities themselves but the capacities for implementation of plans. Economic theory suggests that entrepreneurial planning processes will be supported. Development and implementation of such integrated management approaches takes considerable time and will probably require external support for a considerable period. But the role of entrepreneurship is not adequately mentioned in the haor master plan.

## **5.2 Entrepreneurship and Food Security**

Should haor people start firms or an organization to produce market related goods and services? And if they do, what impact will such entrepreneurship have on their employment, household income, productivity and food security? These questions are at the heart of haor research, not just important in economics but for government and other development organizations. Relationship between entrepreneurship and productivity improvement and economic development is a result of the tangible expression of entrepreneurship's skills, and more precisely, their propensity to innovate. The carrying out of new productions through the innovative activity can be described by distinguishing five cases (Schumpeter 1911): (1) The introduction of a new product – that is one with which haor peoples are not yet familiar – or of a new quality of a agricultural product. (2) The introduction of a new method of production, that is one not yet tested by experience in the area of haor agriculture or fishery, which need by no means be founded upon a discovery scientifically new, and can also exist in a new way of handling a commodity commercially. (3) The opening of a new market, that is a market into which the particular branch of production of the haor in question has not previously entered, whether or not this market has existed before. (4) The conquest of a new

source of supply of raw materials (5) The carrying out of the new organization (govt. of NGOs) of any industry.

**Table: Types of Entrepreneurships Relevant in Haor Areas**

	Self employed	Employee
Entrepreneurial	Schumpeterian Entrepreneurs	Intrapreneurs
Managerial	Managerial Business owners	Executives Managers

Source: Wennekers et Thurik (1999, p.47)

Among the possible classes of entrepreneurship, we will emphasize on Schumpeterian entrepreneurs to build our theoretical model. The model has received a special treatment in the economic literature because it has link with the technological change and innovation. Through the innovative activity, the Schumpeterian entrepreneur seeks to create new profit opportunities that can result from productivity increases.

The starting point is to distinguish a necessity of entrepreneurship,” which has to become an entrepreneur because we have no better option, from an opportunity of entrepreneurship,” which is an active choice to start a new enterprise based on the perception that an unexploited or underexploited resource utilization opportunity exists in the haor-basin areas. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2010 Global Report states that: “Most policymakers and academics agree that entrepreneurship is critical to the development and well-being of society. Entrepreneurs create jobs. They drive and shape innovation, speeding up structural changes in the economy. They contribute indirectly to productivity by introducing new competition. Entrepreneurship is thus a catalyst of economic growth and national competitiveness,” (Kelley, Bosma, and Amorós, 2010, p.12).

As such, an enterprise creates the opportunity for extending up of some key economic components of the previous institutional investment such as organizing the labor contracting group for construction of village roads, using block building technology for submersible roads construction which is more durable and cost-effective. In addition, entrepreneurship will strengthen and expand the community management of water bodies that have found to have a significant impact on fish production and increase in incomes of poor fishing households. Building rural markets which have proved very successful as part of the market infrastructure development can increase local people’s income directly and it has backward production linkages.

We use a Cobb-Douglas function to model the relationship between input factors, entrepreneurship innovation and the level of production. Cobb–Douglas production function of the general form:

$$Y = A^0 K^\alpha L^\delta$$

where Y= output,  $A^0$  = disembodied factor productivity, K= Stock of physical capital; L= Labor employed. Dividing both side by L:

$$Y/L = A^0 (K/L)^\alpha L^{\alpha+\delta-1}$$

f we allow constant returns to scale,  $\alpha + \delta = 1$

Therefore,  $Y/L = A^0 (K/L)^\alpha \dots\dots\dots(i)$

Taking natural logs on both sides,

$$\ln(Y/L) = \ln A^0 + \alpha \ln(K/L) \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

Now we can take first differences in order to obtain growth in Y/L as the dependent variable.

For small percentage changes,

$$\Delta \ln(Y/L) = \% \text{ change in } (Y/L)$$

$$\Delta \ln(Y/L) = \Delta \ln A^0 + \alpha [\Delta \ln(K/L)] \dots\dots\dots(iii)$$

We assume the growth in disembodied factor productivity,  $A^0$ , to be explained by stock of knowledge capital (technological innovation or any other innovative activities of GO or NGO related projects) and entrepreneurs (total entrepreneurial activity rate). Therefore we can write the following equation:

$$\Delta \ln A^0 = B^0 + \eta Pjt + \phi TEA \dots\dots\dots(iv)$$

where  $B^0$  = constant ; Pjt= intensity of project related activities measuring Technological Innovation Intensity; TEA= Total Entrepreneurial activity measuring either entrepreneurship rate or GO/NGO project base activities in a sector, e.g. fishery or poultry and any other agricultural product. Substituting (iv) into (iii):

$$\Delta \ln(Y/L) = B^0 + \eta Pjt + \phi TEA + \alpha [\Delta \ln(K/L)] \dots\dots\dots(v) \text{ For cross-region context,}$$

we can include base year value of (Y/L) to control the convergence effect. Therefore,

$$\Delta \ln(Y/L) = B^0 + \lambda \ln(Y/L)_{t-1} + \alpha [\Delta \ln(K/L)] + \eta Pjt + \phi TEA \dots\dots\dots(vi) \text{ Now we can operationalize}$$

the model (v) and (vi) to examine the impact of entrepreneurship on household food security through the increased productivity.

*Proposition one: Productivity growth by entrepreneurship will be greater in haors with NGO's activities than non-entrepreneurial activities.*

*Proposition two: Productivity growth by entrepreneurship will be lower if any institutional barriers to entrepreneurship*

## **6. Resource Utilization: Community versus Government**

This section is aiming to find out the effects of different institutional arrangements of haor resource extraction on haor people livelihoods and haor development. Different haor-basin areas with different arrangements (i.e. institutions either government or formed by the international organizations practicing some rules for the extraction of haor resources) will be selected for this comparison. There are different degrees of dependency among the households based on resource extraction for their livelihoods. However, different types of institutional arrangements which are governed by different set of rules are being practiced by the haor people to extract these resources in the face of tremendous pressure on haor areas imposed by emerging population and acute poverty. These may be the set of resource utilization rules adhered to the individuals or groups engaged in the haor uses (Table 1). Nevertheless, the absence of structured and efficient institutional arrangements, haor resources is being collected in unsustainable ways which lead to the destruction and depletion of resources. Therefore, this section is seeking to solve this haor management issue by examining the role of different institutional arrangements of resource collection on poverty reduction, haor biodiversity conservation and haor development.

**Table 1: Institutional Arrangements of Resource Extraction in Haors**

<b>Institutions (Arrangements)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>How do they function</b>
Co-management	Formal	A group of haor dependent rural people have been undertaken into co-management regime through providing alternative income generating (AIG) support to reduce their dependency on haor-basins. However, those people still may have some degree of dependency on haors specially for seasonal fishing which is informal
Regular access	Informal	Practice by the group of extreme poor people mostly women (80%) for collecting food items which is the only mean for their daily livelihood
Conditional access	Formal but implemented informally	Practice by the group of poor people who have been registered as day labor for haor resource management works, on return, they collect their necessary items informally; or other than that some of the people

<b>Institutions (Arrangements)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>How do they function</b>
		pay toll to haor management department staff informally before entering into the haor areas to collect resources
Limited access	Informal	A group of people enter into haor areas at a frequency of three days per week to collect various resources
Seasonal access	Informal	This may practice by a group of local people where they collect resources seasonally as during the harvesting season of specific haor products.
No access/ban	Formal	No access or ban to any type of haor resources and need food substitution compensation policy

So, a research hypothesis would like to answer the question: “how and to what extent the socio-economic and haor development benefits differ with difference in institutional arrangements of haor resource management in the haor-basin areas?” There is a haor master plan and policy guidelines about haor resource extraction in the latest haor resource utilization policy of Bangladesh (Haor Master Plan-2012 vol-1, 2, 3). Moreover, there is a ban to some types of resource extraction in the different haor areas. While haor resource extractions are the major livelihood activities in the haor areas of the haor people of Bangladesh. So, there is a conflict between the haor dependent rural people and government policy on the same. Therefore, it is essential to formulate a comprehensive and well articulated ‘Haor policy for efficient resource utilization’ or to develop policy statement or policy guidelines which are vital for the better management of haor resources to get sustainable haor development and livelihood benefits.

Let consider the stakeholders from different villages surrounding the haor areas who have varied degree of dependency on these haor resources for their livelihoods. So, household level variables include information on production, income and consumption expenditure, dependency; where household income source will be grouped into different key sources, such as income from agriculture, livestock, off farm income and income from common property resources. Variables related with households socio-economic status like, education, age, household size, gender roles, land holding, land under irrigation and non-irrigation, land under private forest, livestock holding, relationship with political party when party is in power and distance from market and from nearby haor resource hub. To measure the gross income from the haor resources, the total quantity of resources collected for 12 months by their

respective prices will be estimated. All cash and labor costs, including cost of tools and equipment used in the collection of resources will be measured to calculate the net income from haor resources.

Next we need to estimate the economic dependence of haor populations. Household benefits of haor resources practicing different institutional arrangements can be assessed by valuing the resources collected and harvested from haors. The economic value of different resources will be estimated. Firstly, gross income of resources to household livelihood will be measured by the total amount of cash income (ignoring transportation cost as the location of market is nearby their collection place) generated by the selling of resources in the market. So, the gross income generated by selling resources is used to explain the market value of resource and the commercial collection of resources. Where the extraction is sustainable, the value of the haor products will be measured using the formula:  $\sum Q_i(P_i - C_i)$ , where  $Q_i$ =the quantity of good extracted,  $P_i$ = the price of the good (which may be equal its price under competitive market conditions with no externalities),  $C_i$ = cost of extraction and  $i = (0-n)$  i.e. set of haor products. An attempt may be made to find out the resource extraction rent (market price minus the cost of producing and collection) using the monetary value of time spend for collection and processing of resources and legal and illegal token fee involving in the entry into the haor-basin areas. Different methods of resources valuation will be used for those are not traded in formal markets or bartered locally. Non market share of resources use for household consumption also to be assessed by using the same market price of sold item. Both the gross and net income (i.e. revenue minus cash and imputed costs of labor, costs of tools and equipments and their depreciation cost) of resources will be calculated following the different market valuation methods of non-market goods. Then the household dependency on haor resources will be measured by the proportion of resources income to the total income of the household.

On the basis of the above analysis, we can set two regression models to find out the significant factors related to resources income for different institutional arrangements. Another dependent variable is the ratio of haor resources income to non-haor resources income which will also be regressed using independent variables. Both regression models will be examined separately for different institutions to assess which arrangement have significant impacts on improving rural (households) livelihoods and haor development.

Econometric analysis will include the pattern of household's economic activities and distribution of various annual average incomes by economic activity of the sample households

in different institutional arrangements. In order to investigate the linkages between resources extraction, dependence and household's income in different institutional arrangements, two regression models have to set. Resources extraction model with two regressands and error specification is as follows

$$Y_i = f(X_i, \beta) + e_i \quad (1)$$

Where  $Y_i$  is a dependent variable, shows haor resources income in the first model and in the second model it shows the ratio of haor resources income to non- haor resources income in two different areas  $i, i = 1,2$ .

$f(X_i, \beta)$  is the deterministic part of the model,  $X_i$  is a vector of two inputs of both household's total income and square of total income,  $\beta$  is a vector of unknown parameters to be estimated and  $e_i$  is a residual component. The regression results will lead us to draw an inference how haor resources extraction changes within a range of household income and the degree of resources dependence on two haors system.

Various socio-economic factors have significant influence on the haor resources dependency, the nature of resources extraction, effectiveness in utilization of community resources and haor management policy.

So, gross haor resources income can be modeled including all relevant socio-economic variables and three dummy variables.

$$Z_i = f(\aleph_i, \alpha_i, Di) + \eta_i \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where  $Z_i$  is a dependent variable of total gross resources income from haors and private lands,

$f(\aleph_i, \alpha_i, Di)$  is the deterministic part of the model,  $\aleph_i$  is a vector of following explanatory variables:

$\aleph_1 = hage$  = Age of household age in years

$\aleph_2 = edu$  = Average education of household (in no. of schooling years

$\aleph_3 = pfland$  = Land under private cultivation (in decimal)

$\aleph_4 = livestock$  = Number of livestock owned by a household

$D_1 = gender$  = Gender of household head (1=if female and 0= otherwise)

$D_2 = polink$  = Holding political power as party is in power (1=if not link, 0=otherwise)

$D_3 = institutions$  = Institutional arrangements (1=if with formal arrangement, 0=otherwise)

$\aleph_5 = frmsize$  = Number of people in household

$d.frmsize$  = Number of people in household x dummy of haor type

$\aleph_6 = landt$  = Land area under household management excluding private cultivation (in decimal)

$d.landt$  = Land area under household management excluding private cultivation x dummy of haor type

$\aleph_7 = distance$  = Distance to haor from households (km.)

$d.distance$  = Distance to haor from household (km) x dummy of haor type

$\alpha_i$  is a coefficient of variables to be estimated and  $\eta_i$  is a residual component.

Therefore, analysis based on estimated regression results will provide us a list of variables that might have significant impact on total haor resources income. Along with socio-economic characteristics, regression result will also provide an indication whether rules and regulations have a significant impact on haor resources based livelihood or not.

*Proposition: Formal institutional (government) arrangements of haor resource management have less significant impacts on efficient resource utilization, improving household's livelihoods and haor development than the community or indigenous management.*

## **7. Conclusions**

Haor has plentiful potentiality of agriculture production and abundance of fish. After that haors all over the Bangladesh are threatened in spite of various international agreements and national policies. Public good nature of haors (a lack of enforceable property rights) and policy intervention failures, particularly a lack of uniformity among policies in different areas such as, economic, agriculture, environment, nature protection, physical planning are the main reasons. Therefore, sustainable resource utilization and food security policies are heart of haor areas research. Integrated haor research program combining social and natural sciences can provide the way to solve the management problem and to get a grasp on the required consistency among various government policies. A theoretical framework is presented here that suggests that a combination of entrepreneurial innovations and economic valuation, systems modelling, stakeholder analysis, and management evaluation can provide complementary insights into sustainable and welfare-optimizing haor-basin management and

policy. A recent haor master plan underpins the importance of combining the various techniques to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of sustainable solutions to haor degradation and loss. The study made preferences to work with local communities than government management system and entrepreneurial access to the haor natural resources to ensure the sustainable resource utilization.

Haor management requires coordination amongst different users in order to obtain the best returns from these areas in a sustainable manner. Haors and beels are inter-linked systems and actions in one area can lead to changes elsewhere in the wetland which can impact upon other users. In order to make progress, further and intensified co-operation is needed between government initiatives, project taken by NGOs and other international agencies and local community knowledge. We develop a model that connect in a systematic and coherent way all necessary economic information's and two alternative haor management systems. Such an approach is theoretical and requires detailed information, description of ecological, natural and socio-economic data. Therefore we recommending complementary research program of haor master plan on haor economy focusing on agricultural land and product verities, water resources and fisheries, forestry, wetland, land distribution and co-management systems.

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**Original Article**

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**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) OF JANATA BANK LIMITED (JBL): A  
CASE STUDY**

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**Abstract:**

Worldwide concern is increasing gradually about corporate social responsibility (CSR). Now, the banking sector in Bangladesh has a glorious history of getting involved themselves in diverse kinds of social events which are officially known as CSR. This paper provides an impression of CSR in Janata Bank Limited (JBL). The paper has been based on secondary data gathered from the annual reports of the JBL for the some years. The bank adds definitely in supporting education & research, poverty reduction & rehabilitation, health & treatment, combat against natural calamity, preservation of history, tradition, culture and sports, preservation of the environment, the expansion of technology etc. The bank meets the required legislation necessities linked to CSR. The findings of the study reveal that CSR events of JBL are limited in certain areas. It will be of great assessment for practitioners and researchers pursuing to increase a better understanding of CSR reporting in various social-systems based theoretical aspects.

**Key Words:**

*CSR, JBL, Education, Health,  
Environment.*

## **1. Introduction**

In developing states, the challenge of corporate social responsibility (CSR) is outlined by a vision that was refined in 2015. In New York, USA in the 70th United Nation General Assembly began from 15th is an important one with a plan for changing the earth with sustainable development. At the United Nations summit, the Seventieth session for action for acceptance of the development agenda of post -2015 were held from 25-27 September 2015 stated that, This agenda is a strategy of act for individuals, earth and affluence. Moreover, it pursues to support widespread amity in greater freedom (Nath, 15 September, 2015). In the SDG, there are 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets declared to establish the scale and desire of the fresh worldwide Agenda. They pursue to shape on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and accomplish what those are not attained. They pursue to understand the human rights of all and the enablement of very females and girls and to attain gender equality. They are assimilated and inseparable and equilibrium the three extents of sustainable development: the social, environmental and economic (UN, 2015). Unfortunately, these global objectives persist distant from being met in so many developing states currently. People create firms to assign their means for the determination of common objectives, to get the revenue. To attain this goal, they network with society also. Organization can be divided into Government organization Profit oriented organization and Non for Profit organization on the source of their intentions. Government organizations express the rules and regulations and organization of the society in which firm carries its actions. Profit focused organizations attempt to make the most of owner's affluence. The final one is not for profit organizations do the social acts when society requires. There are such types of organizations persist in the society (Iqbal, et. al., 2014). More and more scholars have begun to concentrate to the CSR concerns with increasing financial progress. CSR affects many different structures of business, such as employment and investment domains, customer loyalty, corporate financial performance (CFP), along with environmental administration (Wang, 2015).

It is remorseful that Bangladesh is still in behind position in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, though globally, it is being adept extensively (Azim et al., 2011). In actual fact, CSR is an issue of self-interest for the business segment in Bangladesh (Azim & Islam, 2009). At present, among the business section, banks have shown relatively better trends to complete CSR events. As the central bank in Bangladesh, "Bangladesh Bank" has taken initiatives to inspire the banking concerns to play a vital role in the well-being of the society in accomplishing CSR activities. Keeping this point in mind, this study makes an effort to

explore to what extent the Janata Bank Limited (JBL) in Bangladesh is involved in CSR activities.

## **2. Definition of CSR**

CSR is a familiar concept and can be clarified as Corporate which involves structured trade or industry; social refers to dealing with people entirety and the society as well; Responsibility refers to the liability within the two issues. In general, CSR can be defined as the course of business processes accepted to advantage the society. It means to the open and corporate performs that are centered on moral standards and respect for personnel, societies and the environment. It is intended to carry maintainable worth to the people along with the owners.

The European Union's (EU) Green Paper Promoting a European Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility (2001) termed CSR as "a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis." Carrol (1991) defined CSR as "an organization's commitment to operate in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner while recognizing the interests of all its stakeholders." According to Kotler & Keller defined CSR as "a commitment to improve societal wellbeing through discretionary business practices and contributions of corporate resources".

There are two perspectives of CSR. From the narrow perspective of CSR, it is accountable for the shareholders / owners. Second one is a broader perspective of CSR, which is accountable for the mainstream of the interested party, comprising consumers, suppliers, managers, board of directors, employees and government, managing the business interests and societal interests also (Qi-jun, 2007). CSR signifies a plethora of responsibilities that a corporation should accept in their strategies and implement beyond legal desires in retort to the desires and potentials of its diverse interested party and people on the whole. Lastly, the combination of the definitions views that CSR necessitates a corporation to-

- Reflect the economic, social and environmental effects of its corporate actions; and
- Respond the desires and hopes of its personnel, shareholders, customers, investors, and the local populations (Nasrullah & Rahim, 2014).

## **3. Literature Review**

Literature acknowledged that CSR performances differ from one state to another country and among the developed and developing states. Besides, the nature and forms of CSR vary

concerning kinds of business (Das et al., 2015). Study of CSR performances in western states found that corporations agreed the maximum prominence on revealing human resource statistics, for instance equal prospects, employee share possession, employee numbers and compensation, disability strategies, and employee training (Gray et al. 2001). CSR may be represented as "corporate citizenship" and can comprise acquiring short-term costs that do not deliver an instant monetary advantage to the corporation, but in its place endorse affirmative societal and environmental transformation. The term usually relates to corporation purposes that go beyond whatever may be essential by environmental protection groups or supervisors. The current globalization calls corporations to be more involved in CSR events (Chapple & Moon, 2005).

Obalola (2008) in his study has seen that, the Nigerian Insurance industry has a solid provision for CSR and the transformation of this backing into the act through participation in some public centered projects. The indication from the study moreover recommends that CSR is still mostly apparent as a humanitarian movement. Dusuki & Dar (2005) claimed that CSR framework the standard of actions to which a firm must pledge to influence people in a constructive and a creative way simultaneously for instance enduring by standards which disregard in search of profit at any cost. Arevalo & Aravind (2011) investigated the interpretation of CSR by Indian corporations and found that they are mostly in favor of stakeholder approach and caring or the moral motive. Besides, the most noteworthy obstacles to CSR execution were described to be the deficiency of funds and CSR difficulty. Nejati & Ghasemi (2012) examined carrying out of CSR in Iran from the viewpoint of personnel and exposed that in spite of a few score in all four inspected areas of CSR, Iranian personnel seeming their institutions to be properly devoted to CSR. Khan (2010) explored the CSR recording information about Bangladeshi registered commercial banks and inspected the possible special effects of corporate governance fundamentals on CSR releases. The key outcomes of this study specified that though charitable, general CSR commentary by private commercial banks of Bangladesh is reasonable; though, the diversity of CSR items is fairly inspiring. The consequences as well specified that in attendance is no noteworthy connection between CSR reporting and women's image on the board. Though, the outcomes reveal an important influence on the CSR reporting by non-executive directors and attachment of external residents. Thus, there is a research gap to find the sector wise CSR of the JBL, a State-owned Commercial Bank (SoCB) in Bangladesh.

Accordingly, this study attempts to reveal the extent to which the banks in Bangladesh are practicing CSR and disclosing relevant information in their annual reports in nine different areas called a) education & research b) health & treatment c) poverty reduction & rehabilitation d) combat against natural calamity e) helping the poor, marginal, agriculturists f) preservation of history-tradition, culture and sports g) preservation of environment h) invention and h) expansion of technology.

#### **4. Objectives of the Study**

The Present study aims to evaluate the different dimensions of Corporate Social Responsibility by studying the following Objectives:

- To study the concept of CSR;
- To study the major areas of CSR initiatives of JBL.
- To focus on the present status of CSR practices of JBL.

#### **5. Justification for the Study**

There is seeing a rise in the mission of social responsibility from the corporate sector for of its significance to the improvement of any state (Safety & Rights Society, 2014). Thus, CSR is not considered as a threat to the success of commercial aims of a business; somewhat CSR is an opportunity to set the base of commercial growth of organizations in relations of competitive advantage in international markets (Belal, 2008). It is accordingly demanding of corporations to being publicly accountable in order to form their name, which may in sequence affect their customer support. This research can discover the condition of CSR missions in JBL and give a recommendation as per necessity.

#### **6. Methodology**

The study is centered on secondary data which are gathered from annual reports of JBL and related publications and from the Banks' websites, periodicals, Bangladesh Bank's publications, newspapers are used. A list of interrelated articles from several journals is as well used to improve the elementary idea about the specific topic and numerous international determinations and initiatives for developing and implementing CSR values and strategies were examined. Some vital books are also used to make understand the topic well.

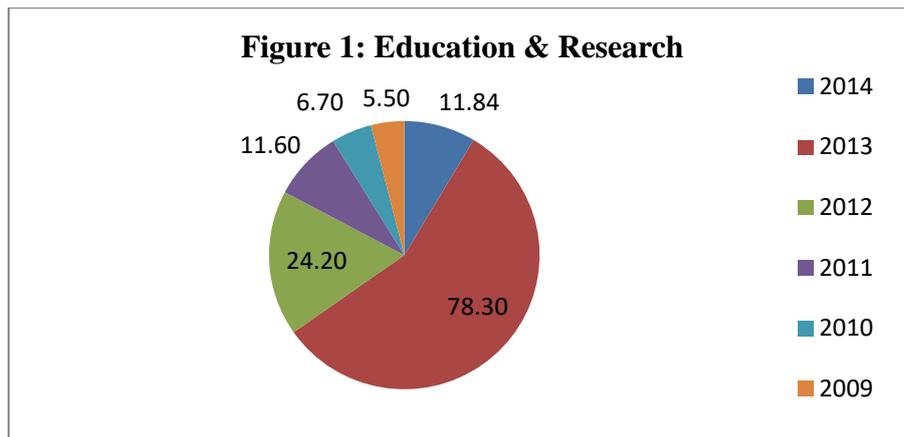
## **7. Background of Janata Bank Limited (JBL) and CSR**

Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state emerged in 1971 after a distressing nine month liberation war against the West Pakistan. In such conditions, actions had been taken to combine several banks formerly worked in this area with the purpose of restructuring the state's economy. A new bank initiated under the Banks Nationalization Order (President's Order No. 26) of 1972, which is Janata Bank by merging the former, United Bank Limited and Union Bank Limited in 1972. Janata Bank got recorded with the Joint Stock of Registrars and rearranged it as a public limited company with the label Janata Bank Limited (JBL) in 15 November, 2007. It is a reliable commercial body over the years and the 2nd largest commercial bank in respect of Deposits/Assets in Bangladesh. As her embankment instantly after the rise of this fertile rich sedimentary soil as a free, sovereign state, it has been playing a crucial role in total economic events in the state and possesses a long legacy of serving praiseworthy facilities to the public. The support of the Bank to the state economy and societal reform has set the standard bar so extraordinarily that others in this corporate arena can't have a desire of touching the yardstick of achievement got by JBL (Janata Bank Limited, n. d.). JBL trusts that CSR is about how corporations bring about the corporate procedures to create a complete positive effect on the society. In fact, the concept of CSR is achieving recognition swiftly as the support that companies can and must make willingly on the way to environmentally workable and publicly even handed progress. JBL, as a bank and economic organization have to take actions within some compulsions set by Bangladesh Bank and the Government. JBL obeys to moral, social and legal obligations (JBL, 2015).

## **8. Results and Discussion**

### **8.1 Education & research**

Proper education for the learners can empower social lives to liberate the persons thinking from the curse of darkness and illiteracy. It signifies as the basis in the improvement practice of any society and the basic pointer of the individual's advancement and affluence (Rabbi, 2008).

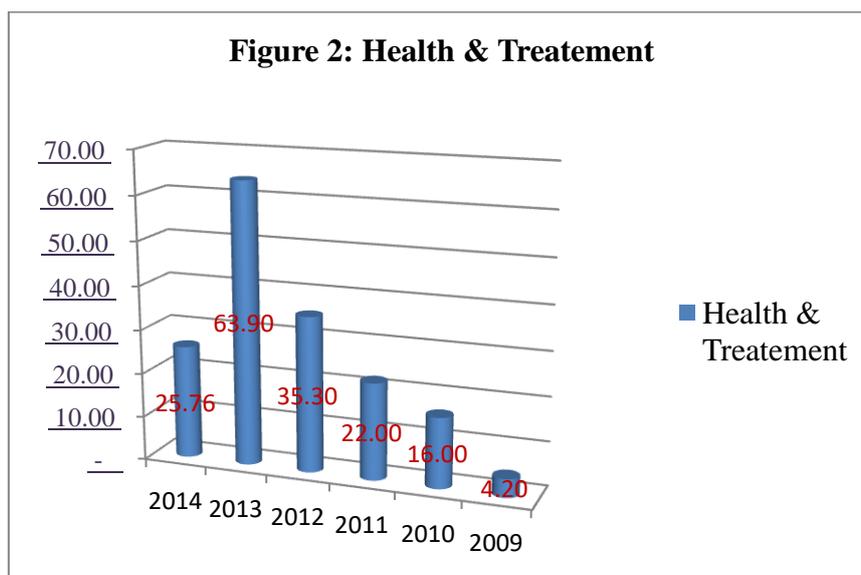


[Total.138.14 Million]

The figure 1 depicts that, from 2009-2011, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 5.50, 6.70 and 11.60 BDT in Million. The disbursement from JBL is 24.20, 78.30 and 11.84 consecutively from the year 2012-2014. In the year 2014, the disbursement in education sector dropped so much.

## 8.2 Health & treatment

A UN award received by Bangladesh for its significant successes in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), mostly for attaining MDGs 4 no. goal, that is reducing the child mortality rate. The country has attained noteworthy progress up to now on the issue of the decrease of maternal mortality rate, child mortality rate, crude birth rate, death rate, the rise of life expectancy and fertility rate also. Though, in spite of the achievements, governance challenges in this segment still exist that obstruct more attainments (TIB, 2014).

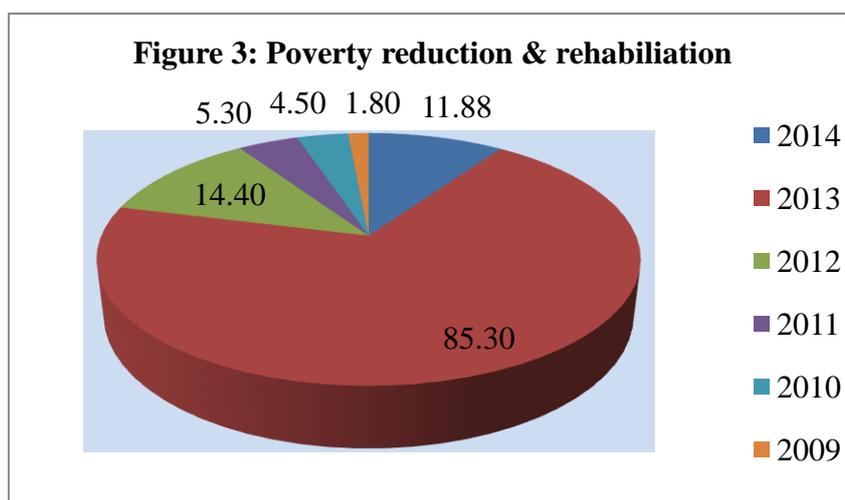


[Total.167.16 Million]

Figure 2 illustrates that, the disbursement from JBL is 4.20, 16.00 and 22.00 consecutively from the year 2009-2011. From the year 2012-2014, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 35.30, 63.90 and 25.76 BDT in Million. The total disbursement from 2009-2012 is 167.07 million taka. Though, there seen gradual increase of disbursement from 2009-2013. But, from 2013-2014, the disbursement reduced.

### **8.3 Poverty Reduction & Rehabilitation**

Through the constitutional commitment of increasing and supporting a society in which the elementary needs and desires of all individuals are met and everyone can do well in independence and relish the standards and principles of a free society, the dream of Bangladesh is poverty alleviation policy is to extensively decrease poverty. For this, poverty alleviation and societal progress have been made the all-encompassing independent planned objectives (Aminuzzaman, 2007).



[Total.123.18 Million]

The figure 3 depicts that, from 2009-2011, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 1.80, 4.50 and 5.30 BDT in Million. The disbursement from JBL is 14.40, 85.30 and 11.88 consecutively from the year 2012-2014. In the year 2014, the disbursement in the poverty reduction and rehabilitation sector dropped significantly.

### **8.4 Combat Against Natural Calamity**

At the global level, Bangladesh is repeatedly recognized as the state of natural catastrophes. The socioeconomic effects of natural calamities are very damaging in Bangladesh. Natural catastrophes roots the demise of many lives nearly every year and besides it generate the risks

of unemployment, poverty which might be a universal difficulty at the forthcoming time. Natural calamities frequently cause food problems in the state also. Owing to natural disasters, many people have to subject on aids since they miss nearly whole things in the natural calamities (Khan & Nahar, 2014).

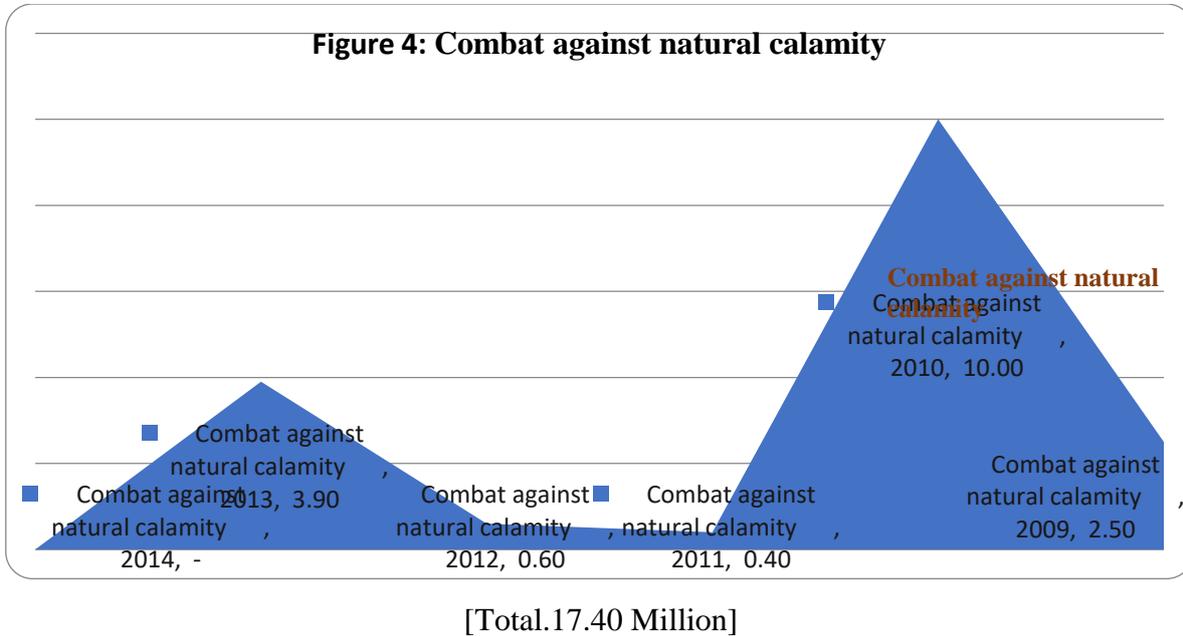
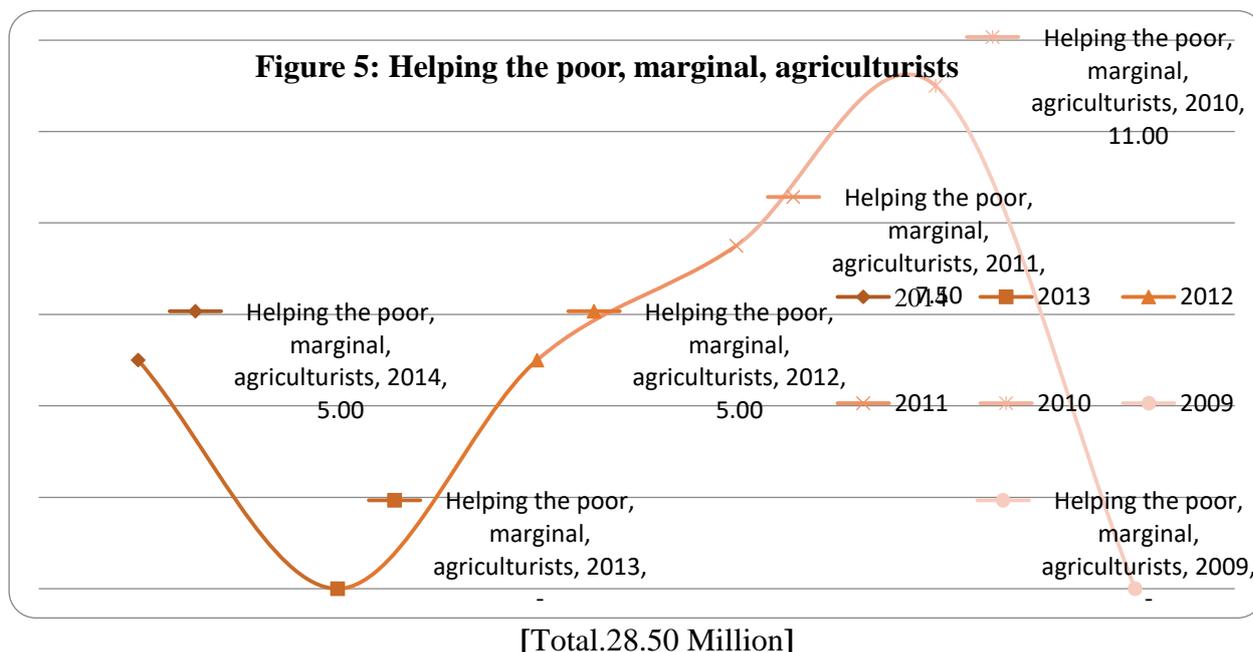


Figure 4 represents that, the disbursement from JBL is 2.50, 10.00 and 0.40 consecutively from the year 2009-2011. From the year 2012-2014, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 0.60, 3.90 and 0.00 BDT in Million. The total disbursement from 2009-2012 is 17.40 million taka. Though, there seen poor disbursement in the segment of combat against natural calamity.

### 8.5 Helping the Poor, Marginal, Agriculturalists

Though Bangladesh is on path for Middle Income Country position by 2021, agriculture is still the chief employer in the state definitely; and 47.5% of the total populations are openly employed in agriculture and about 70% population is contingent on agriculture in one method or alternative for their maintenance. Agriculture is the basis of food supply for people through livestock, fisheries, and crops. All these are the basis of raw materials for industrial sector, of wood for construction; and a producer of foreign exchange for the state through the trade of agricultural supplies, whether it is raw materials or processed product. It is the motor of the improvement of the agro-industrial sector, as well as input production and marketing, food processing, and associated facilities. As it provides the main foundation of economic relations

in rural ranges, it plays an important role in decreasing poverty, which rests a principally rural phenomenon (Miah, 2015).



The figure 5 depicts that, from 2009-2011, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 0.00, 11.00 and 7.50 BDT in Million. The disbursement from JBL is 5.00, 0.00 and 5.00 consecutively from the year 2012-2014. There seen lots of ups and down from the year 2009-2014, the disbursement, in the helping the poor, marginal, agriculturists segment.

### 8.6 Preservation of History-Tradition, Culture and Sports

The culture of Bangladesh has its own, solid character and exclusive behavior shaped by its history, traditions, nature, customs and long difficult fights for national identity and existence. The periods old national customs of Bangladesh are revealed in a various material and immaterial legacy - in sculptures, stones and terracotta, archaeological places, constructions, paintings, dramas, folk arts, museums, libraries, archives, classical music, songs and dance, commemorations, sports along with folkloric cultural events (Akter, 2008).

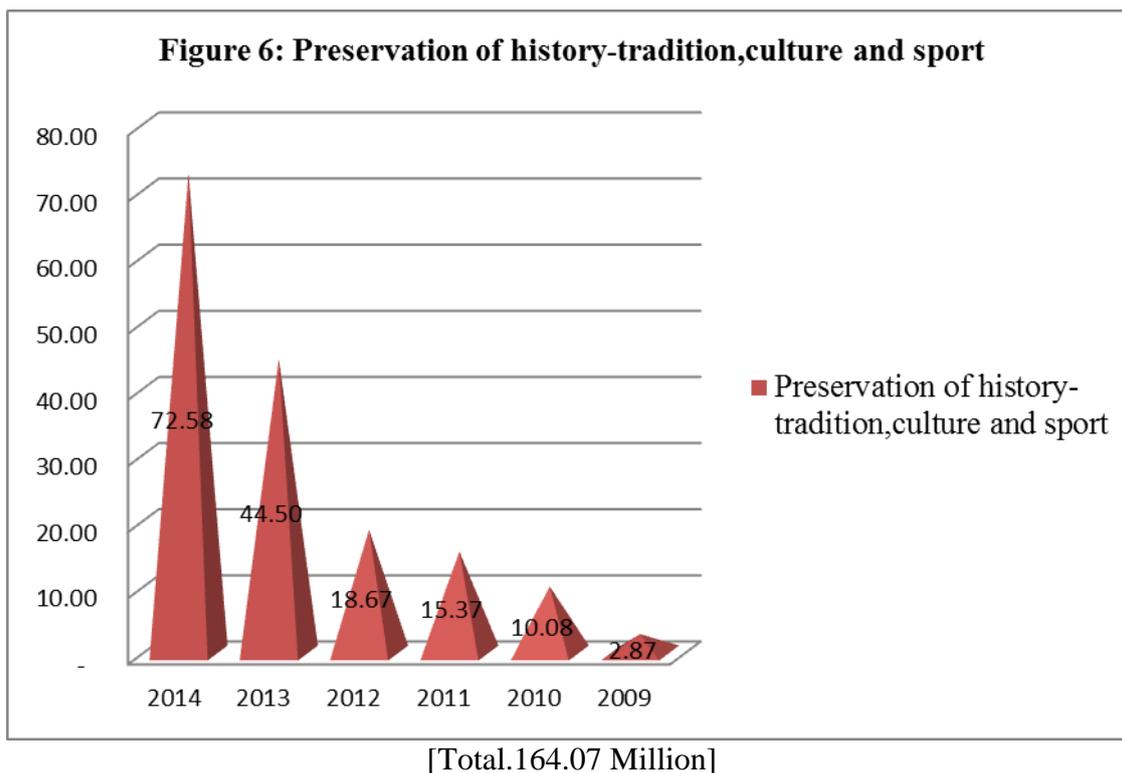
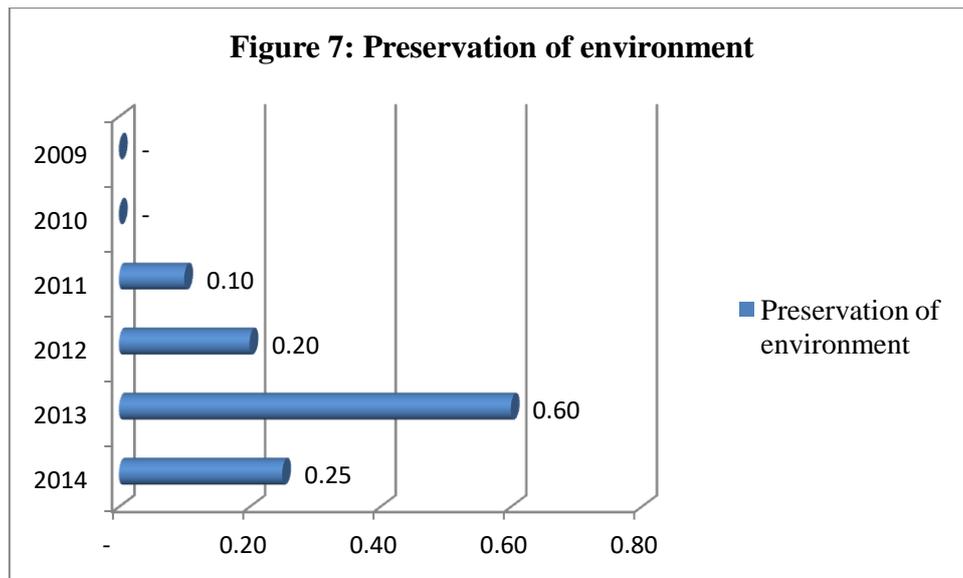


Figure 6 represents that, the disbursement from JBL is 2.87, 10.08 and 15.37 consecutively from the year 2009-2011. From the year 2012-2014, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 18.67, 44.50 and 72.58 BDT in Million. The total disbursement from 2009-2012 is 164.07 million taka. Though, there seen gradually increasing disbursement in the segment of preservation of history-tradition, culture and sports.

### 8.7 Preservation of Environment

In a state like Bangladesh, where competition for assets is strong and the booming capability of the natural resource base has got its edges with the growing urbanization and development, the matter of appropriate administration of environment for attaining sustainable progress has enormous probability to create not only viable growth but release the social strain directs to public welfare as well (GoB, 2015).

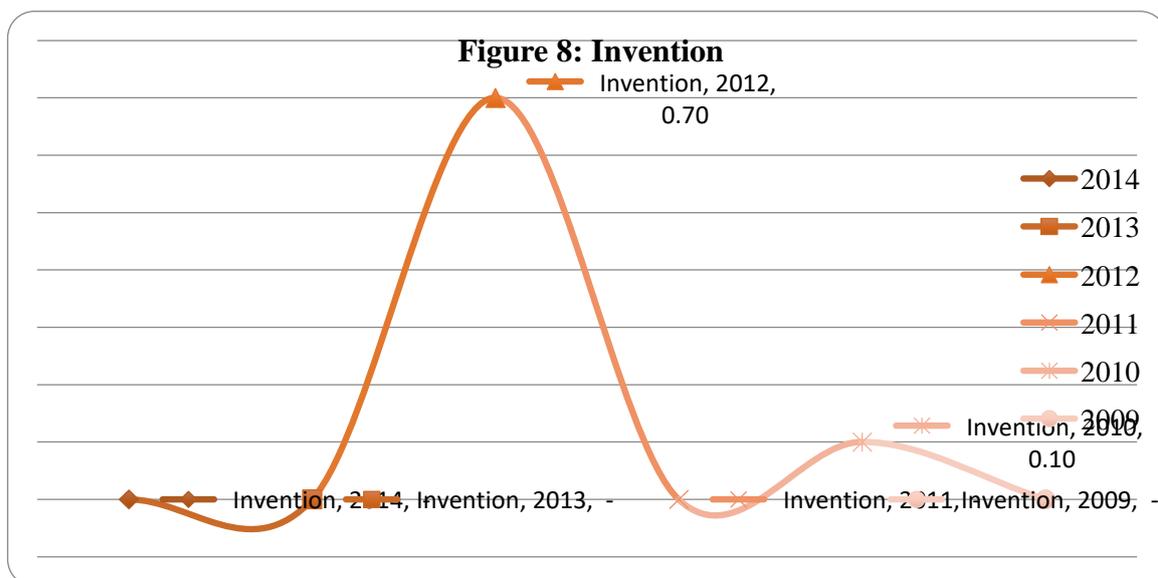


[Total.1.15 Million]

The figure 7 represents that, from 2009-2011, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 0.00, 0.00 and 0.10 BDT in Million. The disbursement from JBL is 0.20, 0.60 and 0.25 consecutively from the year 2012-2014. There seen poor disbursement from the year 2009-2014 is 1.15 million taka, in the preservation of environment segment.

### 8.8 Invention

New invention can promote development, such as, environmental protection, food supply, better education facilities, better health and treatment facilities etc.



[Total.0.80 Million]

Figure 8 denotes that, the disbursement from JBL is 0.00, 0.10 and 0.00 consecutively from the year 2009-2011. From the year 2012-2014, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 0.70, 0.00 and 0.00 BDT in Million. The total disbursement from 2009-2012 is 0.80 million taka. There is seeing a very poor disbursement in the segment of invention.

### 8.9 Expansion of Technology

“Digital Bangladesh” has become the novel word of progress for more than half a decade. The extensive practice of the term evidently indicates the government's importance to the improvement of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) (Chandan, March 28, 2014).

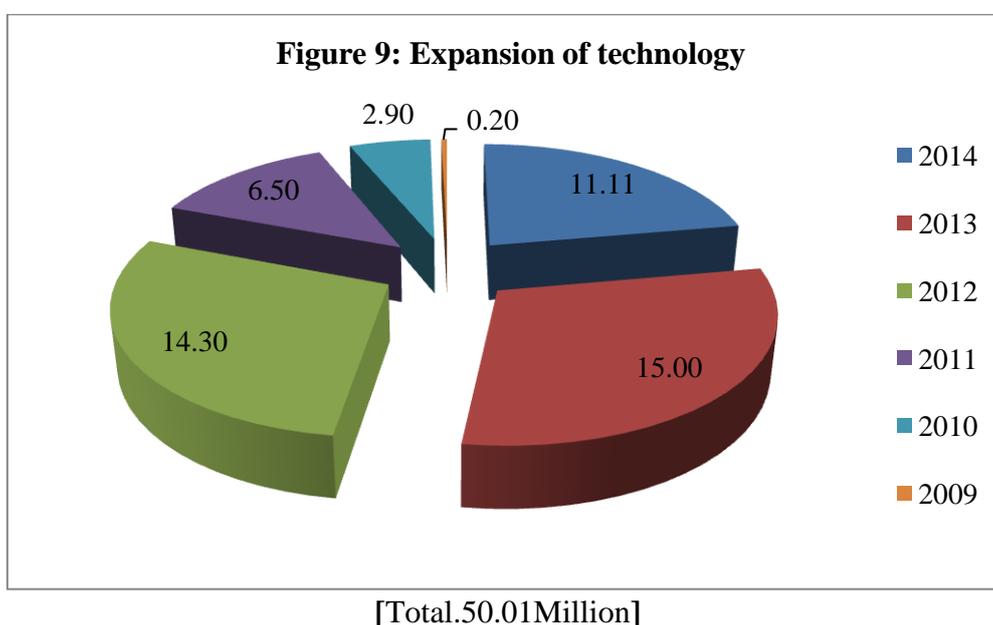


Figure 9 represents that, the disbursement from JBL is 0.20, 2.90 and 6.50 consecutively from the year 2009-2011. From the year 2012-2014, the disbursement from JBL is consecutively 14.30, 15.00 and 11.11 BDT in Million. The total disbursement from 2009-2012 is 50.01 million taka. Though, there seen different scale in disbursement in the segment of expansion of technology.

### 9. Recommendations

- It needs to give special focus on the education sector to make our backbone of strong.
- The disbursement in health sector needed to increase more focusing on poor section of society.

- It is necessary to make poverty focused development. So, the CSR of JBL should be focused on poverty reduction and rehabilitation.
- Initiatives should be taken to increase the disbursement on combat against natural calamity; we cannot forget that Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country.
- The employment sector of Bangladesh has mostly depended on agriculture. We cannot ignore the positive side of this sector. In “helping the poor, marginal, agriculturalists” segment cannot be ignored in the proper development of the state.
- It is needed to continue to keep the attention on the reservation of history-tradition, culture and sports.
- Preservation of the environment is the prerequisite of sustainable development. The handsome disbursement in this sector is vital.
- Expansion of technology is vital for the implementation of digital Bangladesh. The disbursement needed to increase more.
- The newest invention is helpful to the overall progress of the state. The consistency and increase of disbursement are very much significant.

## **10. Conclusion**

Nearly all banks in Bangladesh accept the CSR commitments by resolution at the top organization level (Board of Directors), with their financial disbursements on CSR programs growing four-fold and their lively participation in fiscal attachment initiatives intended at attainment with credit and other monetary services to the poor and deprived sections people involved in farm and non-farm useful events. CSR initiatives focusing environmental issues have as well extended significantly (Bangladesh Bank, 2011). Bangladesh as a third world nation is facing a lot of difficulties. Frequently, the Government finds them so helpless when they take initiatives to solving of these difficulties. JBL, as a business organization of this state is measured as a part of the prosperous section of the country and they can donate more profoundly on the way of the advancement of the state. Like JBL, if more corporations came onward to donate to the society people, it will support to generate their social branding in the society along with serving the people of the society. But, JBL needs to pay more attention in CSR segment as a State-owned Commercial Bank (SoCB).

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**Original Article**

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**EMPIRICAL RESEARCH IN DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY: HOWTENABLE IN  
BANGLADESH**

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**Abstract:**

The importance of empirical research is well recognized and the method is used in almost all sociological research. Researchers often reiterate that in order to prove or disprove a concept or hypothesis scientifically, empirical research is an absolute necessity. This general notion in itself may be regarded as over-simplification, and there may be a need to re-examine and address the whole process of empirical research so that errors can be avoided. In Bangladesh perspective, the problems of reaching a conclusive and acceptable result by this method are often corroborated by many external and internal factors. The paper explores what these factors are and how they could be overcome.

**Key Words:**

*Social Research, Survey  
Techniques, Empirical Survey,  
Local Institutions, International  
Organisations.*

## **1. Introduction**

Empirical research is usually conducted to measure attitudes, beliefs, trends, values, tendencies and so on of people in society. While we think that such research is oriented to establishment or academic activities, in practice most people undertake or become respondents to such research unwittingly and often informally in daily life; they do so while asking or answering casual questions such as ‘What do you think of ...?’, or “Do you think such and such actions are justified?” etc. Though such exchanges are not recorded or recognised, such exchanges are important since most ideas and concepts are developed and articulated from daily experiences of mankind, whether individual or collective. Sociological surveys attempt to bring such concepts into a structured form to make the basis of our knowledge regarding the society. From such knowledge, we try to find answers to a bewildering number of social questions.

Such research or surveys need to be authentic and credible, which would depend on many factors. Even though sociological fathers have developed dependable survey techniques, conducting them correctly is not always possible, and it is more so in developing countries. This may be criticised by many a sweeping statement, illogical to some extent, but some sociologically well-travelled researchers might agree. This paper attempts to discuss the problems of empirical research in developing countries, with specific studies on Bangladesh. The differences of developed and developing countries in most spheres need to be taken into considerations, though that should not be taken to mean that researches conducted in the developed countries are as dependable as they look or as they are made to look by their presenters. At the same time, due to some external and internal factors, researches conducted in developing countries are vulnerable to more errors.

## **2. Universally Acknowledged Disadvantages of Empirical Research**

Let us first review the general disadvantages of empirical research techniques. After that we would evaluate those in Bangladesh context.

Of the structured quantitative methods, the most popular ‘questionnaire’ method suffers from an almost insurmountable disadvantage of having too many questionnaires around. The respondents feel that the persons who or establishments which have sent them are competing with others to get their responses, but they cannot satisfy all.<sup>1</sup>

When researchers interview the respondents face to face with the questionnaire in hand, the response rate is good, but it cannot be lengthened enough by ‘open ended’ questions to have satisfactory information on all points. Face to face interview can also be severely gender

sensitive in developing countries. This alone is often regarded as a major handicap of questionnaire method.<sup>2</sup>

Questionnaires sent by mail often overcome the time constraints of the two ways of conducting the survey. In this, the respondent may reply as and when he/she would have free time. But this method is often criticised as not having the personal touch as in the interview methods. The response is also not particularly reliable. The percentage of replies received may also be lower than expected.<sup>3</sup>

Group Administered Surveys (GAS) have higher response rate than others, and they also provide dependable information. The major disadvantage of GAS is that it requires intensive as well as extensive logistical preparation. Unless the research is well funded or commercial, the expenses may be too high to meet.<sup>4</sup>

Even if we assume that the research planning related to the empirical survey in question is academically approved and flawless, actual data collection may suffer for reasons beyond control. Such reasons may be lack of expertise on the part of the interviewer, sampling errors, biased selection of respondents, *a priori* and opinionated mind-set of the researcher, etc.<sup>5</sup>

In empirical evidence collection by quantitative methods, the scope of going deeper than 'yes'/'no' answers even by some open-ended questions is limited. As a result, we cannot probe what prompted the answers of the respondents, meaning that the reasons of their 'beliefs' and 'opinions' remain un-researched. Even when following qualitative survey techniques (either individual or group), elaboration of answers is limited due to time factor.<sup>6</sup> Also, all respondents may not be verbalised enough to explain the processes by which they have gained such knowledge or opinions. As a result of this limitation of empirical research, the outcome can only produce information that are only average from a given sample of respondents.<sup>7</sup> We all know however well the sampling is, it is limited to the 'universe' chosen only. Naturally, in order to make the research feasible, the 'universe' and 'samplings' cannot cover everything. These limitations make generalisation and theorising difficult.

### **3. Problems Faced by Researchers in Bangladesh and Also in Many Developing Countries**

With the above general disadvantages of empirical social research in mind, we may now try to assess the situation of empirical research programmes in Bangladesh context.

There are many constraints in social research in Bangladesh. Such constraints include non-availability or paucity of funding, lack of research-oriented environment to work in, lack of trained research and administrative personnel, lack of logistic support – to name a few major

ones. These result in conducting research programmes in as short duration as possible, not having a research team, engaging not-so-trained field workers and data collectors, mismanagement of large data for computer input, incorrect use of SPSS program, and final write-up of the result.

Exacerbating the above and universally acknowledged disadvantages are general misconceptions about surveys or research as non-significant academic exercise by most institutional authorities. Sociologists in Bangladesh often complain that sociology is a non-event in social policy-making in this country, that empiricism or scientism<sup>1</sup> is hardly taken into considerations by policy-makers, and that whereas economic researchers are invited to contribute to the government, sociologists are hardly remembered.

Another problem of empirical research in Bangladesh and developing countries in general emanates from the fact that the techniques of empirical surveys have originated in the developed countries of the West, mainly Europe (Britain included) and North America. As a result, the application of the same in developing countries cannot produce correct and dependable result. One critical academic observation by Bulmer and Warwick succinctly put is quoted below:

The conditions under which social science research is carried out in the Third World differ in significant respects from conditions in the industrial world ... The guidance available from standard texts – particularly those on survey methods – for the most part assumes as background the conditions that exist in the developed world. When such texts are transported to the context of the developing countries, although they provide guidance on how to proceed, they do not pay attention to the particular local conditions and problems which are likely to arise.<sup>8</sup>

The above quote identifies inlaid difficulties in conducting empirical social research with knowledge gained from the West or developed countries. But the author of the present paper believes that had we developed research institutes with a strong body of researchers, those difficulties could have been removed easily. Until then, we have to put up with general as well as local constraints. It is true that social researchers in Bangladesh try to overcome such constraints by personal endeavours, and many have presented successful research papers that have been published in academic journals.

Still, we have to admit that this is not a happy and acceptable situation. In academic field, some team works also take place at the pre-research stage with the course teacher and some colleagues. Usually selection of the topic, methods of data collection, and logistic preparation are made at this stage. Construction of the questionnaire in quantitative survey, ‘guide notes’

preparation for participant observation or for qualitative survey are also done. These are part of academic programmes or course works, but it is questionable whether all these important activities at pre-research stage are given serious consideration and attention.<sup>9, 10</sup>

Some outside organisations sometimes commission research to the universities, often to teachers and hardly to the departments. Teachers usually employ his or her students to undertake routine works like data collections etc. Since they are given to individual teachers, the outcome is often unreliable. Teachers, with myriad of academic and social commitments cannot usually pay full attention to such assignments. They also find it difficult to train the field workers/data collectors satisfactorily.<sup>11</sup>

As a result of such constraints, most empirical researches in Bangladesh tend to become small community or even just group studies rather than social studies. There is nothing wrong in undertaking such small area studies, but they cannot be taken further to embrace other areas, each of which needs to be studied independently and then compared with previous studies. Such procedures are naturally time consuming and expensive in terms of man-power and production of results.

#### **4. Who Conduct or Undertake Social Research in Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh, social research is usually conducted within academic environment for course work and also by social market research groups for commercial assessments. There are some well-funded (both government and non-government sources), and semi-government bodies with express objective of undertaking commissioned research. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) are active bodies in the latter categories. There are some ‘medium strength’ professional associations in economic, political and general humanities fields who undertake some empirical research. I call them ‘medium strength’ to mean that they are usually run by one or two ‘talented’ persons, sometimes assuming a name the style of which give an impression of their being an important research organisation. They usually try to impress on the government so that the latter frame policies acknowledging their research findings. There are also some independent and well established research organisations, such as Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), which have produced significant research findings. In the university spheres, there are many research ‘bureaus’ and ‘centres’ only a small percentage of whom can claim to have undertaken worthwhile social research. In Dhaka University alone, there are about 47 such bureaus and centres, of which

only ten are related to social science research. Many of them have not made any significant contribution.

### **5. How Are the Government's Research Needs Met in Bangladesh**

It is not clear how the research needs, particularly social research needs of the Ministries and the Departments of the Government of Bangladesh are met. They surely need scientific evidence and data, for which they must have undertaken or used some existing empirical research, but we do not have much information of the sources. It does not mean that the government reports and occasional 'white paper' type of publications do not offer empirical evidence. It is just that the description and sources of their research or surveys are hardly made public. There is also foreign participation in empirical research field in Bangladesh. International donors and financial bodies (e.g. World Bank, IMF), as well as development partners (e.g. United Nations Development Programme, IDRC of Canada, DFID of Britain, JAICA of Japan, and those of Scandinavian countries working in Bangladesh) also use local consultants and researchers to undertake empirical research and general surveys.<sup>13, 14</sup>

### **6. Organisations Which Undertake Social Research for Themselves**

Mention should be made to specialist institutions outside social science field. Once such institute belonging to the health sector is International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, better known as ICDDR,B. This institute undertakes many social research programmes. It also makes impact studies after implementing some health and hygiene related activities in the communities.

### **7. Research and Surveys of Dubious Nature**

For some years, Bangladesh is braving another kind of obscure and sweeping research conducted by Transparency International Bangladesh Chapter (TIB). They do not claim the objectivity of their data; they call them perception data, out of which a perception index is presented. Naturally this perception index of the TIB has itself become non-transparent since they would not divulge the identity of their so-called 'respondents', thus making the data unverifiable. The fact about TIB is that their index reflects no more than popularly conceived notions, even if they are baseless and un-proven. However, this author believes that more scientific way of identifying corruption in society and government should be developed by local government initiative, if not by German based TIB.

At a time when Grameen Bank's microcredit in Bangladesh was making national and international headway, sociologists and economists undertook many empirical researches on that system. Even researchers and students from the western developed countries came to Bangladesh to conduct field surveys on 'microcredit'. It is surprising to note that research results and reports had been very varied from positive assessments of the system to extremely hostile and negative assessments. What could be the reasons for such extremely polarised results? They could be due to differences in research designs, wrong samplings, faulty data collections, falsifications of the evidence collected, biased reporting of results, and so on. There could also be political ideology in action in many such researches and surveys. Some authors, particularly Shah Srinivas and Ramashamy have written about unreliability of data offered in many researches, No amount of statistical sophistication can set right the distortions and falsifications of wrong data.<sup>18</sup>

### **8. Large Scale Social Research**

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) presents Household Surveys in various details in their *Statistical Yearbook*. The picture of the society reflected by the sum total of data is sociologically important. It points out correctly the development aspects of our society. There are critics that the surveys have not been completely truthful. Many figures are assumptions or fabricated additions based on previous data. Such criticisms, in the absence of any concrete evidence to the contrary cannot be accepted. Further, the household situations are constantly changing, and the printed or published data can only be true at the point of time when they have been collected.

The same BBS also details many important society related data and statistics, many of which are quoted extensively in research and government documents.

As stated earlier, results of research and surveys need to be verified. But there is no independent body to undertake such verifications.<sup>19</sup>

### **9. Difficulties in Theorising from Research Results**

Generally speaking, research is mostly about establishing relations between two or among many entities or ideas. As developed and practised to date, researchers and data collectors have become well at ease with various empirical research techniques. Data collections or collecting evidence from the respondents in quantitative survey with a well-constructed questionnaire can be undertaken even by non-sociological researcher as a matter of routine, and anyone with simple arithmetical and simple statistical acumen can produce summaries of

findings afterwards. While some techniques are laborious but simple, their result is not always simple. The result, depending on the skill of the presenter can be light and shallow as well as some can strike a profound note.

Let's dwell here on the profundity of empirical research. Personally I find the simplicity of some of the research techniques and at the same time the profundity of the result obtained academically an interesting matter. This profundity develops once the researcher starts theorising. At the same time, we must accept that all empirical research cannot lead to theorisation.

This last statement is well exemplified by thousands of empirical research undertaken during and after Chicago School's urban studies, all of which have not stood the test of time or have not offered theories of some kind. But we must acknowledge startling exceptions in Chicago School time. One such was Louis Wirth's research on the complex issues of 'race relations' then prevailing in most US cities. Wirth along with his team ventured research and surveys in a hostile social environment. They produced race studies in urban environment, and the problems of black underclass and even Jewish ghetto. Their research managed to produce sociological theories on race relations which are still valid. They also paved ways for future ethno-research in urban ecology.<sup>20</sup>

In Bangladesh, such ethnicity related problems are rife, particularly if we take religious and sectorial issues in considerations. Many researches have been undertaken here, but most of them follow theories offered by the American, British and European studies. We also try to copy the theories of the advanced developed countries, and try to justify and support those theories by interpreting our research data in a manner that should fit the theories produced in the West. Surely that is not the right approach. We should collect research data and develop a body of knowledge based on historical facts, and then proceed towards theorisation. We have generally failed to produce an indigenous theory of ethnic relations in Bangladesh because of wrong approach. Our historical, national and social situations are unique to ourselves. We have not undergone the kind of industrialisation, technological expansion, and consequent rapid urbanisation that happened in the West, nor have we experienced World Wars on our own. Our social fabrics have remained unchanged for ages, and due to colonial ploys, our advancement to create a modern society was stopped. Even today, due to unimaginable changes in the in the politico-economic situations in the world, we have remained dependent on the West. Such dependence is reflected in our research as well. We need to come out of this situation if we want to understand our social problems by our own research.

## 10. Problems of Research Designs

Research designs cannot be of one singular style and format.<sup>21, 22</sup> Each successful research is designed with many factors in considerations, and copying one another could be disastrous. What major sociological research achieved was based on much academic knowledge and objective analysis.

It should be remembered that taking into consideration the situations of contemporaneous black communities in the States, and the general climate of 'racism' in white establishments, the research has remained topical in itself, and the design of that research cannot be applied to 'black' people in Britain or to black and Asian immigration to Britain after World War II. Sadly, many later researches on 'urban problems' in Britain in the 1960s were designed following Chicago school designs of empirical evidence collection by questionnaire and dubious 'participant observation'. Even the hugely appreciated classic *Racial Disadvantage in Britain* (1977) by D J Smith under the auspices of Political and Economic Planning is criticised by politically opposite academic circles for copycat research design. However, there had been many social similarities between Britain and the States, and those similarities helped to make the latter study a success.

The objective of the above discussion is to establish that each research must be designed individually and after conducting and taking into account the social situations. It may not be altogether wrong to say that we fail to undertake such background studies in many of our empirical research. For example, 'Adibashis' of Bangladesh are often portrayed in our research as ethnic minorities/culturally different groups in Bangladesh.<sup>23</sup> We do this following similar wordings used in European countries by major 'white' establishments to describe non-European people who migrated to those countries for various reasons. We do not take into account the differences between the European ascribed 'ethnic minorities' of the European countries, and our original indigenous populations, like Garos, Chakmas, Marmas, Tripuras etc. of our country. According to the Bangladesh official statistics mainly as in *Statistical Yearbook* there are 29 major such groups (unofficially 45). They are victims of caste and class system and exploited for cheap labour. The latter population may be culturally different from the major Bangalee populations, but they always belonged to this country unlike the African, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Indian and Asian labour migrants living in the West. It will be interesting to note that the Europeans in Australia call original Australians as 'aborigines' thus denying their rights on their own land. It would be an error to follow their research in this respect, and I feel that this is where many of our research may go wrong.

## 11. Conclusion

What an empirical research is, may be understood by asking what it is not. Data creations about the people in the society, community and small groups as regards their values, opinions, beliefs etcetera do not constitute research; such data are tools for research, and they are not the end in themselves. Good point about Chicago School was that they produced such effective guidelines for survey methods including quantitative, qualitative and participant observation, that the students of Chicago School later went to other universities as teachers and researchers. Many of them have excelled in social research. Margaret Mead followed the guidelines of sociological research techniques of the same school. Although some of her methods were later questioned, she produced sociological research on young girls living in a not-so-advanced community<sup>24</sup>. This aspect has been hitherto unstudied sociology. Nevertheless, some of the important objectives of sociological research are, offering a body of knowledge about the subject investigated, creation of possibilities for generalising on people, subject or communities, supporting or negating a hypothesis, and opening doors for theorising.<sup>25</sup>

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**Original Article**

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**INDIA'S CONCERN AND POLICY OVER CHINA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS**

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**Abstract:**

By the help and complete support of India, East Pakistan became Bangladesh 1971. The birth history of Bangladesh is very much connected with India. There were so many treaties between this two neighbouring nation. We may say that good relation at the maximum stage. Since 1971, India was the number one trading partner of Bangladesh. However, China's trade with Bangladesh has increased diverse in current years to exceed India from 2001 onwards. This relation with China has established by late president Ziaur Rahman after the assassination of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. And it comes in a bigger picture from 1991-1996. At that time the government of Bangladesh has taken the look east policy by the leadership of Prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia. After 1996, the first regime of Prime minister Sheikh Hasina shifted from look east policy to strengthen friendship with India. In between policy changes happened for regime-changing in the time of BNP-Jamaat Government from 2001 to 2006. But the major changes took place in a recent year. The Awame league government is giving more importance to have strong economic and political relations with China from 2011. This article inspects the numerous influences that have donated to China's increasing presence in Bangladesh as compared to India's decline with related to trade and investment. India has noticeably lost out to China in many important industries. While studying and evaluating recent developments, the study also presents a strategy to counter India's declining economic influence in Bangladesh.

**Key Words:**

*India, Policy, China-Bangladesh  
Relations, Foreign Policy,  
Development.*

## **1. Introduction**

While India played a pivotal role in the independence of Bangladesh, it now witnesses a shift in the priority given to its ties by its Eastern neighbour. Dhaka desires good relations with India but fears the shadow of its western Big Brother. Hence Bangladesh has welcomed China to be one of its most vital partners in the decades since 1971. The matrix of Beijing- Dhaka relations permeates multiple avenues, ranging from strategic to commercial, from energy security to infrastructural. Of these the strategic ties are one of the most salient.

China-Bangladesh have moved ahead steadily in spite of profound changes in the domestic politics of both countries and major international developments during the last three decades. China has emerged as a reliable partner to Bangladesh Extending economic, military and diplomatic support. While simultaneously attempting to gain a strategic foothold in south Asia and benefit from Bangladesh's natural resources. The recent visit of Chinese President to Bangladesh made it apex of the history of Bangladesh-China bilateral relation ever seen. Now the relation between Bangladesh is not only fact in bilateral relation but also in international politics more specifically in geopolitics. Chinese President Xi Jinping quoted to intense "strategic partnership". Let's have a brief dynamics of Bangladesh- China relations.

On the other hand India Bangladesh Relations are not same in terms of trade. China took India's places. Where, before 2004 India was the first trading partner of Bangladesh, Now it China. we are going to discuss the relations between China and Bangladesh and India's Concern and Policy.

## **2. Brief History of China-Bangladesh Relations**

China and Bangladesh established diplomatic relations on 4- October 1975. With though 1974 Bangladesh- Pakistan- India treaty, China finally withdraw its opposition to UN recognition of Bangladesh. It was only after Sk. Mujib's assassination in 1975. That China recognized Bangladesh. In 2002, the BNP led four party coalition government adopted a "look East policy" to maximize economic and strategic gains. While this shift in policy was primarily aimed at trade diversification Bangladesh also sought closer relations with China.

### **2.1 Political Relations**

The People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of Bangladesh officially established diplomatic relations on October 4, 1975. Since then the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries have been growing soundly and smoothly.

Fruitful cooperation has been achieved in the fields of politics, economy, military and culture, etc. Both the countries share basically identical opinions on most international and regional issues and conduct close coordination with each other in the international arena.

There have existed between China and Bangladesh frequent exchanges of high-level visits, increasing contacts as well as expanding cooperation in various fields.

*Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Ziaur Rahman*

After coming into power in November 1975, Ziaurur Rahman carried out a foreign policy of non-alignment and actively developed its relations with China. In January 1977, under China's invitation Ziaur Rahman visited China as Chief Executive of Marshal Law and Chief of the Army Staff of Bangladesh. During his period This two governments signed the Agreement of Economic and Technological Cooperation and the Agreement of Trade Payment. Following Mr. Zia in March 1978, Vice Premier Li Xiannian was invited to visit Bangladesh. This is the first ever visit taken by Chinese leadership to Bangladesh.

*Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Hussain Mohammad Ershad*

Mr. Hussain Mohammad Ershad followed the legacy of Former President Ziaurur Rahman. Mr. Ershad paid visited to China for five times (respectively in November 1982, July 1985, July 1987, November 1988 and in June 1990). During his meetings with Chinese leadership, Mr. Ershad said the relations between China and Bangladesh had most solid foundation since both the countries enjoyed common targets and interests. The Chinese side stressed that the Sino-Bangladesh relationship was that of mutual trust and mutual support. China appreciated Bangladesh's principled stand on adhering to "one China" policy and having no official ties with Taiwan.

*Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Khaleda Ziaur*

In March 1991, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won the election and Begum Khaleida Zia became Prime Minister of the government. The new government declared to inherit the internal and external policies of the late President Ziaur Rahman. In June 1991 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited to China. During her regime both country took a policy of develop friendly relations with each other.

*Sino-Bangladesh relations in the period of Sheikh Hashina*

In June 1996, Sheikh Hashina became Prime Minister. After coming into power, the Awami League paid importance to the friendly ties with China and the Sino-Bangladesh relations continued to develop stably. In September 1996, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited to China, which was her first visit to foreign countries after assuming the Prime Minister's office.

*China - Bangladesh relations after Begum Khaleda Zia*

In October 2001 Khaleda Zia again became prime minister of the government after five years. The Nationalist Party continued to carry out the traditional friendship policy towards China and so the friendly cooperation relations between China and Bangladesh obtained new development. The two countries signed Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Certificate of Handover of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center, Executive Program of the Cultural Agreement for 2001-2003 and four other agreements.

In December 2002, Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur visited China. The Chinese side reiterated its policy of attaching high importance to the relations between the two countries, and pointed out that there were no obstacles hindering the bilateral relations and the objective of both sides was to consolidate the bilateral friendship and to deepen the bilateral cooperation. The two countries signed Exchange of Letters Regarding the Loan Used for the Project of Bangladesh-China Friendship International Conference Center to Be Converted to Grant, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation and two other agreements. In this regime both of the country had strong trade relations. China took place the position in terms of trade, where before 2005; India was the first trading partner of Bangladesh. After 2005, China ensures that position with Bangladesh.

## **2.2 Trade and Economic Relations**

To assess the relation between Bangladesh and China we first have to look over economic relation as Bangladesh is 3rd largest trading partner of China. Let's have a look to the chart.

Year	Export (Million Dollar)	Import (Million Dollar)
1997-98	48.51	592.46
1998-99	10.61	560.47
1999-00	10.56	568.06
2000-01	11.67	708.94
2001-02	18.92	657.78
2002-03	19.50	779.50
2003-04	45.65	1132.72
2004-05	56.07	1643.77
2005-06	64.35	2078.99
2006-07	92.97	2572.62
2007-08	106.95	3136.70
2008-09	97.06	3451.47
2009-10	178.63	3819.28

2010-11	319.66	5912.55
2011-12	401.94	6433.21
2012-13	458.12	6324
2015-16	9.8 Billion	808.14

**Source:** Import Payment, Bangladesh Bank and Export Statistics, Export Promotion Bureau & Bangladesh Bank.

China mainly imports: raw materials like leather, cotton, textiles, fish etc.

China major exports to Bangladesh: include textiles machinery and electronic products, cement, fertilizer, tire, raw silk, maize etc.

In 2005, Chinese Prime Minister Win Jiabao visited Bangladesh. Various agreements were signed during this visit. On transportation side, China and Bangladesh have agreed to start Inaugurating direct Air route between Dhaka and Beijing via Kunming. The Chinese premier readily agreed to construct the Di-aluminum phosphate, Fertilizer factory in Chittagong. (In 2007)

### **2.3 BCIM Economic Corridor**

The kunming initiative, later on known as the BCIM route (Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar) was reportedly discussed with Indian leaders during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's India visit in May 2013. With joint efforts by China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh, a highway route starting from kunming the capital city of Yunnan province to India by way of Myanmar has been reportedly approved in principle by the relevant departments of the four countries. The joint statement issued at the end of Keqiang's visit to India said that encouraged by the successful BCIM Car Rally of February 2013 between Kolkata and Kunming, which called K2K. The two sides had agreed to consult the other parties to establish a Joint Study Group on strengthening connectivity in the BCIM region for closer economic, trade, and people-to-people linkages, and to initiate the development of a BCIM Economic Corridor.

### **2.4 Military Relation**

#### Arm supply:

China has emerged as a major supplier of arms to the Bangladesh Armed Forces. In 2006, China supplied 65 artillery guns and 114 missiles and related systems (The Assam Tribune,

October 9, 2007). Most of the tanks (T-59, T-62, T-69, and T-79), a large number of armored personnel carriers (APCs), artillery pieces and small arms and personal weapons in the Bangladesh Army are of Chinese origin. There are plans to acquire 155mm PLZ-45/Type-88 (including transfer of technology) and 122mm Type-96 as well MBRLs from China by 2011 (defence.pk/forum, March 19, 2009).<sup>1</sup>

Naval supply:

The Bangladeshi Navy is largely made up of Chinese-origin platforms. These include the 053-H1 Jianghu I class frigates with 4 x HY2 missiles, Huang Feng class missile boats, Type-024 missile boats, Huchuan and P 4 class torpedo boats, Hainan class sub chasers, Shanghai class gun boats and Yuchin class LCUs. The BNS Khalid Bin Walid has been retrofitted with HQ-7 SAM from China. (FM-90 Surface-to-Air Missile System, bdmilitary.com). In 2008, BNS Osman successfully test fired a C-802 ASM in the presence of the Chinese Defense Attaché Senior Colonel Ju Dewu (The Daily Star, May 13, 2008). The Chinese Navy Hospital ship “Peace Ark” visited Chittagong and provided free medical treatment to thousands of Bangladeshi people.

Since 2010, Beijing has supplied Dhaka with five maritime patrol vessels, two corvettes, 44 tanks, and 16 fighter jets, as well as surface-to-air and anti-ship missiles, according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Air equipment supply:

China began supplying fighter aircraft to the Bangladesh Air Force in 1977 and, over the years, has delivered F7 and Q5 fighter aircraft and PT 6 Trainers [5]. In 2005, 16 F-7BG were ordered and the deliveries began in 2006 (Bangladesh Biman Bahini, scramble.nl, July 5, 2009).

## **2.5 Potential Areas**

Building a deep sea port in Bangladesh, Bangladesh is seeking Chinese help to build deep sea port. It would cost billions of dollars, if a Chinese company were to be awarded the contract, Sonadia would become the fourth port to be constructed by a Chinese firm in the Bay of Bengal

✓ Chittagong-Kunming connectivity: China and Bangladesh are developing road links between Kunming to Chittagong, via Myanmar which called the Chittagong-Kunming Road and Railway Link, could be a boon for Bangladeshi infrastructure and trade. It would also

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<sup>1</sup> <https://jamestown.org/program/china-bangladesh-relations-and-potential-for-regional-tensions/>

provide a cheaper alternative than is presently available for shipping goods between China and its western neighbors.

✓ **Infrastructural development:** Chinese accumulated aid to Bangladesh reached 1 billion US dollars at the end of 2013. Six friendship bridges in Bangladesh have been built, and the Seventh is under way. Many other mega infrastructure projects are under construction with Chinese fund and technical support.

✓ **Strengthening security and anti-terrorism cooperation:** No development could be achieved without sound security situation. Both China and Bangladesh are victims of terrorism and extremism, and should strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the militaries and law enforcement departments to safeguard respective national security and stability and promote peace and stability in the region.

### **3. Recent Issue of Bangladesh-China Relations**

#### Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China:

China laid out a red carpet welcome for Ms. Hasina — on her third visit here. Both leaders pledged to step up financial assistance and involvement in infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, Chinese Premier said that Bangladesh would be “an active partner” in a “China-led Asian century,” Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has underlined her willingness to deepen her country's strategic and economic engagement with China, signing major agreements for the construction of roads, railway lines and power plants on a three-day visit to the Chinese capital.

Five deals signed: The two countries this signed five deals, including with Chinese assistance for the construction of a power plant in Patuakhali and building a multi-lane road tunnel under the Karnaphuli River. The two sides are yet to reach an agreement on the Sonadia port project, Mr. Xi described Bangladesh as an important country along the “maritime silk road” project that he has been championing, which envisages deepening connectivity, building ports and free trade zones, and boosting trade with littoral countries in the Indian Ocean region and in Southeast Asia.

#### Chinese President's visit to Bangladesh:

The 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping's visited Bangladesh. It was a landmark for their relations. There are so many factors behind it. After three decades, a Chinese President is visiting Bangladesh, signifying growing importance of the country in South Asia's economics and geo-politics, reported by ‘the Daily Star’. 27 deals on co-operation in a number of sectors, 15 agreements and MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) and 12 loan

and mutual agreement were signed on this visit. China will fund \$21.5 billion in 28 development projects and foreign aid, \$80.3 million on economic and technical co-operation, \$700 million on loan agreement for Karnaphuli tunnel construction and \$280 million on credit agreement for Dashekandi Sewerage Treatment Plant Project.

Actually Bangladesh-China relations are being diversified with various projects and agendas from past to present, fundamental of which is trade and others come to front with different strategic importance either for Bangladesh or for China. However, loan is not better for any development because it undermines the economy when it becomes more than affordable. Although Bangladesh has signed a huge number of loan agreements, needs to keep in mind that we need aid but loan burden may exploit our quality and strength for further development.

#### **4. OBOR or BRI and Bangladesh**

Bangladesh's foreign secretary Shahidul Haque explained at length the need to balance "sovereignty" issue and "economic integration" during his interaction at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in New Delhi.

Haque spoke on the economic limitations that Bangladesh faces and hence the need to build linkages even with China. "In case of Bangladesh, we realised that we are both geographically very small but we have, in order to overcome those limitations, to weave ourselves with the rest of the world. That's why economic, social and political issues remain very fundamental to our state practices irrespective of government," he said. "We cannot remain link-less in the current situation. We have to go beyond. And that's what we think would eventually benefit us. We look at sovereignty and integration rather from a different angle," he added. Speaking during the discussion "Asia's New Normal" at the WEF conference, the Bangladesh foreign secretary emphasised on the importance of economic growth and said that sometimes the issue of sovereignty need to take the "backseat" to "economic integration" emphasising that the country stood behind Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's decision. "We can't forget what the people want and before joining BRI we had several discussions with civil society, and it was clear, what we need is connectivity.

For us as a country, what we need is quick up gradation of our infrastructure and our generation wants much more interaction and connectivity," Haque said. Bangladesh is trying to balance ties with India and China keeping its own geo-political and economic interests in mind. "Economic issues now dictate how much sovereignty one should exert," Haque said at the forum. China's \$4 trillion OBOR initiative will span 65 countries with 70 per cent of the

world's population. Bangladesh formally declared joining China's OBOR initiative during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2016. All major political parties welcomed Xi's visit, the first by a Chinese President in three decades.

## **5. China's Advantage to be in Bangladesh**

### No Border Links or Boundary Disputes:

Bangladesh and India, geographically two neighbouring countries located in the South Asia. The total length of border of Bangladesh is about 5138 kilometer with 4427 kilometer land border and 711 kilometer water border. Bangladesh has 4,096 kilometer common border with India. Bangladesh has 32 border districts whilst India has five border provinces. Bangladesh and India both the countries have bilateral issues from the emergence of them. Border Disputes and Border Killing is Common and most discussed issue in this two countries relations. Where China doesn't have a single meter of border with Bangladesh and it's not a direct Neighbour like India. It's a huge advantage for china, history say china had solved border issue with numbers of country expect India. If they have border both the country would have not been success like now. Certain thinks they might compromise, but not now.

### Non-Interference in Internal Politics of Bangladesh:

From 2003, china took a policy called 'peaceful emergence'. Because of that policy china mostly concentrate on trade and economics not in politics. China is not at all interfering of internal politics of Bangladesh, where Bangladeshi's common masses always blame that India is controlling our politics as well as Election Process. China shows a Model of peace in Bangladesh for boosting their development. For that china is helping various development project of Bangladesh. Their Relations mostly based on Trade and Commerce and Technological Transfers.

### Relations based on Trade and Commerce

Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) and China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) signed an agreement of shareholders for development of Chinese economic and industrial zone in southeastern Bangladesh on 15 June 2017.

“China always supports bi-lateral trade development and promotion between China and Bangladesh. China wants to invest more in business sector and Chinese businessmen are now coming to invest in Bangladesh as it has potentials.”

China is developing a 750-acre industrial park in Bangladesh which will largely be used by Chinese manufacturing firms. State-run China Harbour Engineering Company will hold a 70% share in a joint venture being formed for the park with the Bangladesh Special Economic

Zone Authority (BSEZA). This is for the first time China has received such a facility from the Bangladesh government where Chinese investors will be able to set up industries, mainly manufacturing firms. But earlier India had that kind of potential in different manner in Bangladesh.

### Technology Transfers

In Bangladesh, names on the bestseller list of smartphones top Chinese brands like Huawei, Oppo, Xiaomi and Vivo that collectively nowadays sell almost as many handsets as the other big brands.

These Chinese brands have closely matched their competitors over the last few years, clinching top positions in terms of market share. Chinese brands are continuing to outperform their global counterparts in Bangladesh where there are currently over 130 million phone users. This is one of the examples of Chinese technological products in Bangladesh. There are so many sectors where china took their attention of the Bangladeshi markets.

## **6. Why Chinese Presence in Bangladesh a Matter for India**

There are various numbers of reasons for India to concern about china in Bangladesh. Few of them, I am going to discuss.

### Legacy of 1971

India's links with Bangladesh are civilizational, cultural, social and economic. There is much that unites the two countries a shared history and common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts. The two nations were strong allies during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The two countries developed different Cold War alliances in the 1980s, which further chilled bilateral relations. With the onset of economic liberalization in South Asia, they forged greater bilateral engagement and trade. The historic Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was concluded in 1996. India and Bangladesh are close strategic partners in counter-terrorism. They are also the largest trading partners in South Asia.

The historic land boundary agreement was signed on 6 June 2015 which opened a new era in the relations and further stopped all irritants in ties. They are common members of SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA and the Commonwealth. The two countries share many cultural ties. In particular, Bangladesh and the East Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura are Bengali-speaking.

### India-China Complex Relationship

The bilateral relationship between India and China influences and has repercussions both within South and East Asia and globally. If their rise to power is achieved in a mutually supportive manner, it would ensure security. These are noble sentiments.

India-China bilateral relations cannot be judged through the lens of an extended period of equanimity or of superficial bonhomie. It transcends definition, both in context and timeframe, encompasses myriad parts and is almost completely influenced by the past and the present of both the nations. It is obvious that the current trajectory will be projected into the future, where both convergence and divergence of interests is bound to take place. Both the nations are tied down by their individual rich historical and cultural traditions, which cannot be willed away. The past will always be a backdrop for the present.

It's show that, India won't allow such power in south Asia. Who can be security threat for India? That's why India doesn't count China-Bangladesh Relations is Positive for their Security of trade and Friendship.

#### BRI or OBOR

India is not going to join in Chinese globalise project called 'belt and road initiative' or 'one belt one road' which India boycotted for its own reasons. The call for peaceful cooperation and simultaneous rise to powerful status and to herald the 21 century as the Asian Century vanished almost overnight. But Bangladesh part of its. And Chinese premier xi said Bangladesh will be the active part of china leads Asia. That means Bangladesh is our closest friend. It obvious that India never wants to lose their friend like Bangladesh, in this case India has concern over Bangladesh joining in OBOR.

#### **7. What are the Issues for Bangladesh to Look Over China not to India?**

There are so many experiences and factors with India, which is leading Bangladesh to be with China not India. Will focused in some of the sentence.

- ✓ Teesta and Joint rivers water sharing Treaty
- ✓ Construction and Infrastructure Development
- ✓ Bilateral Trade and Commerce (Trade Imbalance)
- ✓ Border Killing
- ✓ Terrorism
- ✓ Illegal Trade and Smuggling
- ✓ Illegal Migration (Both Side)
- ✓ Political Influences
- ✓ Securities Concern

- ✓ Transit and Transshipment

## **8. What is the Indian Strategy to Counter China in Bangladesh?**

### Border haats

Border haats along the border of two countries are established under a MOU for Border Trade and Border Haats. It was signed by the two countries in 2010.

### Key facts of Border Haats

- ✓ The aim of this Border Haat is to enhance border trade between the two countries.
- ✓ It will also cater to the needs of the people living within a five km radius in this border area.
- ✓ It will facilitate bilateral trade of 16 locally produced goods between both nations. It includes agricultural and horticultural crops, spices and poultry.
- ✓ It will also boost people to people contacts between the two countries.
- ✓ This bilateral trade will take place once a week in this haat and each trader is allowed to do business of US \$ 100 per day.

### Simplification of Visa Process

It's not so far, few years before getting multiple India visa from was kind of war. There was too much hassle. But now India simplify there visa system for Bangladeshi citizen. They have opened so many visa centres in different of Bangladesh, according to Bangladesh tourist it also not sufficient. Their demand is visa free travel like Nepal and Bhutan in India.

### BGB to use India territory for border security

Bangladesh and India have taken the decision at a ministerial level to boost up border security. Home Minister of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said on July 31, 2016. Objective of this initiative is Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will be able to use roads in remote areas of Indian Territory for patrolling. Bangladesh and India have taken the decision at a ministerial level to boost up border security.

### Connectivity

With other bus, rail and air connectivity like Kolkata to Dhaka bus, Dhaka to Kolkata rail networked some of the new initiative a took place in recent time, by this connectivity project India tries to connect more with Bangladesh government as well people of Bangladesh.

A trial bus carrying delegates of India, Bangladesh and Nepal from Dhaka to Kathmandu indurated at 24 April 2018. The bus, operated by Kolkata-based Shyamoli Paribahan is part of a trial run between the three nations under the Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement of 2015.

On the other hand The Bandhan Express is an international passenger train which runs between the Indian city of Kolkata and the Bangladeshi city of Khulna. It is the 2nd modern train link between the Indian state of West Bengal and Bangladesh.

#### Civil Nuclear and defense cooperation

In a landmark development India for the first time signed a tripartite agreement on Thursday with foreign partners Russia & Bangladesh for civil nuclear cooperation. The agreement was signed in Moscow by Deputy Director General of Rosatom (Russia's civil nuclear body) Nikolay Spassky, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Russia S.M. Saiful Hoque and Indian Ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran on 28 February 2018.

#### Tit for tat policy over rohingya crisis

In this flurry of diplomatic activity, it would be natural to ask why India has been so soft-footed and silent in comparison. As the subcontinent's biggest nation, neighbour to both Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as the country most likely to be affected if the numbers of Rohingya refugees continue to grow, India in fact should be showing the most initiative in this crisis. Instead, through a series of blunders that began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own visit to Myanmar, India has allowed its voice to be muffled. Even as hundreds of thousands were fleeing violence at home, Mr. Modi refused to refer to the Rohingya in his press statements in Naypyidaw in early September. Nor did India refer to anything other than the terror strike by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army while discussing the violence in Rakhine. It wasn't until two days later, and after some prodding from Ms. Hasina, that the Indian foreign office even issued a statement of concern over the refugee crisis that had reached alarming proportions, something the U.S. has now called a clear case of "ethnic cleansing". Moreover, in Bali, India refused to endorse a 50-nation parliamentary conference's declaration because it referenced the Rohingya. Every other South Asian country, including Buddhist-majority Bhutan and Sri Lanka, endorsed the Bali declaration. It's giving single to Bangladesh that if you be with china India will give their hand to Myanmar.

### **9. Recommendation to Improve Relations between India and Bangladesh**

a) Agreement on water sharing should be given priority. Early resolution of the Teesta issue is necessary. c) Security cooperation between the two countries has been good. But there is need for institutionalizing this cooperation so that it does not remain restricted to the tenure of a particular government in either country. In this regard, a beginning could be made by signing the bilateral extradition treaty. d) Connectivity should be given top most priority. Both the

countries should work together to operationalize it. e) There is need for addressing the issue of illegal migration. In this regard innovative measures should be taken to resolve the problem, being extra careful to ensure that illegal migrants do not acquire voting rights and Indian nationality. f) People-to-people contact needs to be encouraged; hence liberal visa system should be put in place. g) Trade relationship has improved significantly between the two countries. India has provided zero duty access of Bangladeshi products thereby addressing the tariff related issue to a great extent. The two countries should now consider an agreement on non-tariff barriers. h) Indian investment should be encouraged in Bangladesh through visits of trade delegations, trade fairs, and bilateral assurances on protection of the interests of potential investors. i) Progress can be made by cooperating on common challenges like disaster management, food and energy security. j) Greater involvement of people and wider public debate on foreign policy issues will discourage conspiracy theories and distrust. k) A greater level of people-to-people contact should be encouraged. l) Implement the no-firing policy fully. Ensure accountability to ensure that the image of India as an enemy ceases to exist. m) Fencing needs to be completed speedily and monitored effectively. This would create misgivings but also ensure that Bangladesh knows that India means business. The state governments and the Indian border forces seem receptive to such an idea.

## **10. Conclusion**

While some Bangladeshi experts argue for a tit-for-tat balancing strategy with China, the intimate ties of geography, history and culture determine that Bangladesh cannot pursue a blind policy of equidistance between Delhi and Beijing. Attempts to deviate from this have led to occasional tensions in the past, but the current positive bilateral momentum is due to PM Hasina's informal "India first" focus on key issues that impinge on Indian core security and economic interests.

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**Useful Resources:**

Website of Indian High Commission: [www.hcidhaka.gov.in](http://www.hcidhaka.gov.in)

Indian Visa Application Centre, Bangladesh - <http://www.ivacbd.com/>