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A Wavelet Based Scalable OFDMA Engine for WiMAX Technology

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ABSTRACT

Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access (OFDMA) for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) technology has recently attracted vast research attention from both academic and industrial research which has become part of new emerging standards for broadband wireless access. In the proposed scalable OFDMA engine for WiMAX technology, Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) is used instead of FFT method as the signaling tools. It is shown that utilization of DWT in scalable decomposition level greatly improves OFDMA signal quality and low bandwidth requirements.

Keywords: WiMAX, Wavelet, OFDMA

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1. INTRODUCTION

The demand for multimedia wireless communications is growing today at an extremely rapid pace and this trend is expected to continue in the future. The common feature of many current wireless standards for high-rate multimedia transmission is the adoption of a multicarrier air interface based on OFDMA. OFDMA makes multiuser wireless communications possible by dividing the total subcarriers into subsets of subcarriers.

WiMAX is an IEEE 802.16 [1,2] standard based technology responsible for bringing the Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) to the world as an alternative to wired broadband. IEEE 802.16e [3] or mobile WiMAX standard approved in December 2005 is the current incarnation of WiMAX. Mobile WiMAX allows for fixed wireless and mobile Non Line-Of-Sight (NLOS) applications primarily by enhancing OFDMA. IEEE 802.16e-2005 standard [1], defines a physical (PHY) and a medium access control (MAC) layer for BWA systems operating between 2GHz-11GHz [4] for fixed and between 2GHz-6GHz [4] for mobile applications. The standard supports

single carrier transmission, OFDM with 256 subcarriers and scalable OFDMA with 128, 512, 1,024, or 2,048 subcarriers.

The modulation techniques supported are QPSK, 16 QAM, 64 QAM. WiMAX is capable of supporting very high peak data rates. In fact, the peak PHY data rate can be as high as 74 Mbps when a 20MHz wide bandwidth is used across the distance 10 km. WiMAX has a scalable PHY

layer architecture that allows for the data rate to scale easily with available channel bandwidth. The IEEE 802.16e-2005 Wireless OFDMA mode is based on the concept of Scalable OFDMA (S-OFDMA). S-OFDMA supports a wide range of bandwidths to flexibly address the need for various spectrum allocation and usage model requirements. The scalability is supported by adjusting the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) size while fixing the sub-carrier frequency spacing at 10.94 kHz. Since the resource unit subcarrier bandwidth and symbol duration is fixed, the impact to higher layers is minimal when scaling the bandwidth. [3, 5].

The *S-OFDMA* engine for WiMAX can be used to accelerate the development of mobile broadband wireless networks based on the *IEEE 802.16m* [6] standard. IEEE 802.16m is currently standardized to enhance IEEE 802.16e to meet the requirements for 4G. IEEE 802.16m system should be able to support high mobility up to 350 km/h. However, since it is difficult to estimate frequency-selective and time-varying channel using the limited resources of pilots which are characterized by OFDMA system, a question arises whether it can support such a high speed. To overcome the arise question of high speed by preserving the all properties of OFDMA, the proposed research work presents a Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT) base OFDMA engine instead of conventional FFT based technology. FFT only gives frequency resolution but no time resolution however wavelet transform gives both the frequency and time resolution. In case of OFDMA spectral efficiency increases if DWT is used than FFT. The processing required for Wavelet is more than that is required for FFT

The objective of this paper is to model a scalable WiMAX by changing the decomposition level of wavelet technology and to analysis the performance of the modeled WiMAX in terms of Bit Error Rate. While the decomposition level is high, the quality of the signal will be high at the same time the file size of the transmitted signal will be reduced that will make faster transmission with low bandwidth requirements. The paper has the following outline. The following section describes briefly the existing WiMAX process to achieve the knowledge about this technology. In section III, the newly modeled scheme of the proposed wavelet based WiMAX scheme. Section IV discussed the simulation results of the proposed methodology. Finally, we make the concluding remarks in section IV.

2. WiMAX MODEL

The block diagram of OFDMA transceiver based mobile WiMAX system is shown in Figure 1. The serial k input binary bits are carried out first by Forward Error Correction (FEC) and interleaved method to allow detection and correction of errors that may occur during signal transmission. After encoding, the n coded bits are

mapped to a sequence of complex data symbols. Symbols are further grouped to form transmitted frames, each with N symbols. For OFDMA, the mapping process depends on different parameters such as data transmit, zone type, segment and subchannel group. The modulated data are serial to parallel converted (S/P) and then fed to the Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT) part, where each symbol is modulated by the corresponding subcarrier. Following the transformation process, the timed signal is serialized by using P/S converter. To make the system more immune to the time selectivity of the channel, a guard time samples ν is inserted as a cyclic prefix at the beginning of each transmitted OFDMA symbol. The signal samples are then passed through Digital to Analogue (DAC) converter then transmitted in a frame along with preamble, which used for channel estimation and synchronization. In the receiver side the, the received signal is first filtered, sampled and then serial to parallel converted. The guard time ν samples are discarded (guard time removal, GTR) and the remaining samples of each frame are demodulated by means of a FFT.

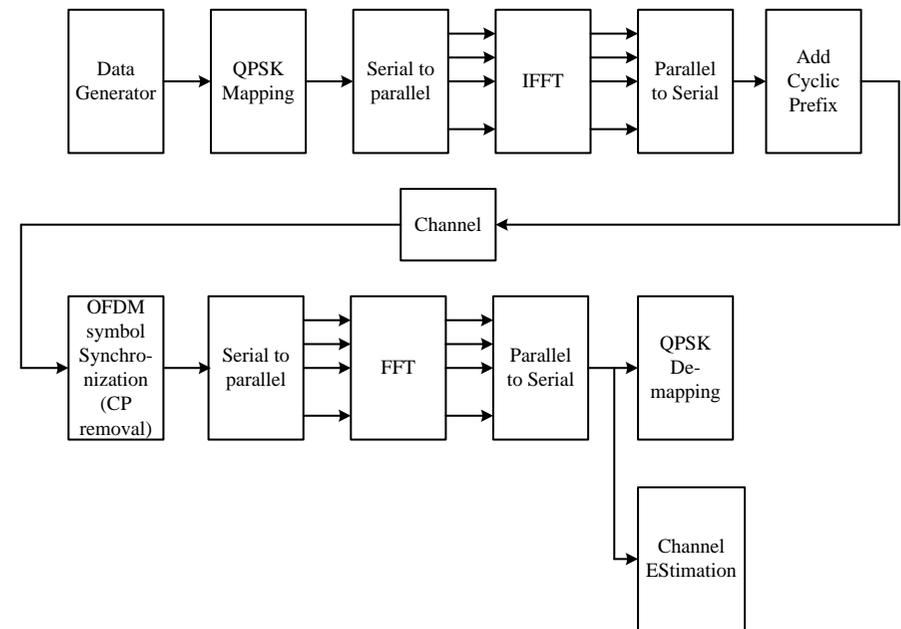


Figure 1: The details block diagram of the conventional OFDMA engine for WiMAX model.

3. WAVELET BASED SCALABLE OFDMA SCHEME

Figure 2 shows the proposed *IEEE 802.16e-2005 wavelet based* scalable OFDMA PHY interface for WiMAX basestations. WiMAX building blocks include bit-level processing, OFDMA symbol-level, and digital Intermediate Frequency (IF) processing blocks. The OFDMA symbol-level processing blocks include reference designs that demonstrate subchannelization and desubchannelization with cyclic prefix insertion supported by the DWT, and IDWT. This proposed design consists of these symbol level modules integrated together to form the scalable OFDMA Engine. Other OFDMA symbol-level reference designs illustrate ranging, channel estimation, and channel equalization. The digital IF processing blocks include single antenna and multi-antenna digital up converter (DUC) and digital down converter (DDC) reference designs, and advanced crest-factor reduction (CFR) and digital predistortion (DPD). This application note illustrates how the integration was achieved for both the downlink and uplink scalable OFDMA engine.

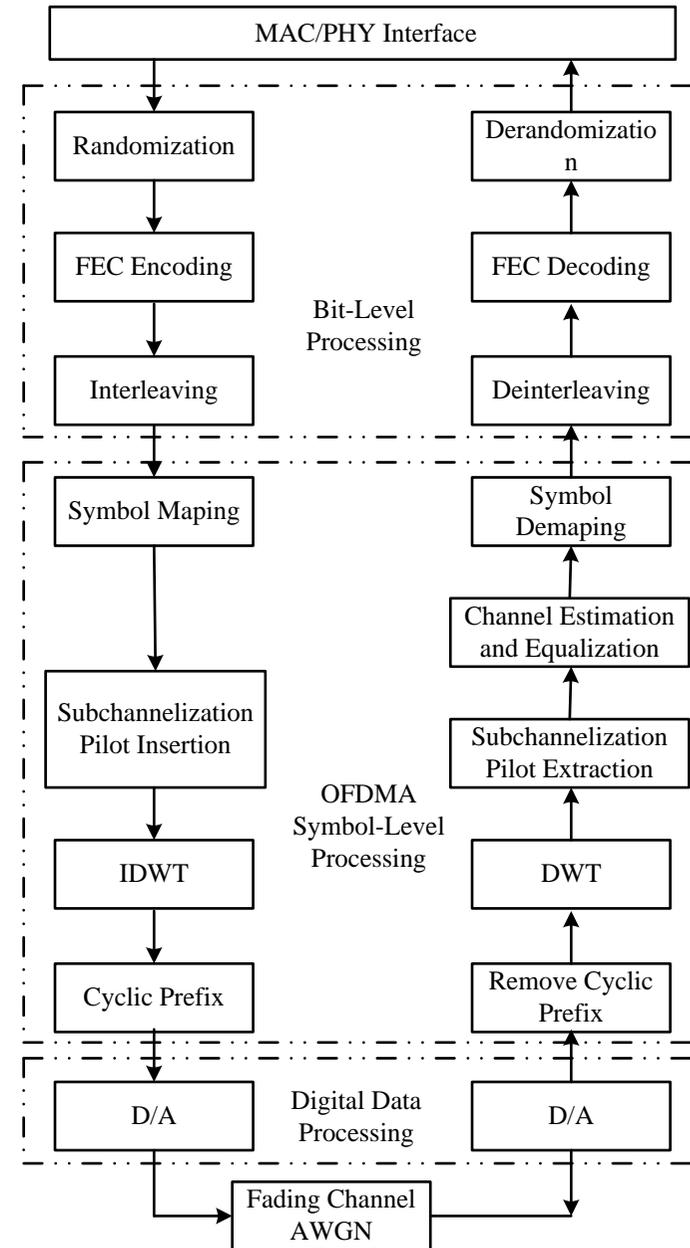


Figure 2: Block Diagram of proposed Wavelet based mobile WiMAX (IEEE 802.16e OFDMA-PHY)

PROPOSED ALGORITHM

The entire operation can be summarized in equation (1). \mathbf{X} is the original data signal, [QPSK] is QPSK signal, [IDWT_N] is N-level IDWT decomposition matrix, and W_N is the N-point complex exponential matrix using Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN), F is the resultant matrix. The three matrices are combined to yield the combined operation matrix, M .

$$F = [W_N] [IDWT_N] [QPSK] X \quad (1)$$

$$= [M] X$$

Step 1: Input values are generated using random style

Step 2: QPSK modulation technique is used for modulation of the input signal.

Step 3: The QPSK/QAM16 modulated signal is transferred into time domain from frequency domain.

Step 4: In this step, cyclic prefix is added to isolate the consecutive OFDMA symbols.

Step 5: Channel coding is carried out to reduce noise and to increase the reliability of transmission.

Step 6: DWT transformation is done to convert the time domain signal in frequency domain.

Step 7: This step demodulates the frequency domain signal to retrieve the original signal.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The performance of mobile WiMAX with scalable OFDMA under AWGN channel is evaluated using computer simulation on Matlab 7.0 platform. The simulation parameters selected according to the IEEE 802.16e standard. As well, we chose the most relevant parameters that our local regularities. The parameters are; 20 MHz nominal bandwidth, 5 decomposition level, 2.4 GHz operation frequency. This spectrum is the most likely licensed band to roll out IEEE802.16e services in Bangladesh. For the system performance

evaluation, we choose QPSK and QAM16 modulation scheme using $\frac{E_b}{N_0}$ is the loss at transmitter side. The following Table 1 shows primitives parameters that used for calculation and simulation works. We generate AWGN channel using simulation model of by tapped delay line.

The proposed method which is mentioned in previous sections are evaluated based on IEEE 802.16e OFDMA-PHY under ITU-R Vehicular A channel [7]. Figure 3 plots the BER performance of ordinary OFDMA using the QAM16, QPSK modulation techniques and the proposed OFDMA system. From this figure, the new OFDMA system outperforms the ordinary OFDMA system. This figure shows BER performances for mobile velocity 360 km/h. We can observe that piecewise linear estimator also performs the best among other methods in high mobility. However, even if the E_b / N_0 become higher than 20 dB, BERs of channel error would not be lower than 10^{-5} . These results show that other two methods can not support high mobility sufficiently. System performances are dramatically degraded by Inter-Carrier Interference (ICI), due to the fast variation of the mobile channel. We found that performance improvement of mobile WiMAX system is needed in high speed environment.

Table 1: Simulation parameter

Parameters	Value
Carrier frequency	2300 MHz
System Channel (bandwidth)	10 MHz
Useful symbol time	91.43
Guard time length	1/16
Frame duration	2 ms
Operating frequency	2.4 GHz
Overall coding rate	$\frac{1}{2}$
Data subcarriers	560
Pilot subcarriers	280
Guard subcarriers	184
Decomposition level	Variable

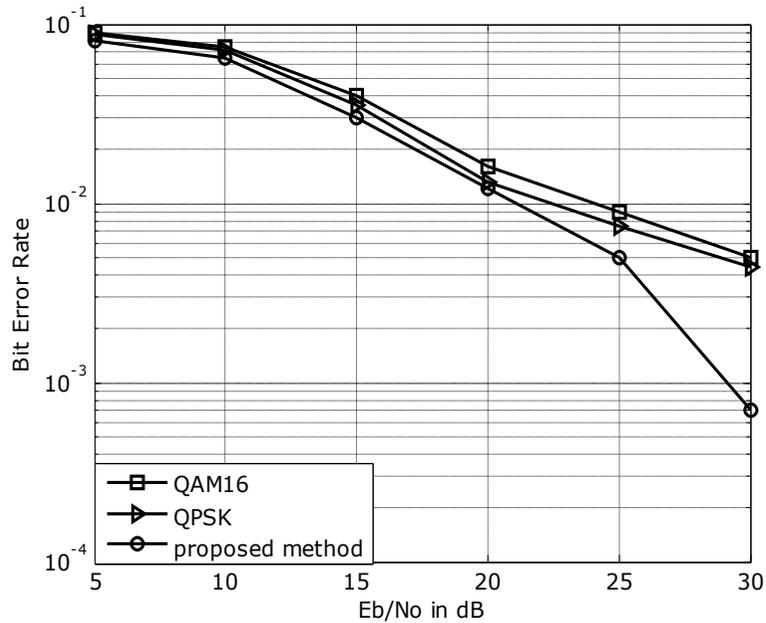


Figure 3: BER performance versus Eb/N0 for ordinary OFDMA using QAM16 and proposed wavelet based OFDMA scheme.

Table 2: guard time length, OFDMA data rate, channel capacity, and SNR

Tg	R	C	SNR
2.2857e-005	313600000	156800000	0.9691
1.1429e-005	3.4844e+008	1.7422e+008	0.5115
5.7143e-006	3.6894e+008	1.8447e+008	0.2633
2.8571e-006	3.8012e+008	1.9006e+008	0.1336

5. CONCLUSION

Mobile WiMAX system performance has been simulated for B3G/4G mobile broadband data communication. The results prove that variable decomposition level is useful for OFDMA system by improving BER in comparison of QAM16 and QPSK modulation scheme. This system will have the denoising capability which has the potential to reduce Gaussian noise from corrupted OFDM signals. The significant improvement may get possible by the

recognition accuracy, reliability and consistency of OFDMA reception with little additional computation of wavelet filter parameters. As this research working is carrying on developing stage, more details information will be presented on the next paper.

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Nonlinear Approximation From Taylor Series to Solve Higher Order Polynomials

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ABSTRACT

Newton-Raphson method was derived from the linear approximation to Taylor series neglecting the derivatives of second order and higher. Here an attempt has been made to develop a new approach of solving equations by introducing the second derivative instead of the first derivative only. The attempt discloses the relation between 'iteration' and 'existence' of roots in a different way. This work differs from others method in such a way that this method can find out double roots and getting multiple roots from a single initial value.

Key words: Taylor series, real roots, double root, iteration, Descartes' Rule of Sign.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $f(x)$ be a function of x which has a root x_1 i.e., $f(x_1) = 0$. Suppose x_0 to be an approximation to x_1 , where $|x_1 - x_0| = h$. Now from Taylor series

$$f(x_0) + h f'(x_0) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x_0) + \frac{h^3}{3!} f'''(x_0) + \dots = 0 \quad (1.1)$$

Neglecting the second and higher order derivatives,

$$f(x_0) + h f'(x_0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)}$$

and this x_1 is a better approximation than x_0 .

Successive approximations are given by x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{n+1} where

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \quad (1.2)$$

In the continuation of this iterative progression if $x_{n+1} = x_n$ then one concludes that a root is obtained. That means x_n becomes a root, then $f(x_n) = 0$. Formula (1.2) is known as the Newton-Raphson formula [1].

In this work, we have considered derivatives till second order of Taylor series (1.1) and the terms containing the third and higher derivatives are neglected so that

$$f(x_0) + h f'(x_0) + \frac{h^2}{2!} f''(x_0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow h^2 f''(x_0) + 2h f'(x_0) + 2f(x_0) = 0 \quad (1.3)$$

where f is a twice differentiable function

2. FORMULA DERIVATION

From equation (1.3) we get,

$$h = \frac{-2f'(x_0) \pm \sqrt{4[f'(x_0)]^2 - 8f(x_0) \cdot f''(x_0)}}{2f''(x_0)}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f'(x_0)}{f''(x_0)} \pm \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(x_0)}{f''(x_0)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(x_0)}{f''(x_0)}}$$

Which can be symbolized for general case, as

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)} \pm \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(x_n)}{f''(x_n)}} \quad (2.1)$$

In this work the attention is given to the case of real roots only. So we will stay away from complex numbers. As a result the outcomes are two iteration formulae:

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)} + \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(x_n)}{f''(x_n)}} \quad (2.2)$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)} - \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(x_n)}{f''(x_n)}} \quad (2.3)$$

To initiate the iteration an initial value is required. But it is a very difficult task to make a proper choice for an initial approximation. Therefore, in practice we can take any real number for an initial value, and then apply both of equation (2.2) and (2.3) for iteration. As we are trying to get all the real roots, iterating any one of the equations may not be sufficient to provide all. So, we should keep continuing iteration using both the equations up to a reasonable number of steps to get all the real roots. If $f''(a) = 0$ for some initial choice 'a', we discard it and try with some other value.

3. ALGORITHM

INPUT : $f(x)$, x_0 , Threshold

OUTPUT: Root

METHOD:

Initialize $x_p = x_{pp} = x_0$

$$\text{Calculate } x_c = x_p - \frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)} + \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}}$$

Calculate

$$xx_c = xx_p - \frac{f'(xx_p)}{f''(xx_p)} - \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(xx_p)}{f''(xx_p)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(xx_p)}{f''(xx_p)}}$$

While ($'x_c - x_p' \geq \text{Threshold}$, $'x_{cc} - x_{pp}' \geq \text{Threshold}$)

$$x_p = x_c$$

$$xx_p = xx_c$$

$$x_c = x_p - \frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)} + \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}}$$

$$xx_c = xx_p - \frac{f'(xx_p)}{f''(xx_p)} - \sqrt{\left\{ \frac{f'(xx_p)}{f''(xx_p)} \right\}^2 - 2 \frac{f(xx_p)}{f''(xx_p)}}$$

If ($f'(xx_c) == 0$)

The function has double roots xx_c

4. CONSTRAINT IN TAKING MORE HIGHER TERMS FROM TAYLOR SERIES

It is a justified question why a few more terms are not taken from (1.1). The answer is simple. Because a few more terms will result in solving polynomial equations of the 3rd, 4th, order for which there does not exist simple methods like the general solution of a quadratic equation. To solve those equations in 'h', there will be required some way of solving equations like (1.2) or (2.2) or (2.3). The whole method will become recursive.

5. ITERATION AND ROOTS

Observing formulas (2.2) and (2.3) the following lemma is proposed.

Lemma:

Iteration is a necessary condition for existence of roots; but the converse is not true.

Proof:

Suppose that iteration at the p^{th} stage i.e, $x_p = x_{p+1} = x_{p+2} = \dots$

Whatever formula of (2.2) and (2.3) is used, it is always got, from (2.1)

$$0 = -\frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)} \mp \sqrt{\left\{\frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}\right\}^2 - \frac{2f(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left\{\frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}\right\}^2 = \left\{\frac{f'(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}\right\}^2 - \frac{2f(x_p)}{f''(x_p)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2f(x_p)}{f''(x_p)} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x_p) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x_p = 0 \text{ is a root of } f(x).$$

On the other hand, if x_q is a root of $f(x)$ i.e., $f(x_q) = 0$ then from (2.3)

$$x_{q+1} = x_q - \frac{2f'(x_q)}{f''(x_q)} \tag{4.1}$$

i.e., $x_{q+1} \neq x_q$ and no iteration occurs.

The previous lemma is important in this sense that it annals the misunderstanding “iteration at $x_p \Leftrightarrow x_p$ is a root of f ” obtained from (1.2).

But if $x_q = x_{q+1}$ in (4.1) then one gets

$$f'(x_q) = 0 \tag{4.2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_q \text{ is a root of } f'$$

$$\Rightarrow x_q \text{ is a double root of } f.$$

i.e., a double root is obtained by using first (2.3) and then (4.1). That means if we get any root by using formula (2.3) we should check whether the root satisfies $f'(x_q) = 0$. If it satisfies then we can claim the root as a double root. And, in this case, a previous knowledge about the existence of a double root of f is not required.

6. SIMULATION AND RESULT

The solution of some complicated equations are being done using formula (2.2) or (2.3)

Example 6.1: $-3x^{10} + 41x^7 - 23x^6 + x^4 - 81x + 29 = 0$

Descartes’ Rule of Sign confirms that this equation has one negative real root and either five or three or one positive real roots. [2]

Now let $f(x) = -3x^{10} + 41x^7 - 23x^6 + x^4 - 81x + 29$

Using (2.2) with $x_0 = 1$, yields

$$x_3 = x_4 = x_5 = \dots = 1.221324$$

And with $x_0 = 1$, the formula (2.3) yields

$$x_3 = x_4 = x_5 = \dots = 0.35801.$$

But with the same initial value (1.2) provides only the root 0.35801 only.

Example 6.2: $x^3 - x^2 - x + 1 = 0$

In this case, with $x_0 = 0$ the formula (2.3) yields $x_9 = x_{10} \dots = 1$

And with $x_0 = 0$ the formula (2.2) yields $x_4 = x_5 \dots = -1$

i.e., a single initial choice is yielding two different roots which is not possible from (1.2).

Moreover the root $x_n = 1$ satisfies the formula (4.1) which implies that the root $x_n = 1$ is double root.

Example 6.3: $x^3 - x^2 = 0$

Taking the initial choice $x_0 = 0$ both (2.2) and (2.3) shows that $x_0 = x_1 = x_2 = \dots = 0$ which also means that there is a double root 0. But (1.2) cannot work out with this case.

7. CONCLUSION

Of course this method requires the existence of derivatives. In such a neighborhood region of the root if the function is not continuously differentiable then this may diverge. In those cases a different method should be used. The formulae (2.2) and (2.3) will fail in cases where the second derivative is zero for any stage of iteration. Number of iteration may vary from our model to Newton-Raphson method but in some cases the proposed algorithm works better than (1.2) especially where $f'(x_n) = 0$, or $f'(x_n) \rightarrow 0$. Yielding of two different roots from a single initial choice is not possible with (1.2). Moreover (2.3) and (4.1) is giving confirmation of if there is any double root, in fact which is not possible from Newton-Raphson method. As this algorithm is overcoming from the shortcoming of Newton-Raphson method and introducing some new features like yielding of multiple roots from a single initial value and giving confirmation of double roots, it can be concluded that this is an efficient method.

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Status of Stakeholders of Shrimp Marketing Channel in Bagerhat District

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ABSTRACT

Bagerhat district plays an important role in shrimp producing and exporting regime. The marketing channel included the stakeholders like gher owner, faria, depot, agent and processing plant. Environment friendly organic shrimp culture was found in the study area where shrimp processing plants destroyed the environment by dumping and discharging chlorinated water and shrimp waste materials arbitrarily. Some concerning factors like source of pure water, irregular icing, improper handling and transportation were identified which affected the food safety and quality of the seafood product. Lower stakeholders like gher owners, farias and depots were less aware about HACCP where as agent and plant complied HACCP system cautiously. In farias and depots some unethical fair trade practices having been pushing foreign materials (shabu, juice of ladies finger, water etc.) were observed. In case depots, agents and processing plants lower grade was counted during the procuring where as higher grade was considered during selling period. Without faria all stakeholders had the provision to get license. It was found that gher owners were less interested to get license but higher percentage of agents and factories were found having license from the competent authority.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is primarily agricultural country. It is a small country but with vast water resources scattered all over the country in the form of small ponds, beels, lakes, canals, rivers and estuaries covering an area of about 4.34 million ha. The total fish production in Bangladesh was estimated at 1.78 million tones in 2000-01; of which 1.4 million tones (97%) were obtained from the inland waters, and the remaining 0.38 million tones (21%) came from marine water (DOF, 2002). Presently 1.4 million people are engaged full time and 12 millions as part time in fisheries sector in the country for livelihood and trade (Bailey and Doulman 1994; BCAS 2001). Another 3.08 million fish and shrimp farmers are cultivating fish both at subsistence and commercial level (Pansuwanna 2001; Rahman 1994). Bangladesh was a fish surplus country about a century back when the population was less than 20 million. However with the rapid growth of in population, fishing efforts increased greatly while fish culture and conservation were insufficient to keep pace with population explosion. In Bangladesh, fish farming is currently one of the most important sectors of the national economy. Within the overall agro-based economy of the country, the contribution of fish production has been considered to hold good promise for creating jobs, earning foreign currency and supplying protein. About 97% of the inland fish production is marketed internally for domestic consumption while the remaining 3% is exported (Botta, *et. al.*, 1987). A large number of people, many of whom living below the poverty line, find employment in the domestic fish marketing chain in the form of farmers, processors, traders, intermediaries, day labourers and transporters Brockman (1983).

The fisheries sector, especially the shrimp sector has been playing an important role in the economy of Bangladesh (Richard 2002; Ronsivalli and Charm 1975). From time immemorial, freshwater prawns and shrimps have been caught as wild product of rivers, canals and floodplains. In the past people living in coastal areas used to make dikes or embankments along the banks of estuarine

rivers and allowed sea water carrying shrimp fry or juveniles to enter the enclosures. As a result, production output had always been very poor (Hannan 1994). The government of Bangladesh has taken up many schemes for the modernize the shrimp culture in the country from mid 1980s, as a result of which there have been considerable improvements during last twenty years. The sector plays a dominant role in nutrition, employment and foreign exchange earnings. About 1.2 million people directly and 10 million people indirectly depend on fisheries for their livelihood. This figure is about 12% of the total population of the country (Choudhuri 1993 and Choudhuri 1994). Fisheries have contributed to 5.24% to GDP, 5.03% to national income, and 4.76% foreign exchange earning (Ferdous 2001).

Bangladesh shrimp and prawn exports comprise 2 species from freshwater and 9 species from marine water. Of these, *Macrobrachim rosenbergii*, (The giant freshwater prawn, locally known as golda), *Metapenaeus monoceros* (Brown shrimp, locally known as harina), *Penaeus indicus* (White shrimp, locally known as chaka), and *P. monodon* (Black tiger, locally known as bagda) are worth mentioning.

Tremendous prospectus exists for the development of the sector. The country has great potential for freshwater prawn culture, and marine and brackish water shrimp culture (Hoe 2001; (Ruckes 1980; Shimizu 2001). Bangladesh shrimp is widely accepted for its freshness and pollution free production. It is also free from any chemical environmental hazards. This advantage is fully exploited by the way of image promotion in the world market both with the consumers as well as marketing channels (Ias 2001; Kleih, *et. al.*,2003). South-western site of Bangladesh is very famous for shrimp culture and processing of seafood products. A considerable amount of processing plants was established in this zone especially three districts are famous for that sense like Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira districts. Among them Bagerhat district is focusing district from where highest shrimp (freshwater and marine) production are

obtaining every year. According to DoF, 2006 the production statistic of Bagerhat district was shown bellow:

Table 1: Upazilla wise shrimp gher area and its production up to 2006.

Upazilla	Gher number		Area (ha)		Production (mt)		Depot
	Shrimp	Prawn	Shrimp	Prawn	Shrimp	Prawn	Both
Sadar	3014	6889	7227	4200	3613	315	200
Fakirhat	430	7066	229	3005	93	2404	110
Rampal	4100	550	13695	1457	4108	655	105
Mongla	4537	--	9089	--	2304	---	125
Mollarhat	1830	9287	896	4453	111	2727	89
Chitalmari	1545	7110	375	1614	78	888	62
Kachua	583	1287	1489	810	272	340	27
Morelgong	2010	1385	10170	505	1881	187	68
Sarankhola	08	687	38	172	04	64	37
Total	18057	34261	43208	16216	12467	7580	823

Source: Upazilla Office, 2008

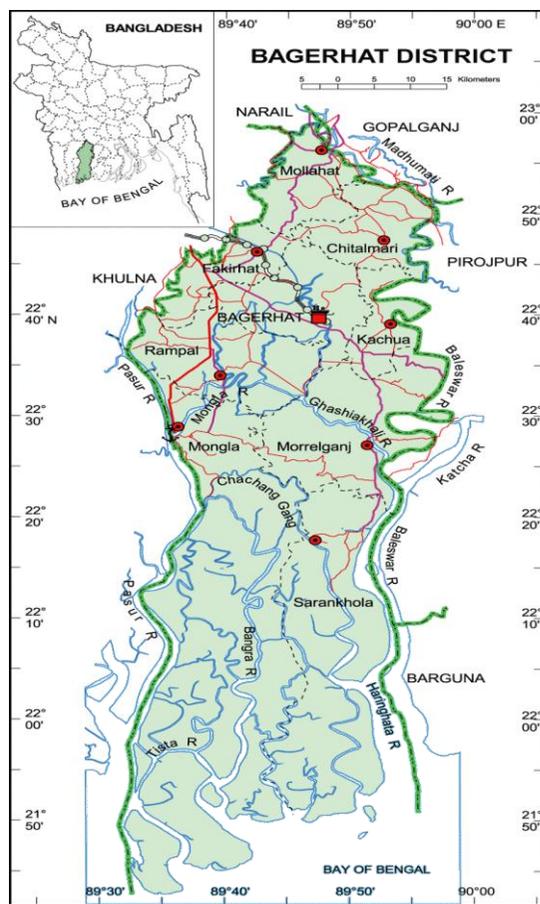
2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the present investigation mainly focused on identification of the steps taken of each stakeholder to identify the extent of how ethical and fair trade practices are going on.

3. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Nine upazillas of Bagerhat district were selected for investigation. Bagerhat district is famous for shrimp culture and a strong marketing channel existing in this district. All marketing channel is interlinked with other district marketing channel. The surveyed upazillas were Sadar, Mongla, Rampal, Fakirhat, Kachua, Mollahat, Morelgong, Chitalmari and Sarankhola (Map 1). Different questionnaire were prepared each for each categories of stakeholders, and survey based work had been done. A total 81 ghers, 81 farias, 54 depots, 8 agents and 2 factories were investigated. The participants were selected on random basis. The PRA tools including FGD (Focus Group Discussion), daily activities, cross check, seasonal calendar, etc., photographs were taken before interpretation. There were 9 FGD were conducted at the ghers level in 9 surveyed upazillas. Different separate

organizations such as Bangladesh Frozen Food Exports Association (BFFEA), Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (BEPB), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Shrimp Seal of Quality (SSoQ), Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC), NGOs and other international organizations etc., had formed alliance to work in a body to improve the present shrimp marketing system and to do so they are trying to bring change top to bottom of the shrimp marketing channel with a target Tk 10,000 crore (US\$1.53 billion) export earning from frozen food sector of the country.



Map 1: Bagerhat district.

To achieve the new desired target scheme they had established ethical and fair trade practices in all stages. In the present study to identify the problems existing in the marketing system to bring revolution, data were collected from each and every stakeholder in the aspect of the recommended seven salient features (Table 2).

Table 2: Major considering factors taken under the study

Salient features	Stakeholders				
	Ghers	Farias	Depots	Agents	Plants
General information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Source of fund o Workers o Education and religion o Salary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Age o Workers status o Religion o Salary o Amount of shrimp buy everyday o Amount of shrimp sell everyday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ownership o Source of fund o Area o Manpower o Salary o Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ownership o Source of fund o Area o Manpower o Salary o Production o Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ownership o Source of fund o Education o Religion o Manpower
Ethical and fair trade practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handling of shrimp after harvesting o Rejection of shrimp o Causes of rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handling of shrimp after purchasing o Rejection of shrimp o Causes of rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handling of shrimp after purchasing o Rejection of shrimp o Causes of rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Handling of shrimp after purchasing o Rejection of shrimp o Causes of rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rejection of shrimp o Causes of rejection o Grading system o Fate of rejected shrimp

Primary data were gathered by field survey through structured questionnaires. This study involved the inspection of the socio-economy and livelihoods of the stakeholders. Secondary data were collected from Bangladesh Frozen Food Exports Association (BFFEA), Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (BEFR),

Department of Fisheries (DoF), Shrimp Seal of Quality (SSoQ), Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC), Marketing cooperatives, ATDP and NGO's. Data were gathered, sorted/ categorized and interpreted according to the objectives as well as the indicators and presented in graphs and tabular forms. Data were presented in the respect of seven salient feature mentioned earlier. Against each feature all the stakeholders were compared. Comparison between the stakeholders was taken in some cases to identify the particular problem existing in the particular stakeholder of the shrimp marketing channel. All data were processed with the help of data base software Microsoft Excel and SPSS.

4. RESULTS

Existing shrimp marketing channel in Bagerhat district: Marketing channel is the sequence of intermediaries through which harvested shrimp go by from producers to consumers. It may be noted that some shrimp were harvested and marketed to the local consumer. Those marketing channel was different from the marketing channel where harvested shrimp were exported through a channel to the abroad. In the present study all types of shrimp like *Penaeus monodon* (bagda), *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (golda), *Metapenaeus monoceros* (horina), *P. indicus* etc. were taken under consideration. Those are used to export in the foreign. This marketing channel is simple comparative to the fish marketing channel. Marketing channel participants included farmers, farias, depot holders, commission agents and processing plants (Fig. 1). Including freshwater and marine water shrimp a general marketing channel was sketched. The first stakeholder was identified as farmer that was indicated as gher owners/gher, second stakeholder was appeared that was farias. In the present marketing system two types of farias were found. Some were called small farias and other was called as large farias. Though in the analysis both farias were combined and used in the result in a body. Gher owners sold their shrimp to the farias sometimes in the gher areas or sometimes they carried their harvested shrimp directly to the depot. The third

stakeholder was depot holder. In that section also two types of depots were found, one was primary and another was secondary. Shrimp can be marketed from farias to the both places and even primary depot owners sold shrimp to the secondary shrimp owners. Also in that section two depots were analyzed jointly. The fourth stakeholder was found agents or commission agents. Either farias or depots all shrimp was firstly entered into any commission agents then those were passed to the processing plants. The last one was processing plants. There was a very interesting matter that processing plants didn't accept any shrimp without via commission agents.

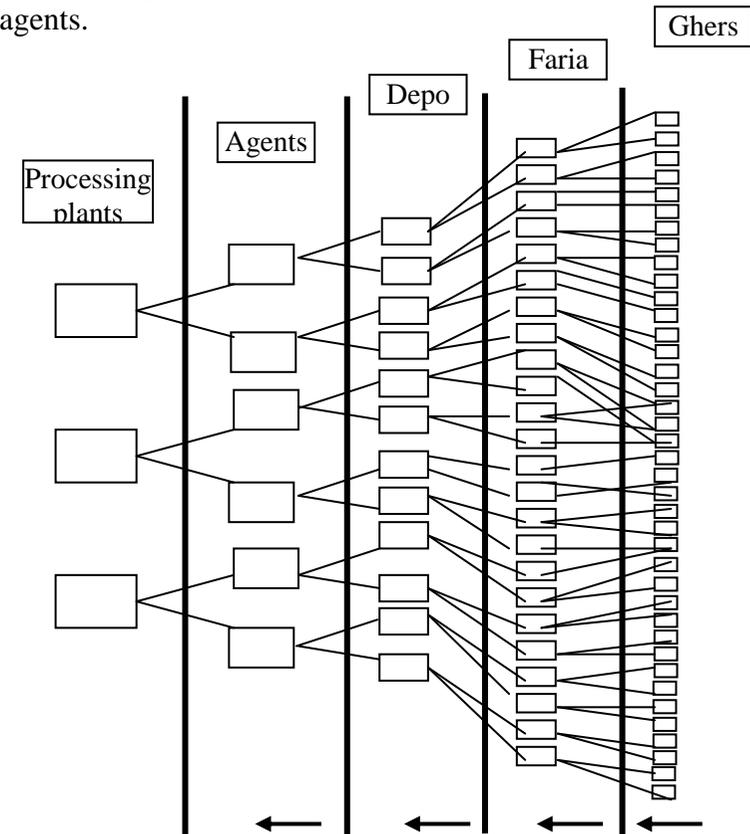


Fig. 1: Existing shrimp marketing channel in Bagerhat district.

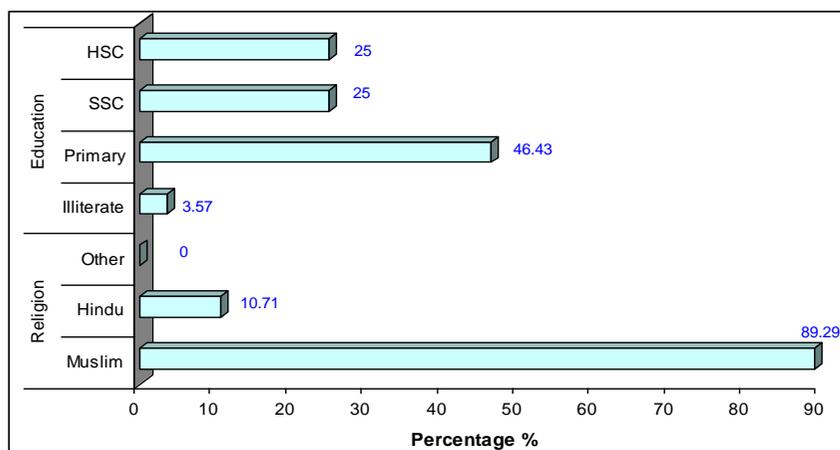
Source of fund of ghers: Ghers normally run with self financial support. Table 3 shows that 66.67% ghers of Morelgong upazilla, 33.33% ghers from Mongla and Mollahat upazillas and also 16.67% ghers from Kachua and Sarankhola upazillas were established giving loan from somewhere.

Table 3: Source of fund of the ghers in the study area.

Upazillas	Source of fund (%)	
	Self	Loan
Sadar	100	0
Mongla	66.67	33.33
Rampal	100	0
Fakirhat	100	0
Kachua	83.33	16.67
Mollahat	66.67	33.33
Morelgong	16.67	83.33
Chitalmari	100	0
Sarankhola	83.33	16.67

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Education and religion of ghers: Figure 2 shows that 46.43% gher owners were found whose education level was primary owners a large percentage (89.29%) gher owner was found Muslim.



Source: Field Survey 2008

Fig. 2: Education and religion of gher owners

Salary of the workers of ghers: In ghers male and children workers were found with great percentage and sometimes manager or accountant was found in some ghers but no grader was found. Table 4 shows that male, female and children workers salary were ranged between 60-120, 50-55 and 30-40 Tk/day where as manager was paid ranged between 3000-5000 Tk/month.

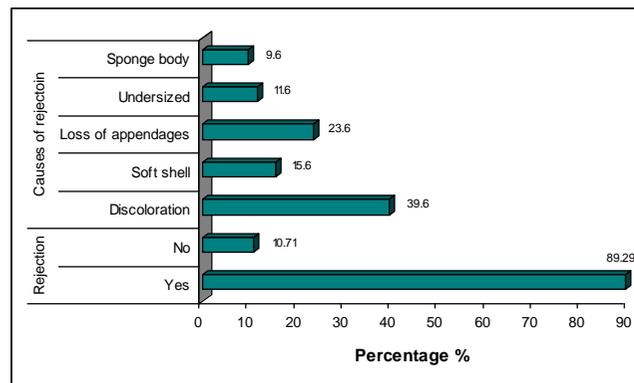
Table 4: Salary ranges of workers and staffs engaged with the ghers.

Workers salary range (Tk/day)			Staff salary range (Tk/month)		
Male	Female	Children	Manager / accountant	Grader	Children/ other
60-120	50-55	30-40	3000-5000		

Source: Field Survey 2008

Handling of shrimp after harvesting: To uphold the freshness quality of the post harvest shrimp up to reaching to the factory some techniques should be followed. In the present study the gher owners were asked what they did immediately after harvesting. About 1.79% gher owners drip the harvested shrimp into the water and 57.14 and 41.07% gher owners informed they put the shrimp into the bucket without and with ice (1:1) ratio respectively.

Rejection of shrimp and its causes: During grading some harvested shrimps should reject, because it is natural phenomenon that some shrimp could be found like soft shell, undersized, loss of appendages etc. otherwise unfair trade takes place. In the present study 89.29% gher owners were found who rejected shrimp during after harvesting and 39.6% shrimp was rejected due to discoloration (Fig 3). Only 9.6% shrimp were rejected due to sponge body or mal nutrition.



Source: Field Survey 2008.

Fig. 3: Percentage of shrimp rejection in gher areas of Bagerhat district.

Age of faria: Age structure of all farias in Bagerhat district where maximum farias (40.74%) was found whose age was between 30-39 years and none was found below 20 years.

Religion of faria: Upazilla wise religions were identified and data revealed that 33.33% Hindu were found in Mongla, Mollahat and Rampal Upazillas and 66.67% Hindu was found as faria in Chitalmari and without that all were in Muslim religion.

Education of faria: The data focused that 33.33% farias was found from Mongla, Chitalmari and Rampal upazillas who were illiterate and highest percentage (66.67%) of primary educated and SSC educated were found in Sadar and Morelgong Upazilla respectively and also 33.33% farias were identified in Kachua upazilla who were University educated (Table 5).

Table 5: Education percentage of faria in Bagerhat district.

Upazillas	Education status (%)				
	Illiterate	Primary	SSC	HSC	University
Sadar	0	66.67	0	33.33	0
Fakirhat	0	33.33	33.33	33.33	0
Mongla	33.33	33.33	33.33	0	0
Kachua	0	0	33.33	33.33	33.33
Chitalmari	33.33	33.33	33.33	0	0

Morelgong	0	33.33	66.67	0	0
Sarankhola	0	33.33	33.33	33.33	0
Mollahat	0	33.33	33.33	33.33	0
Rampal	33.33	33.33	33.33	0	0

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Amount of shrimp buy everyday of faria: Table 6 shows 66.67% of farias from Sadar, Fakirhat, Kachua, Morelgong, and Mollahat upazillas purchased 40-60 Kg/day, where 33.33% of farias of Mongla, Kachua, Chitalmari, Morelgong, Mollahat and Rampal upazillas purchased shrimp more than 60 Kg/day.

Table 6: Amount of shrimp purchase by farias

Upazillas	Amount of shrimp purchase (%)			
	<20kg	20-40kg	40-60kg	>60kg
Sadar	0	66.67	33.33	0
Fakirhat	0	66.67	33.33	0
Mongla	33.33	0	33.33	33.33
Kachua	0	66.67	0	33.33
Chitalmari	0	33.33	33.33	33.33
Morelgong	0	66.67	0	33.33
Sarankhola	33.33	33.33	33.33	0
Mollahat	0	66.67	0	33.33
Rampal	0	33.33	33.33	33.33

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Sell to the next stakeholder of faria: Table 7 shows that 100% farias of Sadar, Mongla, Kachua, Chitalmari, Sarankhola and Rampal upazillas sold their shrimp to Depot and 33.33% of farias of Morelgong and Mollahat sold shrimp to the big faria and also an exceptional was found that 33.33% farias of fakirhat upazilla sold shrimp directly to the agent, none was found who sold directly to the factory.

Table 7: Next stakeholder of farias in the study area.

Upazillas	Next stakeholder (%)			
	Big faria	Depot	Agent	Factory
Sadar	0	100	0	0

Fakirhat	0	66.67	33.33	0
Mongla	0	100	0	0
Kachua	0	100	0	0
Chitalmari	0	100	0	0
Morelgong	33.33	66.67	0	0
Sarankhola	0	100	0	0
Mollahat	33.33	66.67	0	0
Rampal	0	100	0	0

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Handling of shrimp after purchasing: After purchasing 33.33% farias dripped shrimp in the water and 14.82 and 51.85% of farias put the shrimp in the bucket without and with dry ice respectively.

Rejection of shrimp by farias: From the data very unpleasant result has been found that in every upazilla some farias didn't reject shrimp, while 100% farias of Sadar upazilla stated that they didn't ever reject shrimp and, 33.33% farias of Mongla and Rampal upazillas and 16.67% farias of Fakirhat, Kachua, Chitalmari, Morelgong, Sarankhola and Mollahat upazillas stated that they didn't reject shrimp.

Causes of rejection of faria : Some reasons were identified from the investigation. A greater amount of rejection (46.17%) cause was found as soft shell while 30.76% shrimp were rejected by discoloration followed by 10.31, 6.38 and 6.38% shrimp were rejected for spongy body or malnutrition, loss of appendages and water in body respectively.

Ownership of depot: In the present investigation 66.67% depot of Bagerhat district was found whose ownership was rented while 14.81 and 18.52% were found Govt. and self respectively. About 37.04% depot was identified whose source of fund was loan from somewhere.

Area of depot: Area wise depots were divided into four different groups, where below <100 sq.ft depot was not found and 62.96% depots were found having area of 200-300 sq.ft. Too large depot is

difficult to keep clean and free from contamination of maintain HACCP. In Bagerhat district only 14.81% depots were found having area more than 300 sq.ft.

Structure of depot: In the surveyed area (Bagerhat district) 62.96% depots were found where floor had been made of mosaic and rest of the depots floor was plaster. It was very positive result in the context of HACCP that there was no muddy and wooden floor found in any of the nine surveyed upazillas. About 88.89% depots made their wall with bricks. Though a few (14.81%) depots were appeared whose roof was made of *golpata*, but a significant portion (37.04 and 29.63%) depots were visible whose roof was made of concrete and tin respectively.

Salary of depot: Females and children were employed giving lowest salary into the depots. The male workers were getting higher salary (60-120 Tk/day) rather than others. Workers were employed as daily basis and salary increases depending upon season and production of the depot. Staff and also workers salary varied with the size of the depot, situation, availability of labour, production and other factors. The depots of Bagerhat district there was no permanent children staff and manager/ accountants salary varied ranged between 2500 to 6000 Tk/month.

Handling of shrimp after purchasing: After purchasing the shrimp must be put in the safe place with ice. About 96.3% depots put their shrimp immediately after purchasing shrimp and a negligible amount of depots (3.7%) put shrimp in the bucket without ice. From the result the depots are showing positive result in the respect of icing shrimp in proper time.

Rejection: Shrimp rejection also done in the depots. About 92.59% depots of Bagerhat district rejected shrimp for several causes that were visually inspected.

Causes of rejection: From the depots of Bagerhat district 33.45 and 32.39% shrimp were rejected for discoloration and soft shell respectively. In the depots 5.39% shrimp were rejected due to

pushing material and among foreign materials shabu, juices of ladies finger etc were available.

Ownership of agents: From the investigation 62.50% agents were identified as rented and, 25 and 12.50% were identified as self and Govt. respectively. 62.50 % agents were running by getting loan from others where remaining was self funded (Fig. 4).

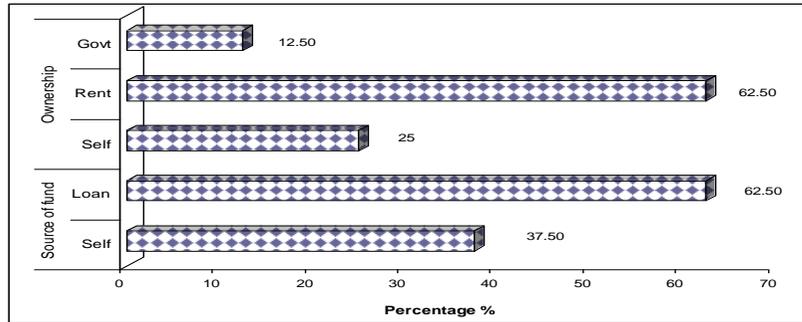


Fig. 4: Ownership and source of fund for the agents.

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Area of agents: Area wise agents were divided into five different categories such as 200-300, 300-400, 400-500, 500-600 and >600 sq. ft groups. Figure 5 shows that 25% agents were identified for each of 300-400, 400-500 and >600 sq.ft groups and 12.5% for each of 200-300 and 500-600 sq.ft groups.

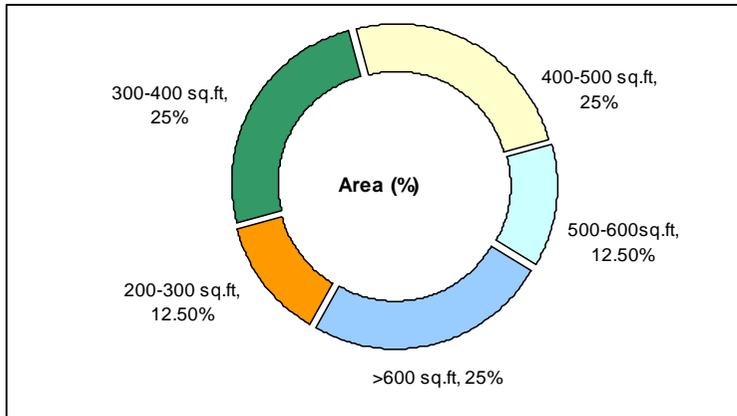


Fig. 5: Area of agents' office room in the study area.

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Structure of agents: Floor of almost all agents was constructed by mosaic and it is prerequisite to construct the floor and wall with such a material that can be easily cleaned to maintain HACCP. In the present survey a large percentage (62.5%) of agents were identified which floor was constructed with mosaic or tiles (Fig 6). Where 31.25% floor was found plastered and very little (6.25%) was found wooden floor which could be vulnerable to contaminated. No one was found which floor was muddy. Like floor 75% agents were found which wall was made of brick and remaining was found whose wall was made of tin (12.5%) and wood (12.5%) while bamboo wall was absent (Fig 6). Figure 6 also shows the roof structure of surveyed agents where 25, 50, 12 and 12% for concrete, tin, goolpata and other respectively.

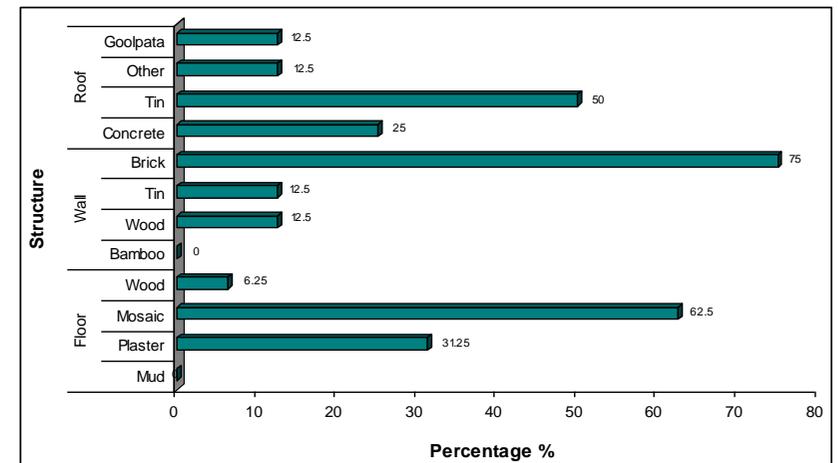


Fig. 6: Structure of agents' office in study area.

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Handling of shrimp after purchasing: To protect the shrimp from spoilage it is urgently needed to keep the shrimp into ice as early as possible. In the present study it was inspected whether the shrimp was preserved in the safe position with ice or not. From the study 93.75% agents were identified where shrimp was put in the bucket with at different ratio and remaining portion (6.25%) of agents claimed that they send the shrimp directly to the factories that indicated that before sending, shrimp was not kept with ice. This was obviously bad practice.

Shrimp handling hour: Short time preservation was done into the agents. So it is necessary to reduce the time from gher to the factory. From the present study 62.5% agents were identified whose shrimp handling period was 3-4 hours, where only 12.5% agents informed that the handle the shrimp 1-2 hours.

Rejection of shrimp: Rejection of shrimp was done. From the survey it was depicted that 75% agents rejected shrimp and 25% didn't reject. Rejection was done for several reasons through visual inspection.

Reasons of shrimp rejection: Some reasons were identified; if those were found into the shrimp appearance then it was rejected by agents. About 39.17% of shrimp was rejected due to discoloration and 12.5, 35.83 and 12.5% were detected to reject for pushing material found inside the shrimp body, soft shell and water in body respectively.

Ownership and source of fund by Factory/ processing plant: About 100% factories were running taking loan from others and also 100% factories were constructed making partnership with other.

Education and religion of factory owner: About 100 % factory owner's educational background was SSC pass and religious status was Muslim.

Initial rejection and fate of rejected shrimp: About 100% factories rejected the received shrimp at receiving point and after rejected 100% factories also returned the shrimp to the agent.

Miss grading: From the investigation it was revealed that there was miss grading took place in the factories trading section. In the present study miss grading was assessed by using counting system key point. Figure 7 shows that during procurement 90% shrimp were counted taking upper grade while during exporting 70% shrimp was counted taking lower grading.

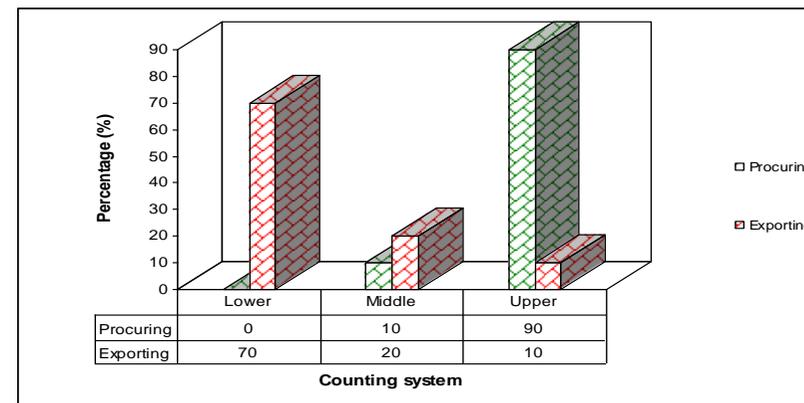


Fig. 7: Counting system followed in the factories of Bagerhat district.

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Discussion: The EU team after visiting the factories in Bangladesh on 16th November 2005 and commented as “ With regard to the results of the last FOOD AND VETENARY mission in 1997 major investments and improvements were found in the establishments generally worked under good structural and hygienic conditions and have improved and invested significantly”. These were very encouraging words for the Government of Bangladesh as well as for the stakeholders of shrimp marketing channel especially for all processors and exporters. Understanding the importance of our exports to EU countries and knowing fully well about the incidents of 1997, all the exporters had prepared their establishments or facilities in all respects and most importantly they had made substantial investment inside the factories, updating all their documentations and training the workers to meet the requirements of the HACCP and EU Guidelines.

Shrimp is the second exported commodity which are producing and processing in our country but are not consuming in local market. So, to satisfy the buyer is the main concerning matter to promote the export. In this regard to improve the infrastructure of the shrimp marketing channel and to assure food safety Vision 2008 had been established on 28-29 November 2004. The target of vision 2008 was to achieve exporting earning 10,000 crore (1-5 billion US\$)

from the shrimp exporting section. This vision 2008 included many things like improvement of local marketing system, development of handling resources, development of sustainable aquaculture strategies, feed mill development, seal of quality, foreign marketing strategies, operational strategies (an alliance) etc. The present study only confined in internal marketing system specially shrimp marketing channel in Bagerhat district and present status of all stakeholders of the channel with a view to achieving the vision 2008. To promote the production and ensuring the food safety of shrimp, seven salient features were established. In the present study seven salient features were investigated in each stakeholder. The image and quality of Bangladeshi frozen food products are losing day by day due to unethical trade practices. Shrimp are generally dripping by water and also are pushed foreign materials such as shabu, juice of ladies finger and water. Those unethical activities were seriously observed in Farias and depots. Rejection of shrimp for natural causes like soft shell, lose of appendages, discoloration were also found in every tire. Consequently the price of shrimp is reducing up to US\$2/lb in the foreign market in comparison to other shrimp exporting countries. Most interesting thing was found in case of counting system (grade). During the procuring the stakeholders showed keen interest to count lower c grade but in case of selling they tried to push higher grade.

5. CONCLUSION

As shrimp is the second largest exporting commodity in Bangladesh. This sector is very potential and contributing a vital role in the economy of the country. Complying the above discussed seven salient features, the existed shrimp marketing channel could be developed and promoted the export growth figure. Now this is the right time to take initiative for homogeneous development of all the stakeholders related with the marketing channel. In this regard Government, NGO's, BFFEA and other national and international organizations should come under on apex body future development.

6. PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

PROBLEMS

Farmer :

- Farmers are plagued with their inherent problems of fund crisis for the operational cost of galda farming
- Insufficient supply of good quality seed and feed for galda farming during the on set of culture season
- Higher price of seed and feed during the on set of the peak season
- Lack of proper knowledge and training on galda culture and management
- The powerful stakeholders, in the marketing chain through pricing, grading and weighing, exploit the farmers.
- There are no chances left for the farmers to determine the price of their products because of taking dadon
- High rate of interest of the Dadonders, local Mohajons
- Natural disasters (i.e. flood and drought) and environmental degradation (excess hot weather)
- Social problems like pouching, poisoning etc.
- There is no credit facilities for galda farming
- Farmers don't have any association to make them as a stronger body to have their says to the powerful exploiter groups
- There are no appropriate policies at the national level on production processing and marketing of galda

Depot owners:

- Depot owners also suffer from fund crisis since there are no credit facilities from Banks, or GOs (Government Organizations) for galda business.
- Instability of price in galda marketing system

- Pricing is determined by the buyer, not the seller and sellers have nothing to say
- There is no pricing policy
- Lack of proper knowledge and training on sanitation, hygiene and handling
- High rates of dadon of the commission agents
- They have no direct access to the fish processing factories to sell their product
- Depot construction according to HACCP requires quite a big amount

Factory workers

- They are too low paid compared to their labor to cope with the minimum family expenditure
- Their working hour is more than 12 hour with out any interval which is quite inhuman
- As there are no papers about their appointment, they have to rely on the mercy of the authority for the security of their job.
- Their working condition is miserable
- They have to suffer from skin diseases due to working with naked hand and feet and they are not provided with medical facilities
- There are no chances left for them for extra income through over duties
- They have no association to make them stronger bodies to have says against inhumanity on them
- They have no alternative means for coping during the off-season.
- They lead a very poor and miserable life

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Galda hatchery and nursery technologies should be improved to ensure supply of good quality, stronger PL to the farmers
- Shrimp production should be increased both horizontally and vertically
- Organic shrimp culture and crop rotation should be followed
- All antibiotics and chemicals should be stopped in shrimp culture
- Disease free PL (tested by PCR) should be ensured
- Poultry feed and poultry litter should be carefully avoided in shrimp culture especially *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*
- Fish feed formulation and production with locally available ingredients should be developed to ensure supply of feed at low cost
- Training of the farmers is necessary to improve their skill in farming technologies
- Farmers and the depot owners should form association for them to be stronger as bodies to have their says on the price rate and ease of obtaining loans from GO and NGOs
- The intermediary groups in the chain should lessened; the depot owners should have direct access to the factories to sell their products
- Agents control the whole marketing system, so it should be eliminated.
- Training on sanitary and phyto-sanitation should be provided in depot, agents
- Dignity of labour should be improved for the factory workers
- Working hour should be limited to 8 hours

- Three shifting working system should be maintained in the processing plants
- The factory workers should well paid
- All stake holder should come under licensing system
- HACCP system should be imposed in all sector
- Traceability including record keeping one step backward and one step forward should be followed.

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Strategic Management Models: An Evaluation

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Anjuman Ara Khanam **

ABSTRACT

A strategic management model is the representation of the structure of strategic management in combination of strategies and management activities. It is, basically, a simplified system used to stimulate organization direction, environmental scan, SWOT analysis, strategy formulation, implementation and control in the light of real life situations. The ultimate purposes of strategic management models are to help organizations increase performance through improved effectiveness, efficiency and flexibility. The objective of the study is to assess the strategic management models in the light of different strategies, strategic concepts, plans, control tasks etc. developed till today. The ultimate success of strategic management models depends on the effective utilization of the strategy or strategies in adjustment with the changes taking place in the market forces and global competition.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the 1950s and early 1960s, many American firms were confronted with disturbing symptoms that could be readily remedied by available management techniques and which had no precedent in recent experience. The rapid rise in the number of interest groups such as competitors, stockholders and consumer groups, making proliferation of mergers and acquisitions, began to strain the applicability of the relatively simple business policy approach management.

To deal with these types of changes, the managerial techniques of long-term budgeting, financial control, even the then popular long-term planning appeared inadequate and firms began to turn their energies to the development of new management approach. The emerged approach through trial, error, and exchange of experiences became known as strategic planning. Today this approach is more frequently called strategic management approach.

Strategic management is a combination of strategy and management. Strategy involves the determination of the purpose or mission and basic long-term objectives of an enterprise, and the adoption of courses of action and allocation of resources necessary to achieve these aims. Objectives, therefore, are a part of strategy formulation.² Strategy concerns the direction in which human and material resources will be applied in order to increase the change of achieving selected objectives.³ Management involves the effective utilization of human and material resources to achieve the enterprise's objectives. Thus, a model of strategic management is a representation of the proposed structure of strategic management in combination of strategies and management activities.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to assess the strategic management models in the light of different strategies, strategic concepts, plans, control tasks etc. The evaluation of the characteristics of traditional planning and strategic planning, strategic management process and various types of strategy, their implementation and control tasks etc. are also brought under consideration of the study.

3. JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

Managers develop strategies to give order to how an organization goes about its business to achieve target objectives. Without a strategy, there is no established course to follow, no roadmap to manage by, no coherent action plan for producing the intended results.⁴ Although strategic management can be useful in all types of organizations, all firms obviously do not reject proven management practices; it is simply a way to give appropriate emphasis to a major responsibility to top management. The ultimate purposes of strategic management models are to help organizations increase performance through improved effectiveness, efficiency and flexibility.⁵ This study will be helpful for strategic planners and decision-makers to face odd situation in challenge management.

4. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Intensive desk study had been conducted to have a clear idea about strategy, management, strategic management and above all strategic management models in the form of related literature review which helped the researcher to design the necessary conceptual and theoretical framework of the study. Major observations were also made showing the comparison between traditional planning and strategic planning. Different strategic management models had also been consulted carefully in developing a proposed strategic management model.

5. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE IN DESIGNING THE CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

5.1 Strategy: Thompson and Strickland⁶ defined strategy as “the pattern of organizational moves and managerial approaches used to achieve organizational objectives and to pursue to organization’s mission.” Strategy is a course of action, including the specification of the resources required, to achieve a specific objective. The specific objective may be the corporate objective or it may be a unit/ functional objective. The corporate objective is that objective which is corporate to the business as a whole organization, which should be clearly stated, capable of being measured and attainable with effort.⁷ According to Smith, Arnold and Bizzle,⁸

strategy is the overall game plan or map to help lead or direct the organization toward the desired objectives. This overall game plan forms the basis for policies and procedures, which are more specific statement outlining what the firm will do in certain situations. Strategies mostly refer to a general program of action and deployment of emphasis and resources to attain organization’s objectives, which should be based on self-appraisal and built up in the light of information of the environment in which management has to work. Management is to study weakness and strength of the company in the case of its product, market, technology, values, and prejudices and quality of its managers and compare these to its competitors and build up its own strategy for maximum utilization of the available opportunities in the given environment.⁹ Managers develop strategies to give order to how an organization goes about its business and to achieve target objectives. Without a strategy, there is no established course to follow, no roadmap to manage by, no coherent action plan for producing the intended results. Good strategy and good strategy implementation are the most trustworthy signs of good management.¹⁰ For our purpose, we may think strategy as the longer-term deliberations and decisions which determine the direction the enterprise is to take, to achieve its objectives in the light of expectations about the activities of others in the field. Strategists are those involved in this purpose.

5.2 Management: Many eminent experts in different ways have defined the term management. Stoner and Freeman¹¹ defined it as “the process of planning, organizing, leading and controlling the work of organization members and of using all available organizational resources to reach stated organizational goals”. Trewatha and Newport¹² defined management as, “the process of planning, organizing, actuating and controlling an organization’s operations in order to achieve a co-ordination of the human and material resources essential in the effective and efficient attainment of objectives. The activities in this process are called the functions of management. These functions must be performed by all persons in managerial position, whether administrators, directors, generals, department heads or first-line supervisors. In addition, it should be recognized that the management process is best described by these

functions, rather than by the status or rank held by certain managers in an organization”.

Glueck¹³ defined management as the effective utilization of human and material resources to achieve the enterprise’s objectives. Good management is the key difference between the success and failure of enterprises. Firms can fail because of inadequate funds, improper marketing, incompetent product design, and for many other reasons. But they often fail because the basic managerial tasks are performed poorly or not at all.

Mary Parker Follet called management “the art of getting things done through people”. By explicitly adding the organizational environment to her theory, Follet paved the way for management theory to include a broader set of relationships; some inside the organization and some across the organization’s borders.

5.3 Strategic Management: Strategic management is that set of managerial decisions and action that determines the long-run performance of a corporation. It includes environmental scanning, strategy formulation, strategy implementation, evaluation and control. The study of strategic management, therefore, emphasizes monitoring and evaluating environmental opportunities and threats in light of a corporation’s strength and weakness.¹⁴

According to Smith, Arnold and Bizzle,¹⁵ “strategic management is the process of examining both present and future environments formulating the organizations objectives and making, implementing and controlling decisions focused on achieving these objectives in the present and future environments”. It is critical that management analyzes both the external environments and the firms’ internal capabilities and resources. The firm’s internal strengths and weakness can be deployed to take advantage of external opportunities and to minimize external problems.¹⁶ They mentioned about the advantages of strategic management¹⁷ as: (i) it provides organizations with a clearer goals and direction; (ii) the strategic management approach helps management to focus on future opportunities and threats; (iii) the strategic management process helps relate a firm’s decision-making process to relevant

environmental conditions and (iv) it reduces the risk of catastrophic problems and increases the probabilities of a firm taking advantage of environmental opportunities as they arise.

Pearce and Robinson¹⁸ defined it as the set of decisions and actions resulting in the formulation and implementation of strategic designed to achieve the objectives of any firm. The major areas of strategic management are mission of firm (purpose, philosophy and goals), company profile (internal condition and capability), external environment in terms of competitive and general contextual factors, strategic choice of long-term objectives etc. Strategy covers goal, market share, return on investment, growth, general direction and purpose while strategic plans comprise production plans i.e., what will be produced and how, how funds will be acquired and used, what kinds of skill will be needed and how products and services will be distributed, promoted and sold.

Certo and Peter¹⁹ defined strategic management as a continuous, iterative process aimed at keeping an organization as an appropriately matched to its environment. They emphasized that managers engage in series of steps like, performing an environmental analysis, establishing organizational directions, formulating organizational strategies, implementing organizational strategies and exercising strategic control. By the term “iterative”, they means that the process of strategic management starts with the first step, ends with the last step and then again with the first step.

According to Griffin²⁰ “strategic management is a comprehensive and on going management process aimed at formulating and implementing effective strategies that promote a superior alignment between the organization and its environment and the achievement of strategic goals”.

Thompson and Strickland²¹ mentioned five interrelated components of strategic management. These are: (i) developing a concept of the business and forming a vision of where the organization needs to be headed; (ii) translating the mission into specific long-range and short-range performance objectives; (iii) crafting a strategy to achieve the targeted performance; (iv) implementation and executing the chosen strategy, and (v)

evaluating performance, reviewing the situation and initiating corrective adjustments in mission, objectives, strategy or implementation in light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas and new opportunities.

According to Glueck & Jauch²² strategic management is a stream of decisions and actions which leads to the development of an effective strategy or strategies to help achieve corporate objectives. The strategic management process is the way in which strategists determine objectives and makes strategic decisions.

Bowman & David²³ stated that strategic decisions are big decisions, which significantly affect the firm's ability to achieve its objectives. Decisions are about products to sell in particular market, to build a new factory, pay system, production system, organization structure, management style and promotions. Virtually strategic management is the process of strategic change. Strategic change arises out of the interaction of objective and subjective conditions. The objective conditions are present and future positions of the firm's environment and uses of firm's resources. The environment consists of competitive situation, economic and technological environments, political and social situation facing by the firm. These may be external and internal which are virtually adaptable to systematic presentation. Subjective conditions consist of social, psychological and political factors faced by the firm. Past management decisions, the external environment, formal and informal leadership, structure of the organization etc. are also relevant.

From above discussions we can say that strategic management as a series of steps in which top management should accomplish the following tasks:

- i) Analysis of the opportunities and threats or constrains that exists in the external environment.
- ii) Analysis of the organization's internal strengths and weaknesses.
- iii) Establishment of the organization mission and development of the goals.

- iv) Formulation of strategies that will match the organization's strength and weakness with the environments opportunities and threats.
- v) Engagement in strategic control activities to ensure that the organizations goals are attained.

6. MAJOR OBSERVATIONS

Traditional planning versus strategic planning: Traditional planning practices are quickly becoming absolute in our complex and changing environment. Typical public corporation planning has been characterized as being reactive, short-range, staff oriented, routine, dominated by single issues, small-scale change, hierarchical in nature and generally lacking in community support. The events and issues that now must be addressed require new planning techniques. Basic differences between traditional planning and strategic planning are presented here briefly:

Table No. 1
Traditional planning versus Strategic planning

Traditional Planning	Strategic Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-range • Routine • Single issue • Organizational issues • Hierarchical • Small-scale change • Resource driven • Staff oriented • Management orientation • Operational focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range • Non-routine • Multiple issues • Community issues • Non-hierarchical • Significant change • Environment driven • Community oriented • Political orientation • Policy focus.

Long-range strategic planning has become a common practice in the private sector. Strategic planning must be applied to the public sector to enable officials to successfully adapt to the future. New planning models are available to assist public sector in optimizing their human and financial resources. Unlike traditional planning,

strategic planning is proactive, long-range, and community oriented. Additionally, it involves multiple issues, is non-hierarchical in nature and helps achieve a consensus on the issues and problems facing an organization.²⁴

7. A MODEL

A model is a representation of the proposed structure. It is, basically, a simplified system used to stimulate some aspects of the real life situations.²⁵

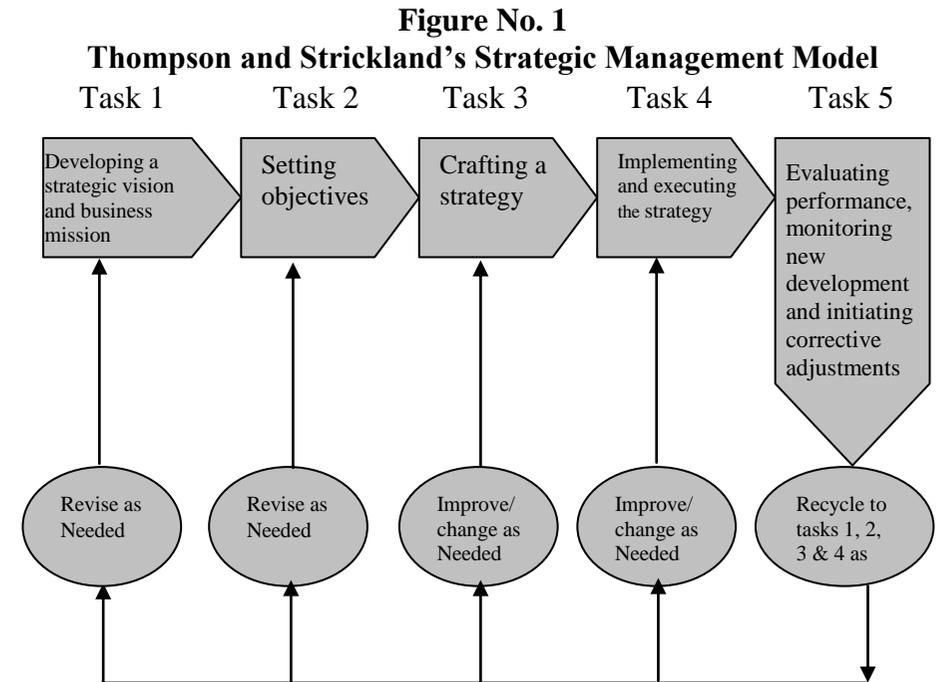
8. STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT MODELS

A strategic management is a representation of the proposed structure of strategic management in combination of strategies and management activities. It is, usually, a simplified system used to stimulate organization direction, environmental scan, SWOT analysis, strategy formulation, implementation and control in the light of real life situations. There are different types of strategic management models. Some of them are discussed here.

8.1 Thompson and Strickland's Strategic Management Model²⁶

According to Thompson and Strickland, the term 'strategic management' refers to the managerial process consisting of:

1. developing a strategic vision and business mission,
2. setting objectives,
3. crafting a strategy,
4. implementing and executing the strategy,
5. evaluating performance, monitoring new developments and initiating corrective adjustments.



Strategic management is the managerial process of forming a strategic vision, setting objectives, crafting a strategy, implementing and executing the strategy and then over time initiating whatever corrective adjustments in the vision, objectives, strategy & strategy execution are deemed appropriate. Task-1 is forming a strategic vision of where the organization is headed so as to provide long-term direction, delineate what kind of enterprise the company is trying to become, and infuse the organization with a sense of purposeful action. Task-2 is setting objectives, that is, converting the strategic vision into specific performance outcome for the company to achieve. Task-3 is crafting a strategy to achieve the desired outcomes. Task-4 is implementing and executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively. Task-5 is evaluating performance and initiating corrective adjustments in vision, long-term direction, objectives, strategy, or strategy execution in the light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas, and opportunities. Environmental scanning is one of the major tasks of strategic management. It makes strategic management separate from traditional management. But it is completely absent in the

strategic management model developed by Thompson and Strickland.

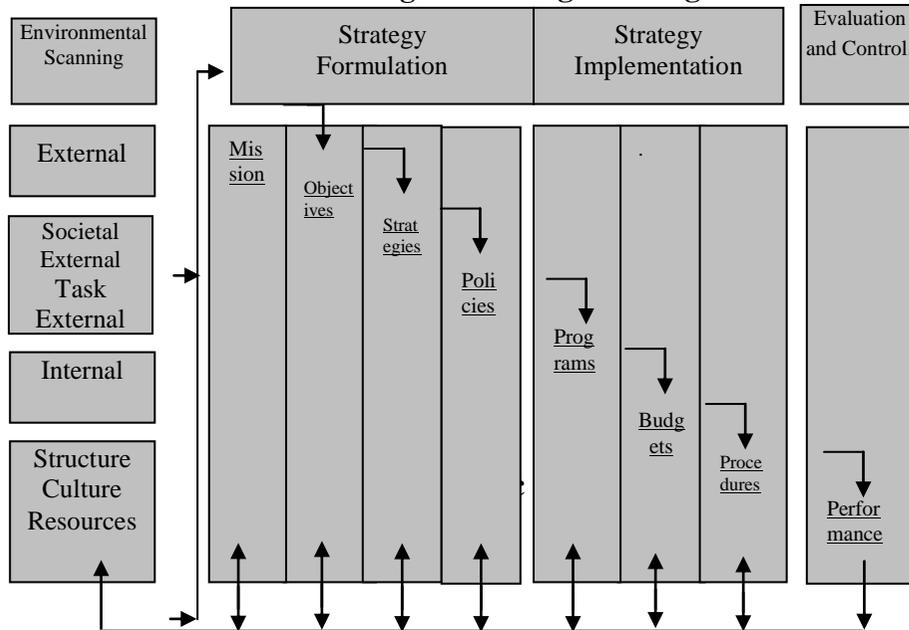
8.2 Wheelen and Hunger's Strategic Management Model ²⁷

According to Wheelen and Hunger, the process of strategic management involves four basic elements. These are:

1. Environmental scanning,
2. Strategy formulation,
3. Strategy implementation, and
4. Evaluation and control.

Figure No. 2

Wheelen and Hunger's Strategic Management Model



They mentioned that these four basic elements interact each other. At the corporate level, the strategic management process includes activities that range from environmental scanning to performance evaluation. Management scans both the external environment for opportunities, threats and the internal environment for strengths and weakness. The factors that are most important to the corporation's future are referred to as strategic factors and are summarized with

the acronym SWOT, standing for Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats. After identifying these strategic factors, management evaluates their interaction and determines the appropriateness of the corporate mission. The first step in the formulation of strategy is a statement of mission, which leads to a determination of corporate objectives, strategies and policies. Corporation implements these strategies and policies through programs, budgets and procedures. Finally, performance evaluation and feedback ensure adequate control of organizational activities. In this model, organizational direction is not made clear. Missions and objectives are shown in the formulation of strategy. But in the real life situation, mission and objectives, that is, organization directions need to be explained clearly before the formulation of strategy.

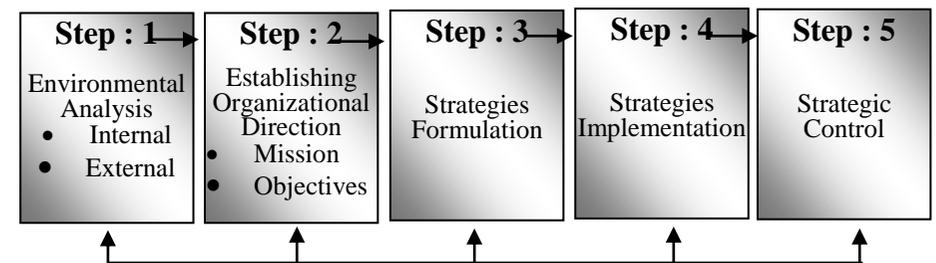
8.3 Certo and Peter's Strategic Management Model ²⁸

Certo and Peter defined strategic management as a process or series of steps. According to them, the basic steps include-

1. performing an environmental analysis,
2. establishing organizational direction,
3. formulating organizational strategy,
4. implementing organizational strategy, and
5. exerting strategic control.

Figure No. 3

Certo and Peter's Strategic Management Model



Strategic management process begins with environmental analysis, the process of monitoring the organization's environment to identify both present and future threats and opportunities. It

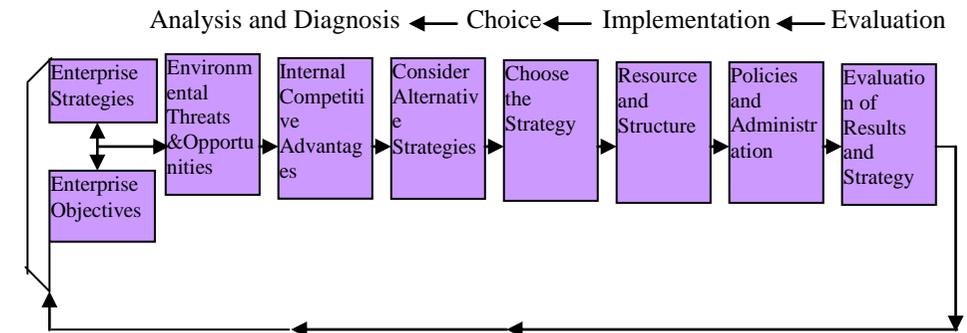
encompasses all factors both inside and outside the organization that can influence toward the attainment of organizational objectives. After management has performed an environmental analysis, it is often better able to establish, reaffirm, or modify its organizational direction. In order to establish organizational direction appropriately, however, management must know what comprises an organizational mission statement, understand the nature of organizational objects, and adopt an effective and efficient process for establishing organizational direction. Strategy formulation is the process of designing and selecting strategies that lead to the attainment of organizational objectives. In order to implement organizational strategy successfully, managers must have a clear idea of several diverse issues: how much change is necessary within an organization when it implements a new strategy, how it is best to deal with organization culture in order to ensure that a strategy will indeed be implemented smoothly, how strategy implementation and various types of organizational structure are related, what different implementation approaches a manager can follow, and what skills are necessary in managers who hope to implement organizational strategy successfully. Last step of strategic control is special type of organizational control that focuses on monitoring and evaluating the strategic management process in order to improve it and ensure that it is functioning properly. In this model, SWOT analysis is not clearly made in order to develop the strategic vision.

8.4 Glueck and Jauch's Strategic Management Model²⁹

According to Glueck and Jauch, strategic management is a stream of decisions and actions which leads to the development of effective strategy or strategies to help achieve corporate objectives. They, basically, identified the following phases in the strategic management model:

1. Analysis and diagnosis
2. Choice
3. Implementation, and
4. Evaluation.

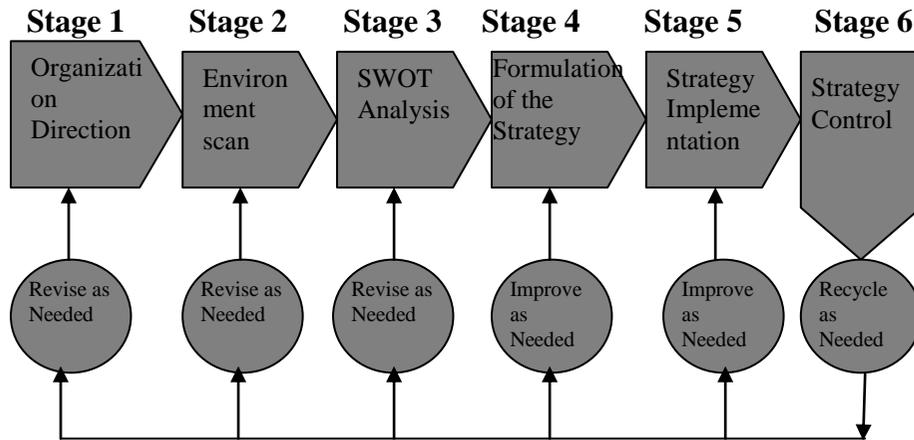
Figure No. 4
Glueck and Jauch's Strategic Management Model



The strategic management process is the way in which strategists determine objectives and make strategic decisions. Strategic decisions are means to achieve the ends. These decisions encompass the definition of the business, products and markets to be served, functions to be performed and major policies needed for the organization to execute these decisions to achieve objectives. Policies are guides to action. They indicate how resources are to be allocated and how tasks assigned to the organization might be accomplished so that functional level managers execute the strategy properly. Moreover, four phases like analysis and diagnosis, choice, implementation and evaluation are determined in the model developed by Glueck and Jauch. Analysis and diagnosis is determining environmental problems and opportunities, and internal strengths and weaknesses. This involves recognizing problems and/or opportunities and assessing information needs to solve the problems and heuristics for evaluating the information. Choosing is generating alternative solutions to the problem, assessing them, and selecting the best one. Implementing is making the strategy work by building the structure to support the strategy and developing appropriate plans and policies. Evaluating is determining whether the strategy is working and taking steps to make it work. A good model concentrates on the point it is studying and leaves out anything not essential to this. This model does not follow those criteria. It presents many stages unnecessarily in the hazardous way.

8.5 Proposed Strategic Management Model: From above discussion of different models of strategic management, we can develop the strategic management model with following six stages:

Figure No. 5
A proposed Strategic Management Model



Stage -1: Organization Direction (Mission and Goals)

The first component of strategic management process is defining the mission and major goals of the organization. The mission sets out why the organization exists and what it should be doing. Major goals specify what the organization hopes to fulfill in the short to long-run. The long-term goals and short-term goals are the more specific targets of results the firm wants to achieve. The goals are derived from and must be focused on fulfilling the firm’s mission. After stating the mission and goals of the firm, everyone involved should know exactly what the firm wants to achieve.³⁰

Stage - 2: Environment Scan

The total environment faced by an organization can be divided into three levels: internal environment, the macro- environment and the tasks environment.

Internal Environment: The internal environment consists of variables that are within the organization itself but not usually within the short-run control of top management. Firm should attempt to determine their strengths and weakness by carefully

analyzing these internal factors. Steps can then be taken to reduce any weakness and deploy available strengths to the best possible advantage. Key internal factors include the functional areas of human resources, research and development, production, finance and accounting, marketing and the overall organization culture.³¹

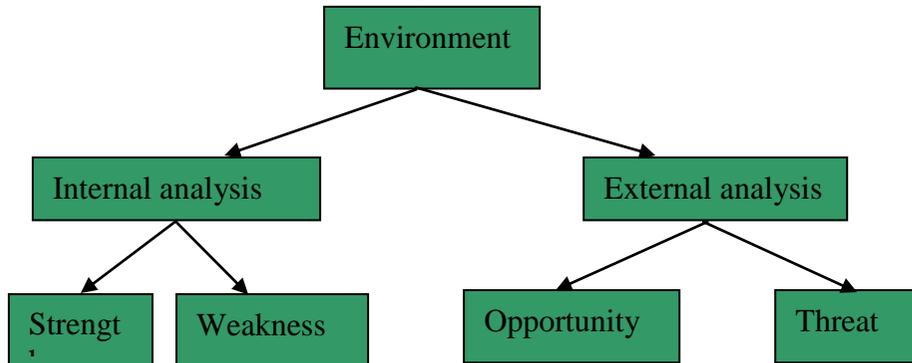
The Macro-environment: The macro-environment includes more general forces that do not directly touch the short-run activities of the organization but that can and often does influence its long-run decisions. The macro-environments shape opportunities and pose threats to the company. The macro forces are generally more uncontrollable than the task factors. The factors of macro-environment are economic, political and government, socio-cultural, natural, physical, technological and international. Each of these macro-environment factors can influence an organization singly or in combination with other factors. As the task and macro-environmental factors are beyond the control of a firm, the industry’s success will depend to a very large extent on its adaptability to the environment i.e. its ability to properly design and adjust the internal variables to take advantage of the opportunities and to combat the threats in the environment.³²

Task Environment: The task environment includes those elements or groups that directly affect and are affected by an organization’s major operations. It is an external factor to the firm that determines the nature and strength of industry competitors, buyers, supplies, potential entrants and substitutes.³³

Stage - 3: SWOT Analysis

SWOT analysis is a useful tool for analyzing an organization’s overall situation. This approach attempts to balance the internal strength and weakness of an organization with the opportunities and threats that the external environment presents. The following diagram shows how a SWOT analysis fits into an environment scan:

Figure No. 6



The point of the analysis is to enable the firm to position it to take advantage of particular opportunities in the environment and to avoid or minimize environment threats. In doing so, the organization attempts to emphasize its strengths and moderate the impact of its weakness. The analysis is also useful for uncovering strengths that have not yet been fully utilized in identifying weakness that can be corrected. Matching information about the environment with knowledge of the organization's capabilities enables management to formulate realistic strategies for attaining its goals.³⁴ A firm should not necessarily pursue the more lucrative opportunities; rather it may have a better chance in developing a competitive advantage by identifying a fit between the firm's strengths and upcoming opportunities. In some cases, the firm can overcome a weakness in order to prepare itself to pursue a compelling opportunity. To develop strategies that take into account the SWOT profile, a matrix of these factors can be constructed. The matrix is as follows:

Table No. 2
SWOT Matrix³⁵

Internal Factors	Strengths (S)	Weakness (W)
External Factors		
Opportunities (O)	(SO) Strategy General Strategies here that use strengths to take advantage of opportunities	(WO) Strategy General Strategies here that take advantage of opportunities by overcoming weakness
Threats (T)	(ST) Strategy General Strategies here that use strengths to avoid threats	(WT) Strategy General Strategies here that minimize weakness and avoid threats

The SWOT matrix illustrates how management can match the external opportunities and threats facing the particular corporation with its internal strengths and weakness to yield in four sets of possible strategic alternatives. This method helps itself to brainstorming to create alternative strategies that management might not otherwise consider. It forces strategic manager's create both growth and retrenchment strategies.³⁶

Stage -4: Formulation of Strategy

Formulation of strategy determines appropriate courses of action for achieving objectives. It includes such activities as analysis; planning and selecting strategies that increase the change then an organization's objectives will be achieved. Strategy is formulated at three distinct levels the corporate levels, business levels and functional levels.

(i) The Corporate Level Strategy: Top management has four corporate-level strategies available to them. They may elect to pursue a strategy of growth, stability, retrenchment, or a

combination of those. SWOT analysis helps in determining which of these corporate strategies is most appropriate for a particular firm.

Growth Strategy: A company may select a growth strategy to increase their profits, sales and/ or market share. When a firm possesses valuable strengths and operates in an environment of abundant opportunities, a corporate growth strategy is appropriate. Growth may be attained a variety of ways, i.e. internal growth, mergers, horizontal integration, conglomerate diversification, vertical integration and joint ventures.

Stability Strategy: Stability strategy is one in which a firm attempts to maintain its size and current line of business. It is more suited for a firm that possesses moderate strengths in an environment of moderate opportunities.

Retrenchment Strategy: When a firm performance is disappointing or at the extreme or when its survival is at stake, then retrenchment strategies may be appropriate. Retrenchment may take one of three forms turn around, disinvestments or liquidation.

(ii) The Business Level Strategy: Michael Porter describes these competitive strategies presumed to be appropriate for a wide variety across diverse industries. Porter suggests that a business should thoroughly analyze its industry and then define a competitive niche by adopting one of three generic strategies;

Differentiations: Differentiation strategy attempts to develop an image of its product or service might be differentiated by attributes such as quality, design and service. Cost-leadership strategy attempts to maximize sales by minimizing cost per unit. Low cost may be achieved through efficiencies in production, product design, distribution channels and similar means. In the focus strategy an organization targets products or services at a specific area such as a geographic location or customer group.

(iii) The Functional Level Strategy: Functional strategies focus on how the organization will approach its basic functional activities. Many organizations develop marketing, financial,

production, research and development and human resource strategies. Marketing strategy issues such as promotion techniques to be used, pricing product mix, and overall image. Financial strategy specifies the capital structure of the organization, debt policy, assets management procedures, and dividend policy. Production strategy is concerned with issues of quality, productivity and technology. Human resource strategy such as compensation, selection, performance appraisal, and other aspects of the organization's human resources and research development strategy focuses on issues regarding product development, licensing and the organization's commitment to innovation.

Stage - 5: Implementation of Strategy

Having chosen a strategy to achieve the goals of the company, that strategy then has to put into action; it has to be implemented. In order to implement organizational strategy successfully, managers must have a clear idea of several diverse issues; how much change is necessary within an organization when it implements a new strategy, how it is best to deal with organization culture in order to ensure that a strategy will indeed be implemented smoothly, how strategy implementation and various types of organizational structures are related, what different implementation approaches a manager can follow, and what skills are necessary in managers who hope to implement organizational strategy successfully.

Stage - 6: Strategic Control

Strategic control consists of determining the extent to which the organization's strategies are successful in attaining its goals and objectives. If the goals and objectives are not being reached as planned, then the intent of control is to modify the organization's strategy and/ or implementation so that the organization's ability to accomplish its goals will be improved. Strategic control process consists of several steps. At first, top management must decide what elements of the environment and of the organization need to be monitored, evaluated, and controlled. Then, standards must be established with which the actual performance of the organization can be compared. Next, management must measure the company's

actual performance. These measures will generally be both quantitative and qualitative. The performance measurements will then be compared with the previously established standards. If performance is in line with the standards or exceeds them, then no corrective action is necessary. However, if performance falls below the standards, then management must take remedial action.

9. CONCLUSION

A good model concentrates on the point it is studying and leaves out anything not essential to this. Strategic management model should also follow the same. Strategic management is not a box of tricks or a bundle of techniques. It is analytical thinking and commitment of resources to action. A model of strategic management is a representation of the proposed structure of strategic management in combination of strategies and management activities. It is, mainly, a simplified system used to stimulate organization direction, environmental scan, SWOT analysis, strategy formulation, implementation and control in the light of real life situations. The ultimate success of strategic management models depends on its effective utilization. The job of the strategic manager is to make the best use of a firm's resources in a changing environment. Its implementation is affected by both the internal and the external business environments, which need to be adjusted with the changing business strategy considering the market forces and competition in global context. Without an effective strategy the organization is like a ship without rudder. The survival of an organization also depends on wise selection and simple maintenance of effective strategy or strategies to help achieve the objectives.

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An Empirical Investigation and Potential Solution of Recent Rice Crisis in Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Rice is the staple food of Bangladeshi people. With rising population, we need to increase rice production. But our cultivable land decreases day by day for various reasons, such as, land erosion, enhancing housing, setting up industries, petrol pump, CNG station and electricity and mobile tower. It is evident that due to insufficient land and frequent natural disaster, people demand for rice is not met by domestic production. So we have to import a huge amount of rice. As we have cultivated land and unemployed manpower, we have the wastage of resources each year. In this paper, researcher tries to show the reasons and possible solutions for the present food crisis (rice) and whether production of rice is beneficial (profitable) either at domestic or through import.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rice is the cheap food of the people of Bangladesh. An increase in the price of rice has made us to perceive the necessity of increasing rice production domestically. Given extreme population density, high vulnerability to climatic shocks, recurrent floods, SIDR, and experiences of political pressures to government distributing food to the people as subsidy, Bangladesh has pursued a strategic goal of self sufficiency in food production, which it achieved first in 1999-2000 (Bangladesh Economic Review 2005). Latter deficiency of food has been growing rapidly over the years. As a result, price of food is also increasing. Around half of the population lives bellow the upper poverty line (2122 kcal/day) (BBS, HIES 2005) and a third bellow the poverty line (1805 kcal/day) (BBS, HIES 2005). Although the food consumption among the poor is increasing, under nutrition remains alarmingly high and the gap between rich and poor is growing. In these circumstances, if the rising trend of food price is continued for few years, what will happen for mass people? As a result, the future livelihood and food security will face enormous challenges. As we do not have prior knowledge of facing it, we will be more vulnerable to food insecurity. In the advent of this crisis, economists of the country have emphasizes reduction the dependency on international market. In the coming future it might happen that food crisis availability of money may not guaranty the food purchase. Recently food has been emerged as a great problem in most of the countries of the world. At present about 850 million people (Das 2008) have no food arrangement in the world. However our realization is that we have to increase food production domestically if we want to avoid food risk. Practically a small number of farmers in our country would mitigate the food shortage, if they are provided with the latest technology in agricultural production.

Organization of the Paper: The paper starts with objectives followed by data and methodology; part iv is about the present scenario of food grain, part V details out of the food gap; part VI discuss the Self Sufficiency Ratio (SSR); part VII is about the period of food shortage followed by possible remedial measures;

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finally part X ends with conclusion and policy prescription and limitations.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of this study is to analyze the shortage of food grain i.e. demand and supply gap in Bangladesh and to suggest the ways to mitigate this gap. The specific objectives are-

- a) to identify the trend of demand-supply gap of food grain in Bangladesh.
- b) to suggest how this gap can be reduced.

3. THE DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Quantitative research is undertaken and secondary data have been used. Most of the data published by the Bangladesh Food Ministry, Agricultural Ministry and Planning Commission and various government departments have been used. Some data used in this study have been collected from various report and articles published on the daily, weekly and monthly newspaper. Time series data published by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and Bangladesh have been used in this study. The normal demand-supply gap has been estimated by using a tabular form. We use the FAQ method to estimate the per capita food demand. Over the period this gap persists in the economy. We have to import a huge amount of food grain to fulfill the domestic deficit. For this, we spend huge amount of foreign resources. We have fertile land and man power, but significant care is uncultivated yet. We have two options to mitigate our demand and supply gap-import or production. The main objective of this study is to identify which optima is economically viable.

4. PRESENT SITUATION OF FOOD GRAIN

After gaining independence in 1971, Bangladesh had about 75 million core people and 9.9 million hectare cultivable land. At present its population is about 15 million and cultivable land 8.44

million hectares. During last 36 years, its population has doubled and cultivable land has decreased by one-third. There are some specific reasons for decreasing cultivable land such as land erosion, enhancing housing, and setting up industries, petrol pump, CNG station and mobile tower. In spite of that, Bangladesh has continued to demonstrate a steady increase in the domestic production of food grain since 1971. The production has increased form 11 million metric ton in the 1970s to more than 24 million metric tons in the recent years, though the yearly food productions fluctuate by several hundred thousand to a million metric tons. After 2001, the food grain productions fluctuate by several hundred thousand to a million metric tons. After 2001, the food grain production declined by 8 and 7 hundred thousand metric tons. Due to damage of crops during the severe flood in 2004 net domestic production in 2004-05 has again come down, which is projected to be about 24 million metric tons.

Table 1: (Net production in million tons)

Commodity	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Projected)
Rice production with 10% loss	22.6	21.9	22.7	23.6	22.6	24.0	24.27	28.9
Wheat production with 10% loss	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
Net production	24.1	23.3	24.0	24.7	23.5	24.7	24.97	29.7
Total import	1.5	1.8	3.2	2.8	3.4	2.6	2.4	2.42
Holding losses on import (5%)	0.05	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.12
Net import	1.45	1.75	3.1	2.7	3.25	2.48	2.28	2.3

Source: (i) Food Grain Digest, World Food Program, June 2005 & Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU); (ii) Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Government of Bangladesh (GOB).

High price of food grains in the international market and domestic obstacles in food production, recurring floods and SIDR are the reasons for the looming crisis. The recent floods damaged crops of some 8,19,985 acres of land, according to the estimates by the Department of Agricultural Extension, GOB. Then the production of food in the subsequent years.

The net domestic production is not sufficient to meet the requirement of cereals by the increasing number of population in the country. Every year the remaining food gap is met by import of food grain, which is gradually increasing.

A major problem in assessing the food availability is to estimate and figure on domestic production, number of population and food consumption pattern provided by government and private sector do not complement each other. The government figures try to establish Bangladesh as self-sufficient or nearly self-sufficient in food grain production despite of the increasing food grain imports. Moreover, net availability of food grain is estimated after adjustment of 10% loss on animal feed and seed and wastage, which is often said to be lower than the actual loss. Due to the lower rate of loss calculation, the figures on yearly availability of food grain are estimated.

The food grain requirement in a country depends on the dietary pattern, which also changes over time. Though the share of food grain in the daily diet has decreased in terms of weight and calorie over the years, it is still the principal source of food calorie and protein supply. According to the Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES)-2000 the calorie and protein intake from food grain was 78% and 58.5% respectively in 1995-96; it came down to 75.4% and 58.3% in 2000. The non-cereals like potato, vegetables, pulses, meat, poultry, dairy, fish, edible oil; condiment and spices etc. constituted about 20.5% of total calorie intake in 2000 and 18.5% in 1995-96. The remaining calories were derived from fruits, sugar and miscellaneous items. Different consumption surveys in the country have estimated different figures on food intake. The poverty Monitoring Survey (May 1999) estimated the average national food grain intake at 477 gram/cap/day. When poor and

non-poor household disaggregated this estimate, it was found that poor household consumed 439 gram/cap/day, whereas the non-poor households consumed 504 gram/cap/day. HIES 2000 estimated average food grain consumption of 486.7 gram/cap/day, which equals to per capita daily calorie intake of 1,737. In 2005, it was 947.8. The quantity of food intake per capita per day is increased by 6.12% in 2005 over 2000.

Table 2: Food Intakes (grams) in Different Survey Years.

No.	Year	National	Rural	Urban
1	1990	886.2	878.1	938.4
2	1995	913.8	910.5	930.8
3	2000	893.1	898.7	870.7
4	2005	947.8	946.3	952.1

Source: Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2005, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh (GOB).

The Bangladeshi diet is very much carbohydrate based, lacking in sufficient amount of protein and micronutrients. Consuming a balanced diet is more a problem of access to food rather than availability of food for a nation where nearly half of the population are very poor.

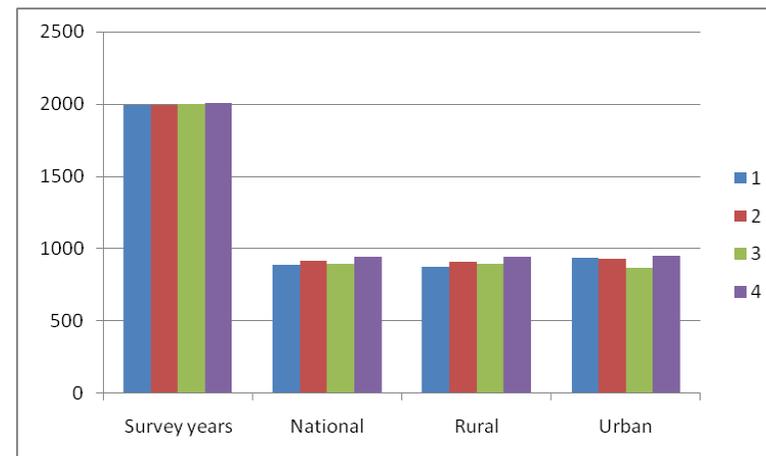


Figure: Food Intakes (gm) in Different survey

5. FOOD GAP

The food requirement or demand estimates are usually based on the actual consumption pattern, which varies by income groups and urban-rural set-up. The United Nations World Food Program calculated food grain requirement in 2003 (Food Security Brief, August 2003) using FAO/WHO recommended daily energy requirement of 2400 kcal per person per day. Applying this recommended energy requirement for Bangladesh with 75.4% of the daily energy intake coming from cereals and using a conversion factor of 3.57 kcal/gram the daily domestic food grain requirement can be calculated as:

$$75\% \times 242400 \text{ kcal} / 3.57 = 504 \text{ gram/person/day.}$$

The above estimate can lead to the calculation of food grain requirement and food gap in the country. Food Gap = Requirement - Domestic Production.

Table 3: Food Grain Quantities in Million (in MT)

Type	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Net domestic production	24.1	23.3	24.00	24.7	23.5	24.7	24.97
Population (in million)	131	133	135	137	139	140	141
Total food grain requirement	24.1	24.5	24.8	25.2	25.6	25.8	26.0
Food gap	0	1.2	0.8	0.5	2.1	1.1	1.3
Net import	1.5	1.7	3.1	2.7	3.25	2.48	2.28
Net food grain availability	25.6	25.0	27.1	27.4	26.75	27.18	27.25
per capita food grain available in gram	535	515	550	548	527	532	529

Source: (i) Food Grain Digest, World Food Program, June 2005 & Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU)

(ii) Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GOB).

The above table presents the figures on food grain requirement and food gap in Bangladesh for the last eight years. The production,

population and import figures are taken from government source like FPMU. The population figures in the table are based on the annual growth rate of 1.47%, which equals to a growth of two million people per year, though FAO statistics estimates a population increase of 3 million every year.

Taking into account the surveyed population figure of 2004 the domestic food grain requirement and food gap for the year 2004-05 are 25.6 million metric tons and 1 million metric tons respectively. Similarly the population estimate for the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are approximately 140,141 and 142 million, which gives a domestic food grain requirement of 25.8, 26.0 and 26.50 million metric tons and food gap of 1.1, 1.30, and 1.50 million metric tons in that order.

6. SELF-SUFFICIENCY RATIO (SSR)

Self-Sufficiency Ratio (SSR) in the way of expressing the food deficiency in country. It expresses magnitudes of production in relation to domestic utilization. SSR is defined as:

$$SSR = \frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Production}} * 100$$

Its standard value is 100% which means no deficiency in food production. Based on the official and private food grain production and import figures the food grain SSR for Bangladesh is gradually declining which implies self-sufficiency is yet to fulfill.

Table 4: Self Sufficiency Ratio (SSR)

Year	Value of SSR (%)
2000-01	94.1
2001-02	92.8
2002-03	88.2
2003-04	90
2004-05	87.7
2005-06	90.88
2006-07	91.63

Source: Estimated and Own calculations

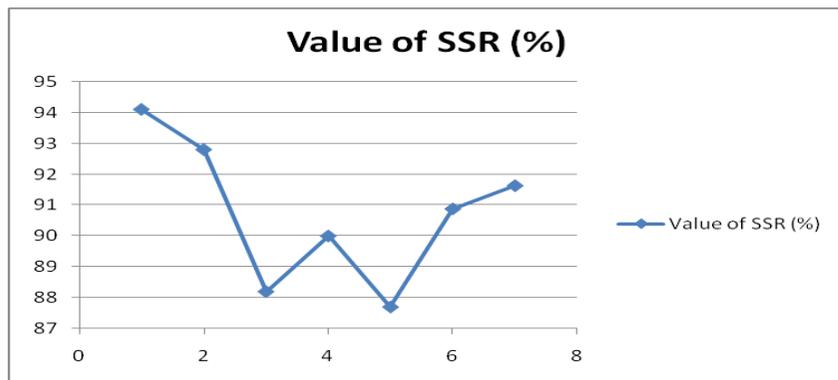


Figure 2: Self Sufficiency Ratio (%)

Bangladesh attained self-sufficiency in food production in 1999-2000 when country's production in rice and wheat reached at 2.49 corer metric tons. In that period, SSR was 100. But increasing trend of food production could not be sustained. The lower SSR is found in 2005, which could be attributed to the crop damage during in 2004. Since 2005, SSR has been resing gradually.

Considering estimates on food gap and SSR, it can be deduced that Bangladesh has a food gap of I million to 2 million metric tons and average SSR of about 90 to 91 percent. The estimated figures lead to the inference that food crisis in Bangladesh may be an disproportionate access to food by differant income group out come rather than availability. Though unequal access to food is a common food insecurity issue throughout the country, a typical outcome of accessibility is reflected in the occurrence of seasonal food insecurity in the northern districts as *Monga* and other part as *Akal*.

7. PERIOD OF FOOD SHORTAGE

The pre-harvest period is the lean season in agricultural production. The agricultural lean period occurs twice a year lasting one or two months. The longest lean period starts in mid September and continues until mid November when the harvesting of Aman paddy starts. Another lean period, which is shorter in length, lests from mid march until the harvesting of Boro rice in mid April.

Households most vulnerable to inadequate food intake include those depending on irregular income from daily wage labor and

lacking productive assets. Occupational groups such as day laborer, fishermen, children, disable, and pregnant women face the greatest nutritional risk. Although food insecure people can be found throughout Bangladesh, a higher concentration of seasonal food insecurity exist among people living on marginal lands, in area affected by river erosion along the major river banks and hilly areas. There is a great need for solving this food deficiency. Otherwise, our country would fall into long run trap in food.

8. ANALYZING POLICY OPTIONS

Given extreme population density, high vulnerability to external shocks, a recent history of flood and SIDR, and past experience of political pressures applied as the price of food Aid. Bangladesh should have a strategic goal of self-sufficiency in food grain production. It attained a self-sufficiency in food grain production in 1999-2000. But increasing trend of food production could not be sustained. The country is now required to import 1 to 2 Million metric tons of food grain each year and average SSR is about 90 percent to 91 percent. To do this, we have to loose huge amount of foreign resource how much.

Table 5: Value of Import Commodities (in million \$)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
1991-92	4	251	255
1992-93	0	176	176
1993-94	23	145	168
1994-95	220	256	476
1995-96	358	228	586
1996-97	28	156	184
1997-98	247	122	369
1998-99	680	317	997
1999-00	115	266	381
2000-01	172	177	349
2001-02	15	171	186
2002-03	211	198	409
2003-04	144	287	431
2004-05	262	312	574
2005-06	117	301	418
2006-07	180	401	518

Source: GOB, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Economic Review 2008.

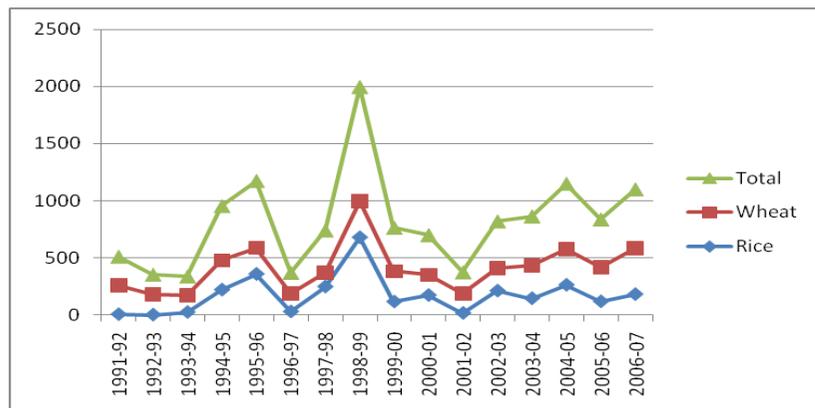


Figure 3: Value of Import Commodities

From the table, we can see that the import trend fluctuates over the year. Actually it depends on the shocks to the agriculture. Realizing the problem, government has set some objectives. The main objective of the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) is to make the national self-sufficiency in food through increasing production of all crops including policy is to make the national self-sufficiency in food through increasing production of all crops including cereals and ensure a dependable food security system for all. The policy and draft Plan of Action for its implementation recognize the need to diversify cropping systems. Two major features of NAP strategy are (i) a seasonal shift in rice production so as to produce a higher proportion of requirements in summer, when the opportunity cost of land and water is low, thus releasing land for less water demanding crops in the dry season, and (ii) focused interventions to address nutritional needs in chronically food insecure areas which have potential for agricultural growth. Excess demand for our food grain can be fulfilled by producing domestically more import. If we try to produce more food grain using existing land domestically, what is the economic benefit of it? Let us consider the following table that shows the recent production cost of rice.

Table 6: Production Cost of Rice in Bangladesh (Local)

Item	Amount of Production (KG)	Cost of Production (taka)
Total production (per acre)	2400	30595
Production cost of paddy (per KG)	Na	12.75
Production cost of rice after processing paddy (per KG)	Na	20.50

Source: Division of Agriculture Extension, Bogra, The daily Shamokal (Bangla Daily), June 08, 2008, pp-10

This cost may vary in different seasons and different area. Actually it depends on nature or internal and external shocks. If we assume that average cost of rice production in Bangladesh is 20 taka (per KG) and our food gap is 1.03 million metric tons per year, total production cost will be 206 billion taka. If per kg selling price in domestic market is 30 or 35 taka, total market value will be 306 and 360.5 billion taka respectively. Again the average production cost are 25 taka per kg, total cost production 257.5 billion taka and total market value will be same as mentioned above. If food gap is 2 million metric tons, total cost is about 400 billion taka, and total market value is about 600 and 700 billion taka at market price BDT 30 & BDT 35 per kg respectively.

Now we consider import cost that depends on international market price. Excluding carrying cost, per kg import price of rice 17.35, 22.08 and 23.46 taka in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. But including carrying cost, it was about taka 30 or above.

Table 7: Price and Import Value.

Year	Price (per MT)	In Taka (per kg)	Total import of rice (million MT)	Total import value (million \$)
2004-05	\$ 260	17.35	1.09	\$ 262
2005-06	\$ 320	22.08	0.32	\$ 117
2006-07	\$ 340	23.46	0.73	\$ 180
2007-08	\$ 510	35.19	1.89	\$ 1010 (15 April)

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), GOB.

Our import volume of rice is increasing and we are becoming more vulnerable in this regard. Per kg import price is higher than per kg production cost. So we should take steps to produce rice domestically rather than import. In this way, we will be able to increase our foreign reserves and create employment opportunity for our people. Then the economy might grow first.

9. TECHNIQUES TO SOLVE THE RICE CRISIS

We want to be self-sufficient i.e. we want to make our import of rice first zero. How can we achieve it? What is the economic benefit of it? To know it, at first we need to cultivable land, where we can produce our rice or wheat. Our total cultivable land area is 8.44 million hector, net cultivable land area is 6.6 million hector. Total cropped area (single, double and triple area) is 13.742 million hector. Our uncultivable land area is 0.631 million hector which consist of cultivable waste and current fallow land.

Table 8: Agricultural land statistics of Bangladesh.

Land criteria	Amount (in million hector)
Total cultivable land	8.44
Single cropped area	2.851
Double cropped area	3.984
Triple cropped area	0.974
Net cropped area	7.809
Total net cropped area	13.742
Total uncultivable land area	0.631

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2006 & Handbook of Agricultural Statistics 2008, Ministry of Agriculture, GOB.

According to statistics, 220 of land is declined or deviated per day from agricultural production in various reasons such as land erosion, setting up hatbazar or building. But our land productivities is rising over the years. The following table explains this.

Table 9: Average Yield of Rice (Figures in metric ton per hector)

Year	Aus (Average)	Aman (Average)	Boro (Average)
1971-72	0.87	1.15	1.05
1981-82	1.04	1.26	1.30
1991-92	1.14	1.16	1.78
2001-02	1.46	1.90	2.28
2003-04	1.52	2.03	2.42
2004-05	1.46	1.89	2.45
2005-06	1.69	1.99	2.52

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) 2007, GOB.

So we can increase our domestic food production by expansion of land area under agricultural cultivation or making single crop area into double cropped area or bouble-cropped area into triple cropped area. So there are two options for our food production. (i) Vertical integration of land (in other words making single crop area double crop of triple crop land). In 2008 about 12000 hector more land was brought under multi crop cultivation in Faridpur district (Ahmed 2009)

(ii) Horizontal integration of land i.e., expansion of cultivable area. In 2008 about 43000 hector more area of land has been brought under cultivation in Sylhet district. (Ahmed 2009). Either or both options we can apply in different districts.

Though, it is clear to us, we have cultivable land, huge amount of food grain is imported from abroad in exchange of our foreign resource. Our uncultivated land area is 0.631 million hector. If per acre total production is 2400 kg, we can produce 3.97 million metric tons more rice per year. If uncultivated land area is 0.50 million hector production will be 0.77 million metric tons. Our gap is about 1 or 2 million metric tons. After meeting domestic demand, we can export.

10. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Rice is not only the staple of our people; it is also a food security crop for them. Livelihoods of millions of poor people are directly related with the availability and accessibility of this particular crop. Rice crisis may be occurred for the shortage of supply, rises in price, consumers' purchasing power, distribution mechanism, role of middlemen etc. We actually explain the rice crises as a result of shortage of supply. Others are not considered here. This is main limitation of this article. Another limitation is that we consider the gap at aggregate level. It could detail out the consumption levels of different categories of people at least between the rich and the poor and the regional levels of differences in the consumption of food items. In the policy suggestions we have not critically examined the opportunities and the problems to be solved. Actually, the attainment of self-sufficiency in food grain production is not so easy. It needs huge investments in agricultural production support and services and accordingly suitable production plans and institutional reforms need to be designed. But we only try to mention the knocking point of the problems.

11. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

The poor farmer is the heart of our economy. But many a times the middlemen control them. In spite of that, they work in agriculture to survive. To protect them, and to protect the economy, mainly agricultural production for meeting aggregate demand for food grain, we should take necessary steps immediately as follows.

Cultivable land augmentations: Over the year the cultivable land area is falling due to land erosion, setting up housing, industries, petrol pumps, CNG station, even mobile tower. Though it needs a small area of land, aggregately it becomes large. Government has to take steps to protect the cultivable land.

Multiple Use of Land: The land area of our small country is small. Proper use of its per inch of land is not sufficient for its large population. We have to exert our effort on land so that collect maximum output. Today there is a large area of land uncultivated

land in Sylhet district. In other district there is great opportunity to make a single cropland into a double cropland or double into triple cropland. Thus our food grain production will increase.

Introducing HYV: For more production, we are dependent on nature on one way, On the other, hand sound seeds, insecticide, and proper fertilizer management are necessary. Hybrid is not suitable for our farmer and environment. So instead of hybrid, they can use domestically produced, available and high yielding rice.

Availability of Agricultural Input: Farmer is the heart of our agriculture and economy. But they have to fight to get agricultural input. Even they laid their lives for input. At first we have to protect them and then manage all input easily for them such as capital at low interest rate, seeds and fertilizer at right time and low price.

Development of Agricultural System: Branches and activities of the Department of Agricultural Extension are extended all over the country. There are agricultural officer and staffs at the level of district and Upazila but there is no accountability and liability. Everyone who is involved should be aware of responsibility. Government has to render their rewards who are eager and industrious. Government also arranges special training program.

Population Control: To make food security, we should consider the population growth with importance. If we are unable to control the population growth rate, food security system will not work anymore. Our population growth rate is now 1.41% (Source: BER 2007). If this rate persists, our population is estimated to increase to 210 million by 2037. For this sixty million additional people, how can we arrange food, land etc for them. So we have to take one or two child policy.

It is encouraging that agricultural research system is targeted and monitored. The current high relative price of crops is simultaneously an incentive for farmers to grow paddy and incentives and disincentives for poor consumers to buy them. A high priority for researchers must be to find ways of reducing production cost so that farmers may continue to find such crops

profitable in the face of increasing supply and falling prices. At falling prices demand rises and it makes the economic activities swift. Unemployed men will get jobs. More people will get rid of hard-core poverty. Import costs fall and overall GNP rises.

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An appraisal of Foreign Tourists' Arrival Trend in Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Bangladesh is a country with high potentiality of tourism. But at present her position of foreign tourists' arrival is insignificant compared to international tourism market. The aim of the present study is to make an appraisal on the foreign tourist arrival in Bangladesh. The study has revealed that the highest number of foreign tourists' arrival was 271000 in 2004 and market share was about only 1.50% during the study period, which is far behind from other countries in the world. The reasons may be numerous like the presence of very few international standard hotels, the low frequency of flights, poor infrastructure, little marketing sense etc. The purpose of the present study also identifies the major reasons behind miserable situation. The study suggested that the concerned authorities should take proper steps to create positive image of the country all over the world and develop the infrastructure facilities of the existing tourist spots.

Keywords: Tourism Industry, Bangladesh Tourism, Tourism Development, Tourism Products/Services, Foreign Tourist, Earning and Expenditure

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a multi-billion dollar and growing business sector in the world at now. For many developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), tourism is considered to be the one of the fundamental pillars of their economic development. Bangladesh is a country of Asian region holding high potentiality of tourism. Since long past, Bangladesh was an attractive place to the tourists. She is said to have large and attractive tourist's attractions such as *Beaches, Archaeological Sites, Hills and Inlands, Historical Places, Religious places, Forests and Wild life* etc. It has 75 miles long straight sandy sea beach at Cox's Bazar. This type of smooth and straight sea beach is hardly seen in any place of the world. Bangladesh has peculiar tribal people having their unique way of life mostly living in the hilly regions of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Hill Tracts areas. The country is also rich in ancient history. Many famous monuments, archaeological and historical places are still standing to indicate the past glorious civilization of Bangladesh. The Sundarbans, a densely beautiful forest, is another attractive tourist spot in Bangladesh. Moreover, Bangladesh is full of rural tourism. Tourists can enjoy the villages and the simple life pattern of the villagers. There are some parks in the country for recreation. Ramna Park, Mirpur Botanical garden in Dhaka, The Foy's lake in Chittagong and other large, medium and Mini Parks are attractive sights to the tourists.

Despite many prospects, the tourism industry in Bangladesh remains neglected for a long time. At present her position is not significant in terms of international tourism market. A number of significant factors affect the image of tourism in Bangladesh. Tourism industry of Bangladesh is suffering from numerous problems. The legal formalities, especially visa and customs procedures, take too much time and have rigid formalities. The parks and the tourist spots are suffering from the lack of security and safety. Political unrest and crisis have created negative image to the tourists of the country. Besides, communications and transportation of the hill tract areas are not smooth. From a

developing country's perspective tourism industry may be an important instrument for economic advancement for Bangladesh if necessary initiatives are taken. Having realized the importance of tourism's multidimensional effects Bangladesh Government should give top most priority to the Tourism Industry to boom this sector among all the exporting sectors.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The researchers have reviewed the available literature relating to tourism industry in Bangladesh to identify the research gap. The progress of cooperation in the field of tourism in the (Bay of Bengal initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and economic cooperation (BIMSTEC) region is quite slow. Governments of the BIMSTEC countries should take some bold steps to remove the barriers standing in the way (*Mizan R Khan & Mahfuzul Haque:May 2007*). There are a number of tourist facilities in Bangladesh. But in some cases information of these are not available to the tourists. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) should change its marketing strategy with an aim to building up a good image of Bangladesh (*Hasan:1992*). To support tourism in the country Biman has failed to understand that the customers real want, satisfaction and other requirements. Measures to enhance the level of customer satisfaction are not sufficient enough to attract more customers (*Kamal & Chowdhury:1993*). The status of Bangladesh hotel and restaurant services and their importance as well as the contribution to the development of the country's tourism industry is not sufficient. There is a lack of adequate official statistics on hotel and restaurant services in Bangladesh. There is an acute shortage of required number of good restaurants of acceptable standard through the country (*Hasan & Chowdhury :1995*). There is an increasing trend in the arrivals of foreign tourist in Bangladesh, foreign exchange earnings. The concerned authorities should take steps to create positive image of the country to all over the world (*Faridul Islam & Nazrul Islam:2004*). The major problems of tourism in Bangladesh are over population, natural disasters, unemployment, and economic underdevelopment (*Hall and Page:2000*).

3. PROBLEMS OF THE STUDY

Bangladesh is an attractive destination for the tourists. But with the passing of time we have miserably failed to attract the international tourists to visit our country in comparison to other countries of the world. Bangladesh accounts for only 0.86 pc in 2000 of all international tourists visiting in the world and in 2003 it increased to 1.57 pc and in 2006 it reduced to 1.04. In 2005, (Table 1) Bangladesh received 208,000 tourists, which is about 5% of what India received; it is 52%, 55%, 26% and 31% of what Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka received respectively that year. In 2004, Bangladesh earned about \$67 million (Table 2) as foreign exchange earnings from tourists, which is 1.4% of what India earned; it is 14%, 26%, 9%, and 8% of what Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka earned respectively in that year. This clearly shows that Bangladesh remains far behind compared to not only neighboring countries but also in international tourism market, although it has high potentiality and formulated a National Tourism Policy in 1992 where tourism was identified as an industry of due priority. The reasons may be numerous. But there has not been any in-depths study covering this area. The present study seeks to cover the analysis of foreign tourists' arrival, constraints of foreign tourists' arrival in Bangladesh and special suggestion for increasing foreign tourists' arrival as well as tourism development in Bangladesh.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are;

1. To appraise foreign tourists arrivals trends in Bangladesh
2. To identify the major problems on the arrivals of the foreign tourists in Bangladesh;
3. To give possible measures for the betterment of the arrivals of foreign tourists as well as tourism development in Bangladesh.

5. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on primary as well as secondary data. The primary data have been collected through personal interview with the concerned authorities, visitors, tour operators and local people. The secondary have been collected from the publications of BPC, World Trade Organization (WTO), Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh Bank, the concerned ministry and published thesis, books, journal, daily news papers etc. The collected data have been analyzed through statistical techniques. The period of the study ranges from 1996 to 2006. The eleven years period is enough to make an appraisal on the arrivals of foreign tourists in Bangladesh. The study does not consider the flow of domestic tourist in the country and revenue calculated those who came with tourist visa, not necessarily that they spent their money on tourism alone.

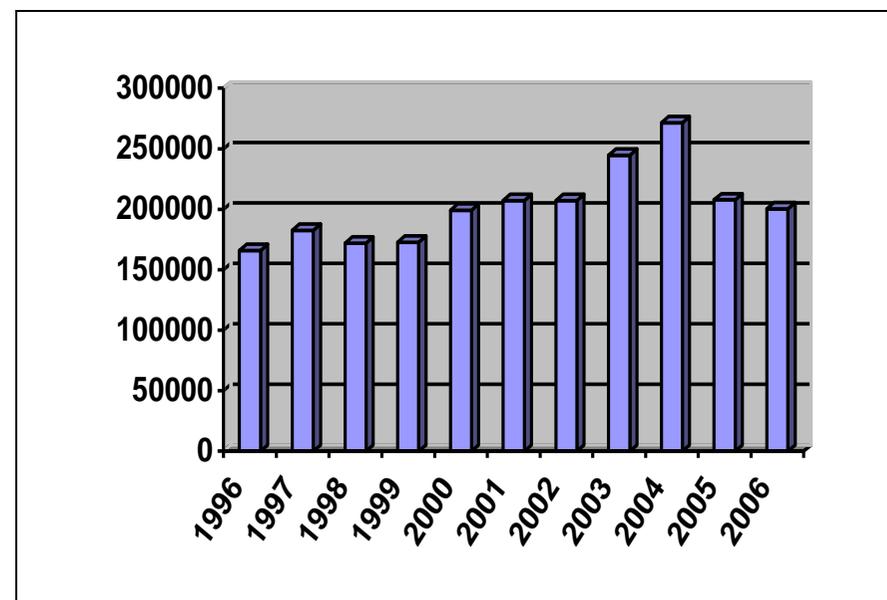
6. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The analysis and findings of the study cover the following areas:

6.1 FOREIGN VISITOR ARRIVALS IN BANGLADESH

Table-1 shows that the foreign tourist's arrivals in Bangladesh from 1996 to 2006. The analysis of foreign tourist's arrivals found that the arrivals of foreign tourists were 182420 in 1997 and 171961 in 1998 and it went to 271270 in 2004. But in 2005, Bangladesh received 207662 tourists, and 2006 200,311. Bangladesh registered highest number of tourists-2, 71,270-in the year 2004. But in 2005 the number declined by 23.45 per cent to 2, 07,662. The number fell further by 3.54 per cent to 2, 00,311 in 2006. Market share was 1.38 in 2001, 1.48 in 2002, 1.57 in 2003, 1.50 in 2004, 1.22 in 2005 and 1.04 in 2006.

Table 1: Volume of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in Bangladesh



Tourists' Arrival	
1996	165887
1997	182420
1998	171961
1999	172781
2000	199211
2001	207199
2002	207246
2003	244509
2004	271270
2005	207662
2006	200311
Total	2230457
Average	223045

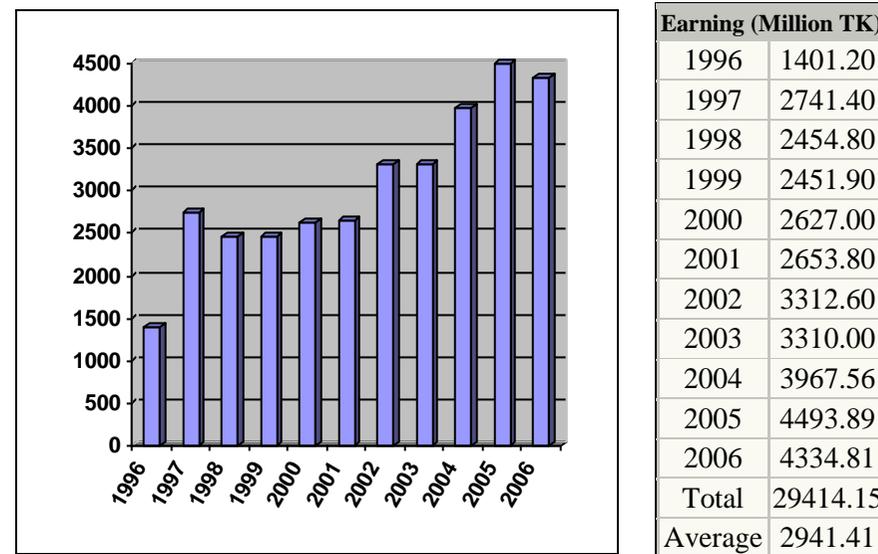
Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

The table strongly indicates that the position of foreign tourist arrivals in Bangladesh is quite insignificant. Bangladesh has not occupied the position in the list of main tourist importing countries yet. Table clarifies that the absolute volume of foreign tourist inflow in Bangladesh varies between 165887 in 1996 and 271270 in 2004 during the study period. It has been increased to 271270 in 2004 from the lowest number of tourist 165887 in 1996 showing a low degree of variability at 29 pc. The volume of foreign tourist shows growth over the previous year in all the years except in 2005 and 2006 during 1996-2006. The average volume of tourist incoming in Bangladesh is 223045 during the study period, which is very insignificant compared to neighboring countries.

6.2 FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM TOURISM & OTHER TRAVELS

The tourism industry is a service industry. The arrivals of tourist from foreign countries in to a country are considered as a source of income of the country. The industry earns foreign earning through selling product to the tourists and providing services to them. Volume of foreign earnings depends on the volume of tourist arrivals in a country. Table-2 implies that absolute volume of foreign earnings in Bangladesh from foreign tourists lengths from 1401.20 in 1996 to 4493.89 in 2005. In 1996 the earning was TK 1401 millions and it rose to TK 4493 millions in 2005.

Table 2: Foreign Exchange Earnings from the Foreign Tourist



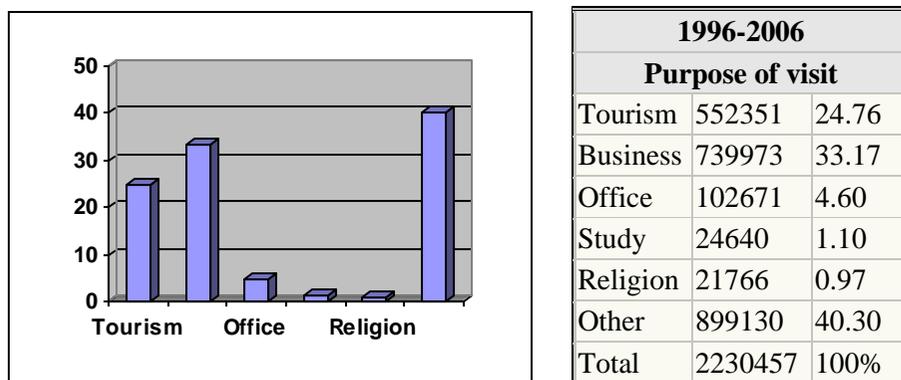
Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

Therefore, the earnings have been fluctuating over the study period showing a high degree of variability. The growth of earnings is in positive form in all the years except in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 during the study period. Table-1 and Table 2 also exhibit that the volume of foreign tourist and the volume of foreign earning show a fluctuating trend over the study period. In 2004 and 2005, Bangladesh received 271270 and 207,662 tourists (Table 1) but in 2004 and 2005, Bangladesh earned about TK 3967.5 and 4493.8 million (Table 2) from foreign tourists. Bangladesh Economic Review 2007 shows that it made a profit of Taka 115 million during 1996-2001. The figure came down to Taka 55 million during 2001-2006, although Table 1 shows that the tourist arrivals increased during (2001-2006) period.

6.3 FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS BY PURPOSE OF VISIT (IN NUMBER)

Foreign tourist visits Bangladesh for different purposes. The main purposes are business, tourism, office, study, religion, and others.

Table-3: Foreign Tourist Arrivals in Bangladesh by Purpose



Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

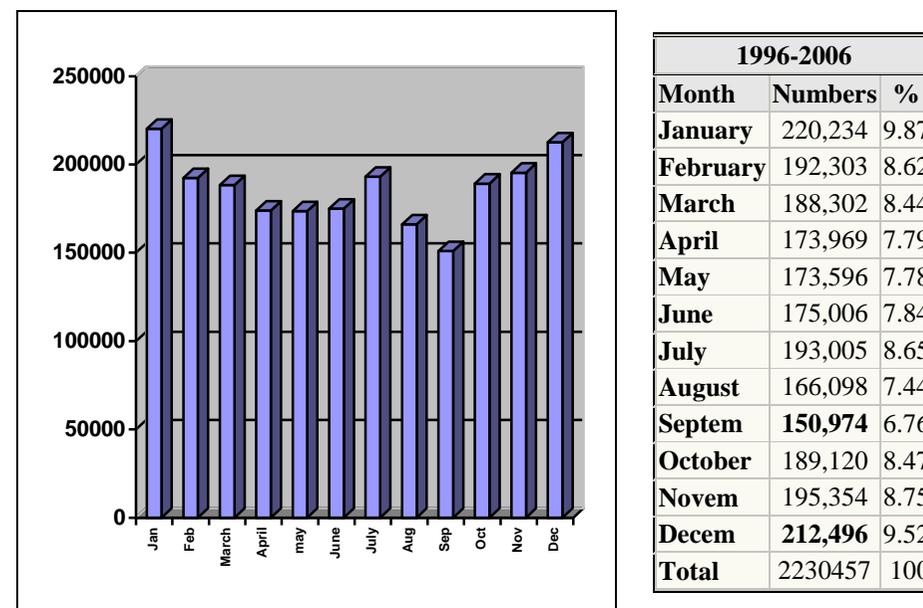
Table –3 clarifies that about half of the foreign tourists (40.30%) visit Bangladesh for other purposes during the study period. Other purposes include conferences, seminars, visiting relatives and friends etc. The purpose of business ranks second (33%) and tourism ranks third (25 %) followed on average during the study period. The arrival of foreign tourists for business purpose varies between 2263 in 1999 and 92126 in 2005. While the arrival for tourism purpose fluctuates between 38448 in 2001 and 6807 in 2005. The arrival for other purposes ranges from 15594 in 2003 to 173369 in 2004^[15]. Therefore, the volume of foreign tourists visiting Bangladesh for tourism purpose is insignificant. So, it is not a good sign of tourism developments in the country.

6.4 FOREIGN VISITOR ARRIVALS BY MONTHS

Bangladesh is a country of six seasons. The summer and the rainy season are full of natural calamities such as rain, flood, storms,

cyclone and tornado etc. As a result these seasons are not comfortable to make a trip to Bangladesh. The autumn is also rainy, damp and muddy. The late autumn, winter and the spring are free from natural calamities. As a result this period (October- March) is conducive to the foreign tourists to visit Bangladesh.

Table 4: Foreign Tourist Arrivals by Months in Bangladesh



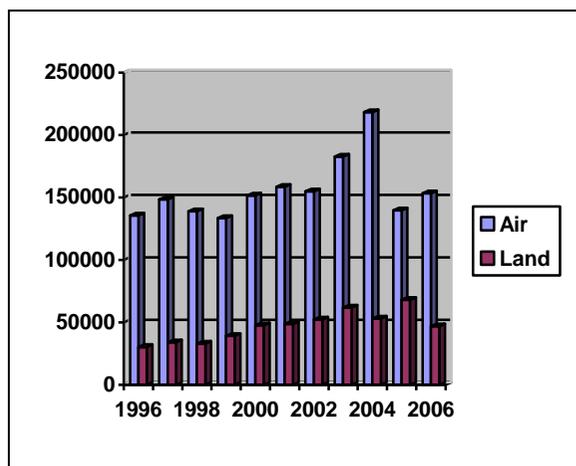
Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

Table-4 indicates that the month-wise total number of foreign tourist ranges from 150,974 in September and 212496 in December during the study period^[16]. The maximum portion (54.08%) of foreign tourists visits Bangladesh during October- March. This period (October- March) is more comfortable for foreign tourist to visit Bangladesh. Besides, natural beauties of the country also increased during this period. The world's longest sea beach and the world's longest mangrove forest remain calm during this period.

6.5 FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN BANGLADESH BY MODE OF TRANSPORT

Geographically Bangladesh is located between 20°34" and 26°38" north latitude and 88°1" and 92°41" east longitude. Foreign tourists may come in Bangladesh through land way or seaway or airway, which is convenient to them. Tourists of India and other neighboring countries have privilege of land way. The airports have direct and indirect regular flights with all the countries of the world. Table -5 exhibits that tourists came through airways on average 70.42% during 1996-2006 while only 29.48 % through land ways in Bangladesh. The percentage of foreign tourists visiting Bangladesh through airway ranges between 82 pc in 1996 and 67 pc in 2005 during 1996-2006.

Table 5: Arrivals of Foreign Tourist by Mode of Transport



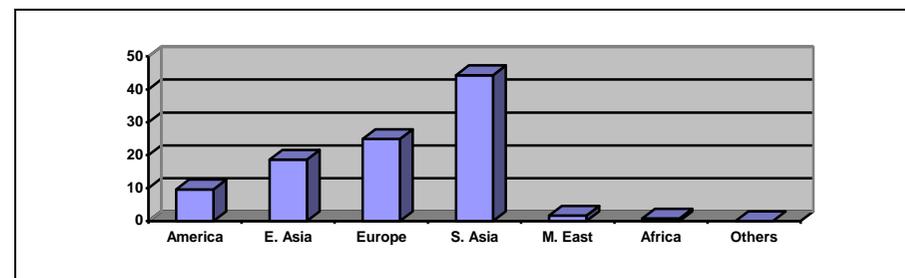
Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

While the percentage of tourist visiting through land ways ranges from 18 pc in 1996 to 33 pc in 2005. The total absolute volume of foreign tourists visiting Bangladesh through airway and land way was 1715717 and 514740 respectively during 1996-2006. Therefore, maximum portion of foreign tourists visiting Bangladesh entered into the country by airway during the study period.

6.6 FOREIGN VISITORS ARRIVALS BY REGION

Table-6.1 exhibits the region-wise number of total foreign tourists in Bangladesh during 1996-2006.

Table 6.1: Visitor Arrivals by Regions



1996-2006		
Region	Number	%
America	214278	9.60
E. Asia&Pac	416223	18.66
Europe	555592	24.90
South Asia	988158	44.30
Middle East	37576	1.68
Africa	17854	0.80
Others	580	0.02
Total	2230456	100

Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

Table-6.2 exhibits the year wise foreign tourists' arrival by region in Bangladesh during 1996-2006.

Table 6.2 : Visitor Arrivals by Regions

REGIONS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
AMERICAS	13984	15435	15653	12444	15110	19230	17538	30795	37404	18673	18012	214278
E/ASIA & Pac	29875	33609	35757	34865	38429	37937	41019	42824	51230	35976	34702	416223
EUROPE	51034	47934	36920	39599	46036	50184	46641	63748	77307	48961	47228	555592

MIDDLE EAST	3282	2548	4291	5333	3893	3811	3128	2626	3243	2861	2760	37776
AFRICA	1381	1150	1609	1511	1787	1561	1297	2012	2147	1730	1669	17854
SOUTH ASIA	66307	81728	77692	78878	93709	94382	97623	102503	99939	99459	95938	988158
OTHERS	24	16	39	151	247	94	0	0	0	2	7	580
TOTAL	165887	182420	171961	172781	199211	207199	207246	244508	271270	207662	200311	2230456

Source: Statistical Report, Resource Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

The table 6.1 and 6.2 clarify that Asian region occupies the first position in the volume of foreign tourist visiting Bangladesh in the world at 63.06 pc (E/Asia and S/Asia). Total absolute volume of foreign tourist of this region visiting Bangladesh is at 1404381 during the study period. While European region ranks second 24.90%, followed by American region ranks third 9.60%. Therefore, Asian region occupies the lion share of foreign tourist visiting Bangladesh during the study period. Yet, we have not created significant market of tourism in the first world regions like America, Europe, East Europe and Middle East.

7. PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN BANGLADESH

A number of significant factors affect the image of tourism in Bangladesh. Tourism industry of Bangladesh is suffering from numerous problems like;

- 7.1 Poor image of Bangladesh as a tourist destination, lack of government support and lack of promotional efforts are the three major areas of problem of foreign tourist arrival in Bangladesh. Although various Marketing Strategies have been formulated since 1994 to date, none have been implemented.
- 7.2 The presence of very few international standard hotels, the low frequency of flights and the underdevelopment of tourist attractions has limited the tourism potential. With poor infrastructure, little marketing sense and direction are also the cause of slow tourist arrival in Bangladesh

- 7.3 Now-a-days, different organizations often organize tourism fairs in Bangladesh, in which mainly outbound tour packages are sold. Sending tourists from Bangladesh to other countries cannot be treated as the development of tourism in our country.
- 7.4 Geographically Bangladesh is far away from tourist generating countries of Europe and America. Sometimes the potential tourists of those regions do not show interest to choose the country as a destination.
- 7.5 In spite of Transportation and communication developed some tourist destinations like the hill tract areas do not come under transportation and communication network yet.
- 7.6 All the 5-star, 3- star and 2-star hotels are located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox'sbazar and Sylhet. And its number and accommodation capacity are insufficient. Further, there is a shortage of standard hotels in the backward tourist spots.
- 7.8 The present legal formalities to come in and depart from the country, especially visa and customs procedures, take longer time and rigid formalities. As a result, the potential tourists of neighboring countries viz. India, Pakistan do not feel comfort to visit the country.
- 7.9 Tourism requires friendly people, good service, clean and safe environment. Our tourist spots are suffering from unhealthy and clean environment. Sometimes local peoples don't show good behavior towards foreign tourists. This is risky to the foreign tourists in Bangladesh.
- 7.10 Hijacking, snatching, murder etc. have become an ordinary event in our national life. The parks and the tourist spots are suffering from the lack of security and safety. The potential tourists from abroad sometimes are discouraged for lack of safety and security of their lives and wealth.
- 7.11 Lack of social and political commitment, unstable political situation, created a bad image abroad, which should be taken as the biggest threat to foreign tourist.

- 7.12 At the age of media, image could always be crafted to suit attracting tourists. Alas, there is often no sign of such effort in Bangladesh or her embassies around the world.
- 7.13 Non-existence of any marketing policy both in the private and government sectors.
- 7.14 Continuous campaign against Bangladesh by certain quarters as a fundamentalist country is another obstacle.
- 7.15 In fact, government high-ups and policy makers have hazy as well as negative ideas about tourism. They think tourism means enjoy sand, sex, sun.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the above analyses and discussions the present study attempts to outline the following suggestions for the betterment of the arrivals of foreign tourists in Bangladesh.

- 8.1 Having realized the importance of tourism's multidimensional effects such as the balance of payments situation, diversification of the economy, expansion of revenues, and generation of employment opportunities directly or indirectly, Bangladesh should give top most priority to the foreign tourist arrival and tourism industry development.
- 8.2 All connected with the tourism sector will agree that there are two important tasks for development of tourism in Bangladesh. Along with the development of tourism infrastructure and facilities, Bangladesh must make concerted efforts on suitable promotion to build up the new image of the country abroad.
- 8.3 The Government policy maker conception about tourism in the country should be clear. At present more than one hundred million eco-tourists visit a country only to experience the nature, culture, and heritage of that country not to enjoy sand, sex, sun.
- 8.4 Though, the scope of conventional natural site-based tourism in Bangladesh is limited. Let us return to the idea of creative thinking. The Grameen Bank, Brac, Asha, and other micro-credit

centers, as the "birthplace" of micro-credit, ready-made garment factories, shrimp hatcheries, etc should be promoted as attraction to the tourists.

- 8.5 Nowadays different organizations often organize tourism fairs in Bangladesh. We need buyers' fairs, where foreign buyers (travel agents) will come to Bangladesh to get offers of tour packages, so that they may send tourists to our country.
- 8.6 If tourism in the country is to develop immediate attention needs to be paid to some of the problems being faced by tour operators.
- 8.7 The modern tourist no longer just sees, but listens too. There will soon be a robust need for tourist guides and training centers where future guides will become conversant in key languages of the tourism industry
- 8.8 The present legal formalities to come in Bangladesh for the foreigners are strict and rigid. Therefore, the existing formalities are to be made easy so that, the foreigners get interests to visit Bangladesh.
- 8.9 There is lack of security and safety on travel and in the parks and tourist destinations in Bangladesh. Therefore, the adequate safety and security of the tourists should be ensured to remove negative image.
- 8.10 It is very difficult to enter into some tourist spots in Bangladesh viz. sea-resorts and hill-tracts area. Further, some travel by boat is time consuming. In these cases BPC should provide special mode of transportation for the tourists.
- 8.11 The study has discovered that the largest portion of tourists visiting Bangladesh uses airways. In this case, the study suggests that the authorities should take initiatives to increase international flights and to simplify the formalities as far as possible.
- 8.12 The study found that major portion of tourist come in Bangladesh for other purposes than tourism purpose, so to attract tourists to visit Bangladesh through marketing of its tourist attractions, effective promotion, recreation and entertainment should be organized.

8.13 In Bangladesh, both the foreign and the private sectors' investment are quite insufficient in tourism. This paper suggests taking necessary policies to attract these investments.

8.14 The study also found that maximum tourist comes from Asian region. So Bangladesh should create significant market of tourism in the first world regions like America, Europe, East Europe and Middle East.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Bangladesh has some advantages and disadvantages for the tourists on their arrivals. It holds high tourism potentiality because of its numerous attractions for tourists. Most of the countries all over the world are making all out efforts to develop tourism and boost foreign currency revenue, Bangladesh remained stuck in non-action. As a result, with the passing of time it has miserably failed to attract the international tourists to visit our country in comparison to others countries of the world⁽⁷⁾. From a developing country's perspective tourism industry may be an important instrument for economic advancement for Bangladesh if mentioned initiatives are taken. Having realized the importance of tourism's multidimensional effects Bangladesh Government should give top most priority to the Tourism Industry to boom this sector among all the exporting sectors.

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Reconsideration of the Tax System in Bangladesh for Industrial Development: An Empirical Study

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Md. Sazzadur Rahman Khan ***

ABSTRACT

This paper highlights the sustainable growth problems being faced by the entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. There are multifarious problems for industrial growth in Bangladesh but major bottleneck is the adverse tax system. There exists no consideration for industrial raw materials import in so far as application of duties and taxes compared to those of finished goods though some tax has been reduced for special raw materials in the budget 2008-2009. The net result is increased in production cost which in turn makes the product non competitive. In this circumstance, the government needs to remove duties and taxes from imported raw material like some Middle East countries and Thailand to avoid extra burden on industrial production. The government implicitly accepts the adverse effect of the improper taxes on our industrial growth and has tried partially to alleviate some of this impediment by creating EPZ and Bonded Ware House. This paper explores the benefits of doing away with this high import duties altogether. Finally this paper has indicated that the reduction and waiver of duties and the increase and imposition of duties under budget 2008-2009.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1971 our population has increased. In the mean time, it has faced several famines, floods and cyclone, not to mention other kinds of losses. The economic situation has worsened day by day. Political interference failed to lead this country to the desired level of economic independence. Throughout these long years extending more than half a century, Bangladesh has definitely made some serious mistakes that have resulted in its fiscal failure. However, this paper aims not to criticize to failure of past rather to suggests the way through which Bangladesh might find a way to engage its vast population in productive employment.

Bangladesh covers an area of about 56,000 square miles most part of which is agricultural land. Although it has attained self sufficiency in food but still has vast area where there are scopes for production of adequate food and other agricultural items with export potential. However, the rate of possible expansion in agriculture is also not enough to reduce the unemployment. Hence, Bangladesh needs to explore other avenues for creating jobs by increasing several types of industries. One way is to get a sizable part of our population to immigrate to countries which are sparsely populated. But the practical scenario of the strict immigration laws of the countries where there are more scopes of employment makes the job seekers find different way which can be replaced by industrial is to industrialization. It is possibly to reduce unemployment level by creating jobs in the industrial sector. Therefore, emphasis has to be placed on how Bangladesh can grow its industries so that it can engage its large unemployed population in a massive scale.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

The specific objectives are:

- To identify the bottlenecks of achieving the goal of industrialization.

- To explain the reduction and waiver of duties under National Budget 2008-2009
- To identify how RMG sector creates competitive market in the world.
- To justify the impact of taxation on industrial development in Bangladesh.
- To identify the overbearing burden of taxes.
- To interpret the increase and imposition of duties under Budget 2008-2009

3. METHODOLOGY

This article is prepared based on both the primary and secondary data. The primary data in the mentioned study was collected through using questionnaire including different types of questions under industry related and also the sample survey among the employees, investors, managers and community leaders through extensive field investigation and interview. Primary data are collected from more than 1500 respondents in different categories from industry of our country. The secondary data used for this study were collected from different study reports available in the documentation centers of different libraries and organizations.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are few research conducted previously on different problems working to make the RMG sectors develop slowly but no research was conducted relating tax system and RMG sector together. With respect to the industry sector of Bangladesh, foreign and national experts undertook some studies. Some of the notable ones are;

Najmul Hossain (October 1998) in his article titled “*Constraints to SME Development in Bangladesh*” dealt with comparative progress to identify constraints encountered by entrepreneurs in the industrial sector. A summary of the ranking of the problems

from selected studies over the 1988-98 periods is presented in the section. It provides the ranking of the top eight problems according to the recently completed survey of eight SME subsectors. The subsectors include: Steel Furniture, Small Metal Works and Light Engineering, Electrical Small Goods, Plastic Products, Specialized Handloom, Bakeries, Textile Dyeing and Printing, and Footwear. Electricity, Income tax rules & regulations, credit, and law and order are respectively the four top ranked problems followed by legal barriers, excess competition, and dearth of technical assistance.

Uddin (2008) has stated that the economic efficiency and overall performance of the industry especially in the developing countries are considerably dependent upon macroeconomic policy environment and specific promotion policies pursued for their benefit.

Miah (2007) in his article entitled “*A study about Industrial Sector of Bangladesh*” stated that the major constraints for industries are lack of adequate investment, lack of modern technology, high rate of interest on bank loans, irregular supply of power, poor physical infrastructure and high transportation cost, poor information about market opportunities and requirements.

Ahmed (2006) observed that availability of finance is a major constraint to formation and growth of industries in Bangladesh. In the literature survey, it is seen that most of the articles covered constraints of industrial development. But tax impact in industrial development of Bangladesh is remained absent from their research which is very much essential to analyze the sustainable development for the economy.

5. IMPACT OF TAXATION ON INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN BANGLADESH

Unlike personal income taxes, corporate incomes are tax under flat rate for different types of corporation. The study tries to

summarize the tax rate from FY (Fiscal Year) 2000-2009 and impact the rate of tax on industrial sector from FY2000-2009. The existing trend shows that the rates are declining very slowly. Table-1 shows the trend of corporate tax rates for the three groups over the years. Corporations are categorized into three groups. The first and major groups consist of publicly traded companies. The second group consists of other non-listed corporations liable to pay tax at the rate of 37.5% presently Banks, insurance companies and financial institutions are included into third category and usually pays higher tax rate of 42.5% present.

Table-1: Corporate Tax Rate in Bangladesh

Year	Types of Corporation	Tax Rates (%)
2000-2001	Publicly Traded Company	35
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	40
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	40
2001-2002	Publicly Traded Company	30
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	35
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	40
2002-2003	Publicly Traded Company	30
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	33
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	40
2003-2004	Publicly Traded Company	30
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	32
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	37
2004-2005	Publicly Traded Company	30
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	32
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	40
2005-	Publicly Traded Company	28

2006	Non-Publicly Traded Company	30
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	45
2006-2007	Publicly Traded Company	28
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	37.5
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	45
2007-2008	Publicly Traded Company	27.5
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	37.5
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	45
2008-2009	Publicly Traded Company	27.5
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	37.5
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	45
2009-2010	Publicly Traded Company	27.5
	Non-Publicly Traded Company	37.5
	Banks, insurance company and financial institutions	42.5

Source: Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Finance and NBR (National Board of Revenue) Annual Reports-(FY2000-2009)

Listed companies usually enjoy some extra privileges. In case of Bangladesh such companies are entitled to 10% tax rebate if they declare dividend at 20% or higher. It has been experienced in Bangladesh that a number of companies are reluctant in paying dividend to the shareholders regularly rather retain their earnings for evasion of tax. As a result, not only the shareholders are deprived, but also the general investors are discouraged from investing in capital market. It is really necessary to reduce corporate tax rates to level for improved tax compliance and also to promote investment and industrialization. The study found that when tax rates are reduced overall productions and contributions to GDP are also increased through expansion of Industry and there is a direct negative correlation between tax rate and production.

The contribution of the industry sector in Bangladesh economy is increasing. In FY 1880-81, the contribution of the broad industry sector to real GDP was 17.41 percent which increased to 29.66 percent in FY 2007-08. Among the fifteen sectors identified for computing national income, the greater industry sector includes four sub-sectors such as mining & quarrying; manufacturing; construction; electricity, gas and water supply. Among these sub-sectors, the contribution of the manufacturing sector is the highest. According to provisional estimate, in FY 2007-08 the contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP is 17.77 percent, which is 0.22 percent higher than that of the previous year. In FY 2006-07, the growth rate in the manufacturing sector is estimated at 7.42 percent, which is 2.3 percent lower than that of the previous financial year. The growth performance of the manufacturing sector and its contribution to GDP during FY 2000-01 to FY 2007-08 is shown in table-2 below:

Table-2: Contribution of manufacturing sector in GDP and Growth Rate
(At constant price of 1995-96)

(Taka in crore)

Types of Industry	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Small and Cottage	9267.4 (6.6)	9980.1 (7.7)	10699.6 (7.2)	11496.5 (7.45)	12408.5 (7.93)	13551.5 (9.21)	14865.1 (9.69)	16090.9 (8.25)
Medium-Large	23130.2 (7)	24194.1 (4.6)	25780.8 (6.6)	27572.3 (6.95)	29860.5 (8.30)	33268.2 (11.41)	36507.1 (9.74)	39142.4 (7.22)
Total	32397.6 (6.7)	34174.2 (5.5)	36480.4 (6.8)	39068.8 (7.1)	42269 (8.19)	46819.7 (10.77)	51372.2 (9.72)	55233.3 (7.52)

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

5.1 Quantum Index of Production of Manufacturing Industries

The Quantum Index of Production (QIP) is an important tool for measuring the production performance of manufacturing industries. Data available from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) shows that QIP (1988-89=100), representing medium to large-scale industries, rose to 384.82 in FY 2007-08 from 228.43 in FY 2000-01. Table-3 shows the index during FY 2000-01 to FY 2007-08.

Table-3: Quantum Index of Production of Manufacturing Industries
2000-01 to 2007-08(1988-89=100)

Industry	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Medium to large Scale Industry	228.43	238.72	254.45	272.13	294.72	329.09	359.83	384.82

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

5.2 Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) promotes small and cottage industries in the private sector and provides necessary services and facilities to the private entrepreneurs. A total of 2572 small and 4563 cottage industrial units have been established in FY 2007-2008 through direct and indirect assistance from BSCIC. The total amount of investment made in these units is Tk. 1,156.92 crore. Of the total investment, Tk. 564.52 crore has been supplied as loan from bank, BSCIC and other financial institutions. The rest amount i.e. Tk. 592.40 crore has been invested from entrepreneur's own fund. BSCIC has implemented 74 Industrial Estates throughout the country to provide the entrepreneur's with infrastructural facilities to establish industrial units. These Industrial Estates have been contributing to the national economy. A total of 5242

industrial units have so far been established in these Industrial Estates and the amount invested in these units is Tk. 10136.17 crore. These units have produced products worth of Tk. 23,417.66 crore in FY 2007-2008, out of which products worth of Tk. 12,306.20 crore. have been exported. During this period, industrial units of these industrial estates have paid Tk. 1,729.14 crore as revenue to the government which is higher by Tk. 246.13 crore than the previous year.

5.3 Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC)

During FY 2007-08, 13 enterprises of BCIC produced goods worth Tk. 1333.20 crore against the target of Tk. 1230.84 crore which is 108 percent of the target. Total sale of BCIC enterprises during the said period was Tk. 1310.50 crore which is 106 percent of the target. The contribution to the National Exchequer in FY 2007-08 was Tk. 86.26 crore. BCIC enterprises incurred a loss of Tk. 250.01 crore during FY 2007-08 as per provisional account.

5.4 Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC)

The textile industry has been playing an important role in the economic development of Bangladesh. It is the largest labour intensive manufacturing sector of the country, which employs more than 4.5 million people (including Garments). The total production level of yarn and fabrics in FY 1995-96 was 172.91 million kg., which increased to 702.05 million kg. in FY 2007-08. On the other hand, the fabric production in 1995-96 was 1265.53 million metres, which has increased to 5800.00 million metres in FY 2007-08.

5.5 Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC)

At present, there are 15 operating sugar mills, one molasses-based distillery producing portable industrial alcohol and one engineering unit under the control of BSFIC. In FY 2007-08,

BSFIC produced 163843.80 metric tons against the target of 174021 metric tons which is 94 percent of the target. Actual sales of sugar is 27843 metric tons against the target of 174021 metric tons which is 16% of the target. The contribution to the national exchequer in FY 2007-08 was Tk. 53.09 crore.

5.6 Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)

BJMC produced 125 thousand metric tonnes of jute goods during FY 2007-08 and exported 103 thousand metric tonnes worth Tk. 4888 million. It also sold locally 20 thousand metric tons of jute products worth Tk. 859 million. The contribution to the national exchequer in the form of duties and fees by the BJMC mills in FY 2007-08 is Tk. 13.60 million.

6. BOTTLENECKS TO INDUSTRIALIZATION

If one seeks to identify the impediments to achieving the goal of industrialization, the following could be considered as the major bottlenecks:

- Adverse tax system.
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Insufficient power supply.
- Improper law and order situation.
- High illiteracy rate.

Most of the above subjects have been dealt with innumerable writing by many intelligent thinkers. However this paper has discussed deal primarily with the “Adverse tax system”. When it comes to manufacturing certain finished goods, the first thing one need to estimate is the cost of production. First comes the cost of raw materials, then the others i.e. cost of labor, utilities, bank interest, amortization, overhead etc. Bangladesh being mostly an agro-based country, industrial raw materials are almost not available domestically. An industrialist would definitely look around all over the globe as to where it can

obtain the cheapest and the best quality raw materials.

7. OVERBEARING BURDEN OF TAXES

An insurmountable barrier that an industrialist finds is nowhere else than at the doorstep of Bangladesh when his/ her goods are at the part of the entry. These are subject to various types of taxes:

- PSI – Pre shipment inspection
- Custom duty.
- Value added tax.
- License fee.
- Advance income tax.
- Surcharges
- Port charges
- Clearance charges by clearing agent.
- Miscellaneous.

Since the custom duty varies from 3% to 40% of the value of the goods. The percentage of tax paid at the port of entry varies anywhere from 20% to 80% of the total tax due on an imported item depending on its type and the tariff structure. And again after production is completed there is VAT on the finished goods as well as annual income tax

Reverting back to the topics of tax at the point of entry, the fact is that one has to pay import tax ranging anywhere between 20% to 80%. In this regard we cannot expect any product compete in the global market if any industrialists pay such a high tax. Although one may not achieve the same quality, one must always think that one's product must be comparatively cheaper in the global market; lesser in quality but cheaper in price would still capture a reasonable size of the market as Bangladesh has an advantage of the cheapest labor's availability

in the world. But in practice this is not the case. Bangladesh has almost no product for sale in the world market except Ready Made Garments. Why is this so? The reason is the high taxes on the raw material which effects the growth of the product strongly.

In support of the above theory, the case of RMG industry can be cited as an example. This industry was nonexistent in Bangladesh. The only way this industry could be established and flourish to the level where it is now, being the number one export earning item, was due to the introduction of the “bonded ware house system”. In other words, fabrics are being imported without payment of any duties, Tax or VAT. As a result, RMGs of Bangladesh have become highly competitive in the world market. So one can conclude that Bangladesh has recognized the fact that duties and taxes imposed at the port of the entry is an unnecessary burden on its RMG industry, and therefore these should be eliminated.

8. EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AND THE NEED TO ELIMINATE TAXES FROM RAW MATERIALS

Let us consider the cases of establishment of Export processing Zones. Bangladesh Government is now planning to open EPZ's in almost all the greater districts, with a view to attracting foreign investors.

The salient principles of these EPZs again are to import raw materials without duties and taxes. In other words the Government is convinced that imposition of taxes and duties at the point of import is a burden on industries and they are gradually removing. Then the question arises why in this piecemeal manner? Why not the entire country be treated as an EPZ, by eliminating the need to pay taxes on the imported industrial raw materials. However, the Government may impose VAT on the goods to be sold within Bangladesh as consumer items and no tax imposed on goods to be sold outside. If this

scheme is implemented, the growth of industries will be exponential.

The strongest argument against this scheme is that Bangladesh Government will lose a huge amount of its revenue to the extent that it will not be able to run itself. But this argument is not tenable in practice. Let us revisit the RMG's case: can we say that because the Government is not receiving any revenue from the import of RMG fabrics, they are losing revenue from the RMG sector? The answer is a definite, resounding no.

Many Middle East countries and Thailand have no taxes on imported raw materials. Thailand's industrial growth started from the early 1980's and following the implementation of tax liberalization policies they have been extremely successful. An indicator of this success is the fact that their electricity consumption is about 30,000 Megawatts for a population of 60 million compared to only 3,000 Megawatts for a population of 130 million in the case of Bangladesh. The policies they follow are listed below:

- Exemption of import duty and VAT on machineries, components and materials etc. imported for factory construction.
- Exemption of import duty and VAT on raw materials.
- Exemption of export duty and VAT on exported goods.
- Exemption or refund of duties and VAT for local goods utilized for production.

9. PAY BACK TO THE ECONOMY FROM INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Let us now consider how RMG industry of Bangladesh has contributed to its national economy. The following come to mind immediately:

- Providing jobs for labor force directly related to the

industry.

- Providing jobs to related / support industries.
- Opening up demands for fabrics thereby opening doors for development of textile industry.
- Creating a consumer market by the day to day demand of RMG laborers, who otherwise were living a very poor and consuming very little- many were vagrants
- Providing direct income tax revenue to the Government by the industrialists themselves and their higher- grade employees. This income tax earning was not previously available.
- Providing VAT through sale of consumer goods. All these additional consumptions did not exist before.
- Ensuring the growth of service industries like electricity, Gas water and Telephone thus prompting growth in these utility sectors.

It is not difficult to calculate to magnitude the income and taxes being generated will multiply just by lowering the Government revenue only at one point – namely import duties and taxes.

By mass producing RMGs and growing this industry in last several years Bangladesh have definitely developed their own technical, manufacturing and sales expertise in this sector. They have no reason to think that their national talents are limited within the realm of the RMG industry only. Indeed they can grow many other production sectors or consumer goods as well, such as engineering goods for the original equipment manufacturers, once the products are made cheaper. This way not only can they drive out many imported items for their domestic consumer markets, but also they can penetrate into the foreign markets quite easily. The Bangladesh Government will not be required to assist the entrepreneurs to sell their goods

outside. The industrialists themselves will be able to locate their own market.

In a nutshell, the economy of the country will jump up to a reasonably high level when it shall not have to ponder over finding ways and means for poverty alleviation. Simply put, Bangladeshis will no longer be poor. The Government will be happy about the revenue they receive through direct income tax and VAT on consumer goods.

10. REDUCTION AND WAIVER OF DUTIES UNDER BUDGET 2008-2009

With a view to containing price like of essential commodities, promoting local industries and increasing agricultural production, there have been attempts to reduce taxes in various forms. Some of them are as follows.

- Withdrawal of CD (Custom Duty) on the import of food grains and edible oil will help the government to stabilize the existing market conditions.
- Fertilizer will continue to enjoy 0% CD along with capital machinery and spares imported for dairy and poultry industries considering the huge loss incurred by the poultry sector resulting from bird-flu virus. Also, dairy and poultry industry will benefit from a waiver of all duties and taxes on importation of plastic trays used for transportation and maintenance of poultry chicks, and nursery trays used for seed growing.
- There will be a reduction in the CD on agricultural equipment such as irrigation pumps, tractors and diesel engines to 3% reduce production costs for this sector.
- Finished products will continue to have a duty of 25% while 0% duty on food stuff, medicines and raw cotton will be continued.
- The rate of tax for capital machinery and spare parts has

decreased from 5% to 3%. Given the depressed investment scenario import of capital machinery and spare parts may be made duty-free to strengthen the industrial base of the country.

- There will also be a 7% duty on finished rods and billets instead of the previous 10%, and the additional 1.5% surcharge on the imports is to be lifted as well. Duties on steel industry and chemicals have been cut down by one third of the initial rates. This is expected to ease the price of real estate.
- While duties on luxurious vehicles have been increased (described below), Supplementary Duty (SD) on microbuses between 1,500 and 1,800 CC, used for transportation of industrial raw materials and passengers has been reduced from 60% to 20%. This probably has been proposed with a view to reducing the transportation cost of both industrial goods and common passengers. However, without monitoring the usage of such microbuses, differentiation cannot be made between private use and commercial use as mentioned above.
- Duty on computers and peripheral devices has been reduced from 5% to 3%. This reduction in duties will benefit the growing IT industry in Bangladesh and is a positive change.
- Existing CD of 25% has been reduced to 7% for importing inhaler actuator, used as medicaments, and SD has been abolished. This is a commendable measure towards health care.

11. INCREASE AND IMPOSITION OF DUTIES UNDER BUDGET 2008-2009

A number of items will face increased duties. These measures have been taken to promote local industries and discourage consumption of luxurious goods.

- Specific duty has been raised on sugar to protect domestic sugar cane growers. It might distort the market prices.
- The indemnity bond system is to be abolished and replaced with a concessionary rate of 1% customs duty. This will raise producer's cost. However, this has come in the wake of complaints by entrepreneurs who have faced harassment in taking advantage of the previous system.
- Pictorial and drawing books used for educational purposes are to be charged 25% customs duty compared to 10% of the last year. The government has taken this initiative as it feels these books are not in tune with the country's cultures and values. However, this move might only encourage piracy and a reduction in the government revenue in the long run. This measure is rather knowledge-unfriendly.
- An attempt has been made to discourage luxurious vehicles by readjusting SD of 60, 100, 250 and 350% on vehicles having higher displacement capacity. This could be a way of government's revenue generation. The eligibility criterion of reconditioned vehicles has been fixed: a time gap of 365 days between registration and deregistration. Vehicles also have to run 1000 kilometers before shipment. This is a good initiative in favor of customers who used to be cheated very often at the time of buying vehicles. Proposal to reduce the SD on importation of ordinary non-luxurious Taxicabs will be allowed to be converted into normal vehicles and get registered by paying 20% duties after 8 years. The poor maintenance of taxicabs in Bangladesh before allowing these to run further, their fitness should be examined properly. Otherwise, they may contribute to environment pollution.
- The media is also about to face certain challenges. SD for satellite channel distributors has been increased from 15% to 35%. This has been proposed in an effort to discourage foreign commercials broadcast via satellite which supposedly encourage domestic consumers to demand more imports of foreign goods. It has been stated that this is an indirect effect. This increase if duties will ultimately be borne by the customers. In a globalized world, attempt to discourage people from consuming global products through increasing the rate of pay channels is somewhat unreasonable.
- An SD of 60% on the raw materials for manufacturing of cigarettes and 20% on the papers used in producing packaging materials of cigarettes has been imposed. This should have positive impact on human health.

12. CONCLUSION

In concluding the articles suggests the revision and total elimination of existing duties and tax from imported raw materials, so that government may not create an extra burden on industrial productions. An established example of this success can be. The Ready Made Garments industries where all import duties and taxes are exempted from fabrics and associated materials required for RMG manufacturing. Another example is the establishment of export processing zone where raw materials are again exempted from duties and taxes. Therefore it is quite understandable that government accept the fact that to make our industrial product competitive in the world market the raw material must be duty and tax free. The article thus argued as to why the entire country should not be treated as an EPZ where finished product can be taxed for the local market while abolishing taxes from goods destined for the export market as in many other countries such as Thailand. Bangladesh's collection process remains archaic. Particularly there has been little change indicates. The archaic process trouble the tax payers, who also

have pay unnecessary amounts to tax advisers besides the bribes to grease the tax office. The government in Bangladesh has to spend more on tax collection. Too many tax appeals also drain both the tax payers and the government. The very low number of tax payers in Bangladesh is attributable to inefficiency and corruption of tax department. The high tax rate needs to be reduced. The tax collection procedure needs to be simplified and automated. The tax return form should be simplified and online return filing and tax payment is overdue. This is more so because Bangladesh is now so keen to go digital.

The government should not run itself mostly on revenue from import duties, rather than tax umbrella should be widened to increase personal income tax. This would be possible only if the citizens are allowed to have reasonable income from which they are capable of paying the tax-by opening doors to job opportunities through industrial expansion.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the analysis of findings following recommendations are suggested for industrial development of Bangladesh.

- Existing tax rate for company's listed for public trading has been proposed to 27.5% and for company's not listed for public trading is 37.5%. This rate should be minimized
- Revision and total elimination of existing duties and tax from imported raw materials should be made.
- Provide adequate infrastructure such as development of Information Technology [IT] equipment should be tax exempted.
- Period and area of tax holiday should be increased.
- Conditions for approval for tax holiday for industrial undertakings should be reduced.
- Rules and regulations regarding tax of industry should be consistent.

- Area of investment allowance should be reconsidered.
- Tax incentives for foreign investors should be advanced.
- Enhancement of allowance or scientific research such as developing new product, technologies in the industrial sector should be made.

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Aime Césaire's *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*: A Self-Liberation

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ABSTRACT

Notebook of a Return to the Native Land of Aimé Césaire presents a speaker besieged with his own identity, ragged between a double consciousness of his black African legacy and his French-European education. This dichotomy appears in the poem in terms of his understanding of his origin as well as his sense of self-liberation. For the speaker, the African appears as the "real" around him, while the European is an "absent presence," and he confronts the two at the poem's pinnacle, when he encounters a comically stereotypical African-Caribbean man on a street-car. As the poem moves from the pinnacle toward conclusion, the speaker, it seems, reaches for something more universal than either the black or white races, a liberated soul. This universal is cast in terms of paradox as the poem spins toward the concluding word, which is etymologically a paradoxical declaration of perpetuity and limitlessness. In the end, the speaker has returned, but he finds that his journey is only at a starting point. The author discovers Césaire's split soul and his self-liberation as portrayed in this poem.

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Aime Césaire's *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* presents a narrator besieged with his own identity, ragged between a double consciousness of his black African legacy and his French-European education. This dichotomy appears in the poem in terms of his understanding of his ancestry. For the speaker, the African appears as the "real" around him, while the European is an "absent presence", and he confronts the two at the poem's pinnacle, when he encounters a comically stereotypical African-Caribbean man on a street-car.

Certainly the speaker of the poem is Césaire as he mentions in an interview with Haitian poet and militant René Despestre¹ at the Cultural Congress of Havana in 1967,

"it is an autobiographical book, but at the same time it is a book in which I tried to gain an understanding of myself. In a certain sense it is closer to the truth than a biography. You must remember that it is a young person's book. I wrote it just after I had finished my studies and had come back to Martinique. These were my first contacts with my country after an absence of ten years, so I really found myself assaulted by a sea of impressions and images. At the same time I felt a deep anguish over the prospects for Martinique"².

Here lies the split soul and at the same time the identification of Césaire with the speaker in *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* (1983) where he (the speaker) looks into himself, at the world around him, and into his ancestral past in attempts to discover his own identity. This speaker is in the process of becoming aware of his identity, and central to this awareness is his understanding of his African heritage as well as his relation to the white European World that has influenced him and his island community. These two deviating kinds of consciousness divide the speaker's attempts at self understanding to a higher existence of self-liberation. The African appears more real to the speaker; it is easy to see the African presence in his life, his ancestry, and his world. The European, however, appears as more of an absent-

¹René Despestre is a Haitian poet and Militant.

²*Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinham (New York: Monthly Press, 1972), 78-9

presented surrounding the speaker in his daily life. Whereas in this long narrative poem, Césaire discarded European culture, accepting his African and Caribbean roots juxtaposing historical data, descriptions of nature, and dream imagery, he praises the offerings of the black race to world civilization. In *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* we can see that the refutation of European culture reconstitutes a new ‘self’, and to this extent, a newly realized oppositional praxis to confront Westernized models of socio-cultural production:

“Oh friendly source of light
Oh fresh source of light
Those who have invented neither powder nor compass
Those who could harness neither stream nor electricity
Those who exploited neither the seas nor the sky but those
Without whom the earth would not be earth
Gibbosity [gibbsite] all the more beneficent as the bare earth
even more earth
Silo where that which is earthiest about earth ferments and
ripens
My negritude is not a stone, its deafness hurled against the
clamor of the day
My negritude is not a leukoma[une taie] of dead liquid over the
earth’s dead eye
My negritude is neither tower nor cathedral
It takes root in the red flesh of the soil
It takes root in the ardent flesh of the sky
It breaks through the opaque prostration [troupe I’accablement]
with its upright
Patience.”³

He recognizes these two forces chiefly in the poem’s most narrative scenes and in personal reminiscences. The most heartrending and most often critically discussed moment occurs when he encounters a stereotypically comical-looking black man on the street-car. Scenes such as this one cast the speaker as a black man looking the eyes of a white man.

A kind of paradox works in such a scene where the speaker needs to see through white eyes, attitudes, and prejudices in order to look more meaningfully at what defines the black individual and the black community. Both positions -- black standpoint and white standpoint offer the speaker definitions of his "race" that are essentializing. What the speaker discovers in the course of the poem is that having moved through both positions allows him to accept more than one definition; he is able from a third position, one that is between these two and, even as the poem concludes, unformed and undefined, to view himself in complex ways that allows the poem's ending -- his return -- to be a beginning and a future potential for his identity. *The Notebook* consists, as Annette Smith and Clayton Eshleman's introduction to Césaire's *The Collected Poetry* describes, of three movements. The opening of the poem consists of descriptions of the "sprawled flat" topography of Césaire's Martinique in prose-like sections linked structurally by the use of anaphora. The second movement introduces the speaker's desire to go away from his homeland while using techniques of surrealist juxtaposition to describe the horrors of Martinique's colonized past and present. This section contains the poem's crucial scene in which the speaker encounters and mocks -- a stereotypically comic black man on a street-car. Finally, the third movement of the poem gestures toward a universal sense of identity as it suggests a future hero who will appear from the past. In this section, the poem's topography seems to lift from the flat earth into the stars and heavens, and the speaker searches for a collective sense of identity that is paradoxically both black and white while being neither black nor white.

Notebook of a Return to the Native Land represents Césaire’s attempt to subvert the language of the colonizer to recreate a black collectivity that had been denied the concreteness of expression, a process which derives from Surrealist concern with the intensification of collective activity and the subversion of refined forms of socio-cultural production as James Arnold writes,

“At the outset the Martinician poet, whose literary culture is essentially European, cannot but use the elements of style provided by the colonizer. The language and literary forms at

³Césaire, Aime. *The Collected Poetry*, Trans. Clayton Eshleman and Annette Smith (Bakerly: University of California Press, 1983).

his disposal belong to the very tradition that must attack in order to affirm the uniqueness of his own community.”⁴

Césaire reveals the same truth of choosing French for his poetry which he accepts in an interview with Rene Despertre:

“It was not something I wanted, but it happens that the language I used was the language I had learned at school. That didn’t bother me in the slightest, it didn’t in any way come between me and my existential rebellion and the outpouring of my innermost being. I bent the French language to my purposes.

Nature and History have placed us at the crossroads of two worlds, of two cultures if not more. There is the African culture, which I see as being below the surface; and precisely because it is below the surface, overlooked, treated with contempt, it needed to be expressed, to be brought out alive into the light.

But the other culture was the obvious one, the one we were conscious of from the books and from school, and which was also ours, an integral part of our individual and collective identity.

And also I have tried to reconcile those two worlds, because that was what had to be done. On the other hand, I feel just as relaxed about claiming kinship with the African griot and the African epic as about claiming kinship with Rimbaud and Lautreamont-and through them with Sophocles and Aeschylus.”⁵

Applying our earlier description of the European as absent presence here is tricky because it is a paradox. The European world as ancestral consciousness to the speaker is not physically palpable and yet it is everywhere, influencing his attitudes and behavior. The speaker's relationship to the European world is a paradox as its manipulation is

⁴James Arnold, *Modernism and Negritude* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981).

⁵Césaire, Aime. *Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

both that of a father-figure to him and something external and foreign. Most notably, the poem's French language is the European presence, though the speaker does not directly concede that he writes and speaks in a European tongue. Perhaps we can interpret the speaker's relation to the Europeans through Frantz Fanon's sense of language as expressed in his *Black Skin, White Masks* (1967). For Fanon, to speak "means above all to assume a culture, to support the weight of a civilization" (17-18)⁶. In the chapter "The Negro and Language," Fanon suggests that as a black man from the Antilles begins to speak French he becomes whiter, renouncing his blackness and his "jungle" heritage, in Césaire's poem, though, the speaker seems intent on recovering and describing his ancestral black heritage. If the European has seemed privileged in the poem's opening half, it is because of the long history of white domination. As Césaire mentions in his interview with Rene Despertre:

“We didn’t know what Africa was. Europeans despised everything about Africa, and in France people spoke of a civilized world and a barbarian world. The barbarian world was Africa, and the civilized world was Europe. Therefore the best thing one could do with an African was to assimilate him: the ideal was to turn him into a Frenchman with black skin.”⁷

The speaker in *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*, however, wants to discover an alternative to this legacy. Perhaps because the speaker lives in a world subjugated by the white colonizer, he cites many racial stereotypes while attempting to define himself and his black heritage, as Davis notes. These stereotypes, however, are only "masks" which the speaker discards:

"The stereotypes, which are images of the self projected by the other, are also brought into the evanescent limelight, only to be discarded in their turn along with the others. Throughout Césaire seems to be cataloguing the various forms or guises that the black identity has assumed in its interaction with the

⁶Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Trans. Charles Lam Markman. New York: Grove P, 1967.

⁷Césaire, Aime. *Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

European colonizer. In subjecting them to uncompromising scrutiny he is not so much concerned with repudiating them outright (though exorcism is certainly part of his plan) as with exploring the nature of racial identity, which is always constructed in relation to the other; for it soon becomes painfully clear, as the poem progresses, that certain negative self-images are, or have been at one time, internalized by the first-person narrator" (42)⁸.

After a stereotypically hilarious description, the speaker tells us,

"And the whole thing added up perfectly to a hideous nigger, a grouchy nigger, a melancholy nigger, a slouched nigger, his hands joined in prayer on a knobby stick. A nigger shrouded in an old threadbare coat. A comical and ugly nigger, with some women behind me sneering at him. He was COMICAL AND UGLY,/ COMICAL AND UGLY for sure./ I⁹

We must also judge this struggle in the broader context of the poem, perhaps in terms of the three principles of negritude in the *Notebook*. It seems the colonized man struggles to establish his own identity and sense of self by overthrowing the colonizer. As Césaire suggests:

“Our struggle was a struggle against alienation. That struggle gave birth to Negritude. Because Antilles were ashamed of being Negroes, they searched for all sorts of euphemisms for Negro: they would say a man of color, a dark-complexioned man, and other idiocies like that.”¹⁰

Early in the poem, Césaire frames his words as weapons. For example, he describes his community's voice as "our spear point" (49)¹¹. Perhaps he is suggesting a way to overcome the colonial father-figure through the use of weapon-like words. The violent images here are more

complex than just acts directed in revolt. If the speaker intends acts of destruction as creative acts, then we should look at how he attempts to "destroy," symbolically, that which is African in his identity. The speaker has been addressing his African ancestry and his black society with the vision of a European education, and it shows him the comical and ugly, stereotypical black as a possible obstacle to his success in the world. Because of the speaker's collusion in stereotyping the man on the streetcar, he cannot hug his sense of negritude, his blackness. I suggest that the speaker must symbolically destroy the man on the streetcar in order to pledge his likeness to an African, his identity as a black man. In this way, the speaker can eliminate from his own consciousness those European prejudices which make him see only the comical and ugly. The speaker, having returned from France as the French-speaking black man who Fanon tells us is outcast from Martinique society, searches for a place in that society from which to speak and to act in a way that will allow him and his community to advance. However, he cannot, if he is aware of himself as being like the man on the streetcar. On the one hand, that the speaker's European education, as well as the sense of whiteness in the world, acts a block or embargo to his exploration of his African ancestry. He must destroy or overcome this embargo in order to strengthen his likeness to his African heritage. Both white and black consciousnesses, however, are present in the speaker's sense of identity and he must accept both of them in order to survive in his world. If it seems he is destroying "whiteness" within himself, this is because he must prevent his European education from destroying the Africanness in his heritage. The speaker must wear different masks as he attempts the balancing act that will help define a fraternal universal. The problem with searching for this universal balance in the speaker's exploration of himself is that he does not equally contain all parts of the world. Although he hints toward an all-inclusive vision of the world at the poem's end, he cannot find equal parts of both "races" in his ancestry and in his life. Instead, I think, he wants the freedom to explore his own as a complement to what is European and white in the world. In this way, he attempts to overcome, evade the white "father," thus finds the way of seeing the world that stands between him and his African ancestry in the streetcar scene. There is indication after the streetcar scene of an act of

⁸Davis, Gregson. *Aime Césaire*. Cambridge: Cambridge U, 1997.

⁹Césaire, Aime. *The Collected Poetry*, Trans. Clayton Eshleman and Annette Smith (Bakerly: University of California Press, 1983)

¹⁰Césaire, Aime. *Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

¹¹Césaire, Aime. *The Collected Poetry*, Trans. Clayton Eshleman and Annette Smith (Bakerly: University of California Press, 1983)

cannibalism (in word), as the speaker uses a refrained reference to "this former dream my cannibalistic cruelties" (65)¹². The speaker describes this dream:

"I was hiding behind a stupid vanity called me I was hiding behind it and suddenly there was a man on the ground, his feeble defenses scattered, his sacred maxims trampled underfoot, his pedantic rhetoric oozing air through each wound. There is a man on the ground and his soul is almost naked and destiny triumphs in watching this soul which defied its metamorphosis in the ancestral slough" (65)¹³.

This man on the ground, the speaker, watches his soul in this dream, as he beats and destroys himself. The question is, which part of himself is he killing here? The white part? The black part? The point of this dream is withdrawal from his "stupid vanity," which suggests that he must kill that part of himself which is overly proud. Perhaps that is the part -- whether white or black -- which tends to be exclusionary. This scene seems to keep with the kind of narrative Fanon offers of a French-educated black man returning to Martinique as an outcast because he seems vain and thinks himself elevated to a higher status than the Creole speakers. The speaker, however, realizes that there is a metamorphosis which he must undergo.

In our view, the concluding neologism is exasperating, perhaps because it defies definition beyond the paradoxical sense of a "still sweeping" suggested by its Latinate roots. The problem Césaire has set for himself here is one of how to describe a single point on a journey of self-discovery and self-liberation, though the 'self-liberation' is not achieved easily as Césaire confesses:

"This can mean only one thing: namely, that a political and social system that suppresses the self-determination of a people thereby kills the creative power of that people. Or, what amounts to the same thing: wherever colonialism has existed,

¹²Césaire, Aime. *The Collected Poetry*, Trans. Clayton Eshleman and Annette Smith (Bakerly: University of California Press, 1983)

¹³opcit

whole peoples have been deprived of their culture, deprived of all culture... Wherever European colonization has occurred, the introduction of an economy based on money has led to the destruction or weakening of traditional links, the break-up of the social and economic structure of the community... When a member of a colonized people makes this kind of remark, European intellectuals tend to reproach him with ingratitude and remind him complacently of what the world owes Europe."¹⁴

He remarks:

"Whenever colonization occurs, native culture begins to wither. And among the ruins there springs up not a culture, but a kind of subculture, a subculture that, because it is condemned to remain marginal as regards the European culture and to the province of small group, an "elite," living in artificial conditions and deprived of life-giving contact with the masses and with popular culture, is thus prevented from blossoming into a true culture."¹⁵

The poem ends with a speaker who still struggles with his sense of 'self'. It is stronger than it was in the poem's beginning, but it is not complete, perhaps because it is a new sensibility that is liminal, between European and African. It reaches toward the universal, though conceding that its goal is beyond its reach. I have suggested that the speaker has overcome and accepted his African ancestor in the person of the man on the streetcar in order to be identified with him. This identification is to go back to a higher root of self-liberation. As Césaire's proclaims:

"Our concern has always been a humanist concern and we wanted it to have roots. We wanted to have roots and at the same time to communicate. I think it was in a passage in Hegel

¹⁴Aime Césaire, "Culture and Colonization," in *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994*, ed. Chinua and Okwui Enwezor (New York: Prestel, 2001)

¹⁵Aime Césaire, "Culture and Colonization," in *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994*, ed. Chinua and Okwui Enwezor (New York: Prestel, 2001)

emphasizing the master-slave dialectic that we found this idea about specificity. He points out that the particular and the universal are not to be seen as opposites, that the universal is not the negation of the particular but is reached by a deeper exploration of the particular. The West told us that in order to be universal we had to start by denying that we were black. I, on the contrary, said to myself that the more we were black, the more universal we would be. It was a totally different approach. It was not a choice between alternatives, but an effort at reconciliation. Not a cold reconciliation, but reconciliation in heat of the fire, an alchemical reconciliation if you like. The identity in question was an identity reconciled with the universal. For me there can never be any imprisonment within an identity. Identity means having roots, but it is also a transition, a transition to the universal.”¹⁶

However, Fanon claims that Césaire, "once he had laid bare the white man in himself, he killed him" (198)¹⁷. If both of these aspects of his identity have been destroyed, what, then, is left? Perhaps the ending of the poem reaches beyond the solitary speaker and beyond essentializing, single meanings. He tells the wind to bind his "black vibration to the very navel of the world," to strangle him or to liberate him for a higher identity as he answers to Rene Despertre:

“There is an obvious fiery quality in my poetry, but why? I belong to this island.... Why this obsession in my poetry? It is not some thing I deliberately seek. I am aware- everyone is aware- that the volcano is out there. It is earth and it is fire.

Fire is not destructive. The volcano is not destructive except in an indirect way. It is a cosmic anger, in other words, a creative anger, yes, creative!

We are far removed from that romantic idyll beneath the calm sea. These are angry, exasperated lands, lands that spit and spew, that vomit forth life.

¹⁶Césaire, Aime. *Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

¹⁷Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Trans. Charles Lam Markman. New York: Grove P, 1967.

That is what we must live up to. We must draw upon the creativity of this plot of land! We must keep it going and not sink into a slumber of acceptance and resignation. It is a kind of summons to us from history and from nature.”¹⁸

Thus *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* and other creations of Césaire show the world to assert the importance and dignity of being black at a time when foreign powers still held up colonies around the world. The rest of the world has to comprehend that it can no longer view blacks as savage, uneducated people. The *Notebook of Return to the Native Land* brings both the world of domination and the strength of the Martinician people into sharp focus. The poem is Césaire’s personal history, as well as the history of his island. The fragments of foreign civilizations, the residue of imposed cultures, the medley of traditions, all contradictory and clashing, inspire the poem to liberate him. The ritual of liberation depends on a landscape suffused with spirits, trash, and mud, Césaire’s essential landscape which he explains in 1967:

“It’s true that superficially we are French, we bear the marks of French customs; we have been branded by Cartesian philosophy, by French rhetoric; but if we break with all that, if we plumb the depths, then what we will find is fundamentally black.”¹⁹

The power of Césaire’s adaptability between his black identity and imposed colonial existence excels the conscious truth of self-liberation. His passion for social justice, his love of Martinique and his global vision of mankind are reflected in every aspect of his life and poetry. In his *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*, Césaire finds regenerative force in the landscape of his native Martinique. In an over-arching sense, the poem is a pursuit for inventive insight and self-liberation. In a more detailed fashion, the poem’s thematic development draws a picture of the poverty of daily reality; he writes a cry for colossal losses suffered by Caribbean people because of the slave trade; he describes

¹⁸Césaire, Aime. *Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

¹⁹Césaire, Aime. *Discourse on Colonialism*, Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

the liveliness of his people who are rooted in the soil; he explores his own agony; he celebrates the extraterrestrial and physical beauty of Caribbean islands; he experiences a catharsis; and he utters a call for a liberation: a higher freedom of SELF LIBERATION.

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Listening Practice in English Language Learning: Bangladesh Context

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ABSTRACT

Listening is one of the four skills of language learning. As it is a receptive skill, it works as an input in the process of language production. To communicate accurately, proper listening is very important. So, in language learning, this skill should get priority. This paper aims to find out the actual progress of listening in Bangladesh as an important skill of language learning. The researchers examined carefully the existing syllabus of S.S.C¹, H.S.C² and other curriculum of English language teaching of different institutions. The study finds that though speaking, writing and reading get some care, listening is not added adequately in the syllabus for language learning in Bangladesh. The paper shows that lack of proper teaching; learning materials and approach make it hard for a learner to develop skill in listening. The paper finds many problems in listening and recommends concrete suggestions to improve the situation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

If the main purpose of language learning is to communicate, both the parties-speakers and listeners- should be involved reciprocally. At first we should listen to answer others' questions. If anyone does not listen accurately, he/she will not be able to understand. This failure can lead us to misleading communication. Thus listening is considered as an important skill in language learning and teaching. Although listening is a receptive skill, it is an active and purposeful process of making sense of what we hear. It requires a person to receive and understand incoming information.

To be competent in listening, one should work hard as one should enrich oneself with vocabulary, right pronunciation and structures. He should also be able to adjust with the situation and be prepared psychologically to listen attentively and comprehend accurately.

An ELT³ classroom should provide every facility to make the students competent in listening. Efforts even should continue outside the classroom.

Proper instruments i.e. Audio-visual equipments with sound-proof language lab are necessary to continue a listening session. Moreover, students should get more opportunity to listen in their houses so that they can make themselves habituated to listening.

The study found an opposite scenario of Bangladeshi curriculum of language learning. Here the main focus is on reading, writing and speaking; listening gets a poor treatment. There is no topic of listening in the syllabus and no test of listening in examinations. Teachers do not care about this skill and the related instruments are available only in a few institutions in the urban areas. This lack of care makes our students inefficient in listening. If it happens on rare occasions and situations that the teacher is speaking and instructing in English, the students cannot follow the instructions.

This paper discusses the objective of the study in section (ii), methodology in section (iii), findings in section (iv) and conclusion with some recommendations in section (v).

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The paper is designed to fill some specific objectives. They are:

1. To view the exact scenario in the treatment of listening in syllabus and curriculum of all educational institutions in Bangladesh ;
2. To find out the problems in executing the syllabus for the development of listening ;
3. To find out whether the necessary instruments are available to implement listening in the syllabus ;
4. To find out whether every institution has the facilities to facilitate listening for English language development ;
5. To find out the barriers involved in the process of listening ;
6. To identify the measures that can be taken for overcoming the difficulties and barriers in listening and for the development of listening ;

3. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both primary and secondary data, like-

1. The researchers have closely observed English Language Teaching (ELT) classrooms, discussed with teachers, students and educationists who shared their frank opinions regarding this issue.
2. Books and modern websites have extensively been used.
3. Existing S.S.C. and H.S.C. English syllabuses have been analyzed.
4. A questionnaire has been prepared and surveyed on the students of Prime University.

5. Thereafter, the information has been analyzed to assess the present listening situation in Bangladesh and its impact on Bangladeshi learners.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Penny Ur in the book “**A Course in Language Teaching**”(page :105-107), the objective of listening comprehension practice in the classroom is that students should learn to function successfully in real-life listening situations. This being so, it makes sense to examine first of all what real-life listening is, and what sorts of things the listener needs to be able to do in order to comprehend satisfactorily in a variety of situations.

This book provides a list of real-life listening situations:

LISTENING SITUATIONS	
interview	theatre show
instructions	telephone chat
loudspeaker announcements	lesson, lecture
radio news	conversation, gossip
committee meeting	watching television
shopping	story-telling

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It is true that classroom listening is not real-life listening. However, in order to provide students with training in listening comprehension that will prepare them for effective functioning outside classroom, activities should give learners practice in coping with at least some of the features of real-life situations. For example, it would seem not very helpful to base listening exercise mainly on passages that are read aloud and followed by comprehension questions, when we know that very little of the discourse that we hear in real life is read aloud, and we do not normally respond by answering comprehension questions.

It is worth noting also that listening activities based on simulated real-life situations are likely to be more motivating and interesting to do than contrived textbook comprehension exercises.

Shelagh Rixon in his book “**Developing Listening Skills**”(page:9) emphasizes listening in learning English as a second language. He says that in listening there is the interdependence of different skills. There is an everyday distinction between hearing something and listening to it. Hearing is simply the recognition of sounds, as when we say, ‘I’m sorry, I didn’t hear exactly what you said’. Listening implies some conscious attention to the message of what is said, as when we say, ‘Are you listening to me’? This distinction is useful at the different abilities used by a learner trying to make sense of a piece of spoken English.

Shelagh Rixon in his book ‘**Developing Listening Skills**’ (page:37) also shows how native speakers’ pronunciation of English can cause students problem in recognition, and therefore in comprehension.

There are four main sources of problem of listening ability:

1. The weak relationship between English sounds and the way they are spelt in the written language.
2. Changes in sounds when they occur in rapid, connected speech.
3. The rhythm pattern of English speech.
4. Different ways of pronouncing the same sound.

Penny Ur in his book ‘**Teaching Listening Comprehension**’ 1984, (page:30) admits the importance of listening in English language teaching as it is very essential to develop the learners’ ability of perception and comprehension and is a basis for study and also discussion in the classroom.

Anne Anderson and Tonny Lynch, in their book ‘**Listening**’ 1988, (page:49) say that, ‘listening is a reciprocal skill which effectively involves a multiplicity of skills.’

They give a simple step-by-step picture of the various elements that might be thought to make up the process of listening in face-to-face conversation:

1. The spoken signals have to be identified from the midst of surrounding sound.
2. The continuous stream of speech has to be segmented into units, which have to be recognized as known words.
3. The syntax of the utterance has to be grasped and the speaker’s intended meaning has to be understood.
4. We also have to apply our linguistic knowledge to formulate a correct and appropriate response to what has been said.

Jeremy Harmer in his book ‘**The Practice of English Language Teaching**’2001, (page:29)divides reasons for listening into two broad categories. One is **instrumental** as it helps us to achieve some clear aims. This type of listening takes place because we have some kind of utilitarian or instrumental purpose in mind. Another is **pleasurable** listening which takes place largely for pleasure. Some people listen to comedy tapes or programmes. Most researchers like to make a difference between ‘**extensive**’ and ‘**intensive**’ listening. Whereas the former suggests listening often for pleasure and in a leisurely way, intensive listening tends to be more concentrated, less relaxed and often dedicated not so much to pleasure as to the achievement of a study goal.

Jeremy Harmer also emphasizes the combination of extensive and intensive listening as it helps the students to improve their listening skill and gain valuable language input. Listening of both kinds is specially important since it provides the perfect opportunity to hear voices of persons other than teachers and enable students to a good speaking habit as a result of the spoken English they absorb, and helps to improve their own pronunciation.

Jo McDonough and Christopher Shaw in the book ‘**Materials and Methods in ELT**’ 1993; (page:-:166) show the relationship of ‘listening’ with another skill, ‘reading’. Like the reader, the listener is involved, for instance, in guessing, anticipating, checking, interpreting, interacting and organizing.

Post (1990) even sees the listener in certain circumstances as 'Coauthoring' the discourse, not just waiting to be talked to and to respond, but by his responses actually helping to construct it.

David Nunan in his book '**Practical English Language Teaching**' 2003: (page:24) says that while listening and reading do share some similarities, two major differences should be noted from the start. Firstly, listening usually happens in real time. That is, people listen and have to comprehend what they hear immediately. There is no time to go back and review, look up unknown words etc. Secondly, although listening is receptive, it very often happens in the midst of a conversation something which requires productive, spoken responses.

5. FINDINGS

Considering the importance of listening in English language learning and to find out the status of listening in language learning curriculum of Bangladesh a **questionnaire** (appended at the end of this paper) has been served among the students of a private university who experienced both S.S.C. and H.S.C. curriculum as well as the syllabus of English language learning course in their university.

In response to the first question 50% students of the university answered that they listen to English news on Radio or Television averaging 10-50 minutes daily, 30% listen on rare occasions and 30% do not listen at all.

In response to the second question, students of English department informed that they got their teachers speak in English whereas students of other departments got their teacher speak in English partially.

In answer to the third question 30% students informed that they found their teachers of school and college levels speak in English but this was not up to the mark and others said that their teachers rarely spoke English.

In response to the fourth question all the students informed that they did not have listening activities in their SSC and HSC levels.

In response to the fifth question they answered that they had some equipments but did not have a complete language laboratory.

In response to the sixth question only 10% informed that they could understand completely and 50% told that they could understand partially and other students told that they failed to understand most of the part of the lectures.

In response to the seventh question only 40% students said 'yes' and others informed that they could not understand properly.

In answer to the eighth question all the students informed that they did not have listening test in their class.

It is found that listening as a skill is absent from the very beginning in the history of English language learning of Bangladesh. Only speaking and writing are thought to be the basic and prime components of language learning. Reading, writing and a little bit of speaking are getting importance nowadays. But listening is a problem for Bangladeshi learners. They cannot understand the words, accent and pronunciation of English accurately while communicating with foreigners. Bangladeshi students cannot even understand the lecture in English given by their teachers. The score in listening of IELTS shows the poor conditions of Bangladeshi examinees. Most of the students get poorer scores in listening test than in the test of other skills. From the very beginning of language learning, students take care to be competent in only speaking and writing. Communicative English language syllabus has been initiated from primary to intermediate level. This method deals with four skills. As oral and written communication is the goal, they get proper treatment in speaking and writing. As they are to go through various reading comprehensions, their reading ability is becoming stronger. Theoretically, the Communicative English Method provides activities of listening, as to communicate orally, one must listen at first. If a teacher uses English as a medium of instruction, the students can enrich their listening. But the situation is totally

different in Bangladeshi schools and colleges, especially in rural areas. The teacher still follows Grammar-Translation Method to cover a communicative syllabus. They cannot speak in English themselves and thus they dare not use English as the medium of communication. They are expert of dictation only and this is their only tool to get their students introduced with listening. Some teachers are found to be competent; they do use English as the medium of communication, but even they can not go for extra care to get an effective listening. Though some of them are eager to do that, they face some barriers in that either the class is too big or the time is too short. They do not get proper equipments in their institutions to run an effective listening session. Moreover the students also get no support from their surroundings. The students can not carry on with the practice at home as they cannot procure equipments of listening. The interesting thing is that there is no test of listening in Bangladeshi curriculum of language learning. After analyzing three text books (*English For Today of class IV, English For Today of class X and English For Today of class XI*), it was found that *English For Today of class IV* deals with adequate listening activities and it is done with proper care but a contrary feature is found in the book *English For Today of class X and English For Today of class XI*. In *English For Today of class X*, only 20 lessons out of 119 lessons have listening activities and “In *English For Today of class XI*”, there are 23 lessons out of 151 with listening activities, which is really insufficient. The goal and focus is on reading, speaking and writing-not on listening. It is also found that most of the students get a wrong treatment of pronunciation and they don't understand those words when they do not listen to a foreigner or a native speaker who pronounce rightly. Lack of vocabulary also works as a barrier in listening.

It cannot be said that in urban areas listening gets proper treatment as the same textbook and syllabus are used in urban schools or colleges. Here there are some skilled teachers but they do not take extra care to build a skill that is out of syllabus and the students are not motivated enough as they only care about examinations. Even when they care about skill development, the focus is on speaking

and writing, and not on reading and listening. Besides, the schools and colleges deal with a large number of students in the class and a packed schedule. As for the language laboratory, only a few institutions provide the facility while others can hardly afford it.

Madrasa students are mostly deprived of listening as they do not have the minimum facilities to develop any of the four skills of language learning. The most surprising thing is that they (madrasa students) have only 100 marks in English whereas in schools and colleges students have 200 marks in this subject. Listening practice is, therefore, virtually unheard of in the madrasas.

English medium schools are generally ahead in providing facilities to build the listening skill of their students. Their number of students in the class is small enough for giving instruction in this skill. They take a lot of money from the students, and for this reason they are able to provide modern equipments and language laboratories. As their medium of instruction is totally English, their students get the chance to listen all the time in the campus. Moreover, they get listening facilities at home since they are from rich families where English is often spoken and understood. Some English medium schools also could not develop their desired infrastructure and quality and their students are also deprived of listening because modern facilities are wanting in them, too.

In higher education also, we get the same picture, though the medium of instruction in every institution is usually English. Extra care is not provided everywhere. Most of the public universities cannot provide language laboratory and necessary equipments for their students. Though private universities like English medium schools can provide the facility, their students are found to be lacking in motivation. Some private universities are yet to develop their infrastructure and do not have modern equipments and language lab. Moreover, their students do not get extra time for listening owing to a packed schedule.

Though some institutions provide some equipments and modern classroom setting for the listening session, they remain useless

because of lack of competence of teachers in using modern technology. It is also found that most of the teachers do not know how to handle classroom equipments and they do not want to improve the situation as they are reluctant to know the use. As a result they feel disinterested to continue listening session in the classroom as it demands the use of those equipments.

In a word, the treatment of listening in Bangladesh works as a key barrier to the development of the skill of Bangladeshi students.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Findings show that the problem is not only of individual or any group but it is faced by almost all learners of the country. So individual, group and institutional efforts should be accompanied by the efforts from the government. An individual learner should care more about this skill. He/she should give importance to building up listening skill along with other three skills. Listening should be done with proper attention and practice. He/she can be careful about right pronunciation and try to acquire vocabularies. He/she can consult with the teachers. He/she can listen to a lot using audio-equipments like cassette players. He/she can enjoy more English movies with the intention to build up his/her listening skill. This type of efforts can involve a group which can accelerate the initiative. Educational institutions have a lot of role to play in building up learners' listening skill. Every educational institution must have a sound-proof language lab. They must have necessary equipments to continue listening sessions. Language teachers should speak in English during the class period. English movie-shows can be arranged at least once a week. During physical training period, instructions can be given in English. General notices and other instructions from the authority should be in English. In every mid-term or term-final examination, there should be a common listening test.

The government should play a vital role by making proper plan and providing support to the students and institutions. National curriculum and text book should include listening activities in the

syllabus, and in public examinations there should be a compulsory listening test. The government should take extra care for the educational institutions of rural areas.

If collective efforts with proper plan and strategic implementation can be confirmed, listening as a skill will not be ignored any longer, and we will find all our learners deft in the listening skill.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:

Program:

ID No:

Batch:

1. Do you listen to English news on Radio/TV.?
If yes, how long do you listen?
2. Did your teachers speak in English at university?
3. Did your teachers speak in English at school/college?
4. Did you have listening activities in your S.S.C. and H.S.C. curriculum?
5. Do you have language laboratory in your campus?
6. Can you understand instructions in English from your teacher?
7. Can you understand the pronunciation of a foreigner who speaks English?
8. Did you face any English listening test at your school, college or university examinations?

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Some Issues of Higher Education in Bangladesh: Analysis of Demand, Problems and Trends

Fakhrul Islam *

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the trend of, demand for, problems and issues of contemporary higher education in Bangladesh using historical-empirical method. The expansion of enrolment in higher educational institutions shows that there is demand for higher education. But enrolment pattern reflects interdisciplinary imbalance in favour of liberal arts and social sciences than pure science, agricultural science and technical areas. The issues and problems relating to access to schooling, quality of education versus quantitative expansion, confusion over priorities and functions, relation between educational activities and economic growth have to be resolved to make higher education efficient and relevant in the context of Bangladesh.

1. INTRODUCTION

Education, as we all know, is a key to development, for a nation as well as for an individual. Higher education is indispensable for development to a higher level. By the term higher education, in Bangladesh we normally understand education at the tertiary level beyond the higher secondary level. It would therefore include education provided in the universities and under-graduate and post-graduate colleges.

Many scholarly essays, books and treaties have been written in the area of knowledge, education and learning within the context of a university. The continuing debate about the role of a university is rich and revealing. For example, V.H.H in his book named '*The Universities*' said, "the Universities were undoubtedly one of most significant creation of medieval world. Their Graduates helped to shape its thoughts to create a mode of intellectual discipline, to lay the foundation for a scientific culture, to interpret its laws and its customs and to administer it governments". Another educationist named Robert Wolf in his book *The Ideal of the University* discussed four models for ideal university: (a) the university as a sanctuary of scholarship, (b) the university as a training camp for professions, (c) the university as a social service centre, and (d) the university as an assembly line for established 'men and women'.

The main function of the university is to create knowledge and to disseminate knowledge. Within the context of a university all activities in which the faculty and students engage themselves are expected to create and disseminate knowledge. The university bears the responsibility of moving the society forward by addressing the pressing problems for the society and producing the positive thinkers, business and political leaders and intelligent workers. In this age of globalisation, technological advancement and competition, there is no alternative to the creation of a knowledge-based society which is only possible through universities of very high quality.

There is a fair consensus that a system of higher education is of strategic importance in national development of any country. For

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this purpose expansion of higher education is a genuine claim. Such a goal, as Myrdal says, is important in order to bring about a development of the whole national community, rather than merely enclaves in a stagnant economy. (Myrdal: 1998). But in recent times what has been happening in higher education is a frustrating scene. The political and sociological forces are making a compelling demand for quantitative growth of education. These forces are less concerned about simultaneous change in traditional objectives of higher education, improvement in management and efficiency in performances.

The colleges and universities have been allowed to expand to accommodate the rising number of students. The entry conditions are often relaxed to bring about as many pupils as possible into the mainstream of education. In such a race to achieve quantitative targets, the quality of schooling has been sacrificed to a great extent. The issue of 'number versus quality' has begun to cause serious strain on our traditional system. The rationale for egalitarian ideology is self-defeating. Statistical charts showing enrolment in different areas and disciplines of our higher educational institutions give us some satisfaction, but these do not provide a thoughtful solution to the problem of improving the quality and efficiency of education.

2. HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH

Higher education in the modern concept began in the Bangladesh region with the establishment of the University of Calcutta in 1857 and especially the University of Dhaka in 1921. However, higher education of an international character had much older history, in the form of the Buddhist monasteries of Pundranagar (now Mohasthan), Paharpur and Mainamati some 2000-1400 years ago. We also know that one of the first universities of the world, Nalanda, was located not far from Bangladesh and that the Acharya of Nalanda was a Bangali, named Shilabhadra, in the 7th century. We in Bangladesh today, therefore, are proud inheritors of a great tradition of higher education or university. There has, however, been a discontinuity in that tradition.

The establishment of the University of Dhaka in 1921 had a profound impact on the development of education in Bangladesh (East Bengal) during the British period, especially for the Muslims who had unfortunately fallen behind their Hindu compatriots. Dhaka remained the only university in the region for the rest of the British period.

Five more universities were however established during the Pakistan period, between 1953 and 1970. They were all in the public sector. Since the liberation of the country, there has been a remarkable growth in both the number of universities and in the number of university students. A new development in university education has been the establishment of private universities since 1992.

3. HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY

At present there are 32 public universities in the country, the setting up of a new university at Gopalganj, has also been approved, thus raising the number of public universities to 33.

There are currently as many as 51 private universities in the country, most of which were very hurriedly and carelessly approved and established during the last regime. Although some of these universities have already achieved a fairly large student population; only a few of the older ones can claim quality.

Among the functioning 29 public universities, 28 are campus-based, while the National University (NU) is an affiliated university, with over 1876 colleges located all over the country. The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) based on the Distance Learning mode also has a country-wide coverage through its Regional Resource Centres and Branches.

The 28 campus-based public universities together had 153,249 students in 2008, while the NU had 855,744 and the BOU 232,353 students. The 51 private universities had 124,267 students at that time (Table-1).

Table-1: Students in Higher Education in 2007

Universities	Students	%	Teachers
Public Universities (28)	153,249	11.22	6523
National University (1)	855,744	62.68	71
Bangladesh Open University (1)	232,359	17.01	91
Private Universities (51)	124,267*	09.09	6690 (3666 F.T)
Total	1,365,619	100.00	

Source: UGC Annual Report 2007

* Excluding National University and Bangladesh Open University

4. ENROLMENT TREND AND DEMAND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Enrolment is one of the major indicators of determining demand for education. There are nearly eighteen hundred and seventy six (1876) degree colleges in the country. A large number of students of these colleges study humanities or liberal arts subjects. Data from UGC Annual Report source show that nearly 64% of the students appearing in degree examination in 2007 were from arts and humanities group. Only a small number of 13% and 18% appeared in science and commerce subjects respectively (UGC:2007).

Enrolment pattern in four general universities shows a slight change in student's choice of study areas. It may be observed from Table-1 that nearly one-fourth of the total students were enrolled in liberal arts courses at honours and masters level during the year 2005-2006. In these universities the number of students studying science and technical subjects was the highest among all areas of studies. Other areas of studies in order of preference were social science, commerce and law (BANBEIS:2006).

Table-2: Faculty-Wise Distribution of Students In Four General Universities (2005-2006)

Faculties	Male	Female	Total
Liberal Arts	10,260	6,434	16,694
Social Science	9,860	4,560	14,420
Law	1,050	575	1,625
Commerce	9,554	2,347	11,901
Science	15,889	6,575	22,464
Total	46,613 (100.00)	20,491 (100.00)	67,104 (100.00)

Source: UGC Annual Report 2007

Note: The four general universities are Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Jahangirnagar

There is sex-wise difference in selection of areas of studies. The priority area of enrolment for male students was science, while for female it was liberal arts and social science.

The technical and professional universities and a small number of technical and professional institutions offer courses in various areas of technical and professional education.

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) enrolled 5,377 students during the session 2005-2006 (Table-3). Among all departments, civil engineering enrolled the largest number of students. Other departments in priority order of enrolment were electrical and mechanical engineering and architecture (BBS: 2006).

Table-3: Enrolment in the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) (2005-2006)

Departments	Male	Female	Total
Civil	1,296	182	1,478
Mechanical	875	93	1,025
Industrial Production	178	13	190
Electrical	1,072	149	1,232
Chemical	347	92	439
Metallurgical	170	36	206

Architecture	260	150	353
Naval Architecture	90	0	90
Water Resource	156	21	177
Computer	160	37	187
Total	4,604 (85.62)	773 (14.38)	5,377 (100.00)

Source: UGC Annual Report 2007

Out of the total enrolment only 14.38% of the students of BUET were female and most of them were enrolled in civil engineering and architecture, while majority of the male students were enrolled in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering.

In Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), 3,258 students were enrolled in the session of 2005-2006 and the largest number of them were in the faculty of agriculture (Table-3). In this university only (21.35%) of students were female and out of this number many of them were enrolled in the faculty of agriculture. (UGC:2007).

Table 4: Enrolment in the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) (2005-2006)

Faculties	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture	1,422	217	1,639
Veterinary Science	390	184	574
Animal Husbandry	272	180	452
Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology	321	90	411
Agricultural Engineering and Technology	305	27	332
Fisheries	410	149	559
Total	3,120 (78.65)	847 (21.35)	3,967 (100.00)

Source: UGC Annual Report 2007

5. IMBALANCE IN ENROLMENT

The enrolment pattern in degree colleges and general universities as discussed above shows the predominance of liberal arts. The causes of this may be traced back in the second level of education. In many of the secondary schools, particularly those located in rural areas, there is a shortage of qualified and trained teachers of Science, English and Mathematics. Most of the schools do not have well-equipped laboratories. This situation compels many boys and girls to study humanities at the secondary level. Therefore, we lose a good number of prospective students who could have demonstrated their aptitude to study in science and technical subjects in higher education.

Enrolment in higher education reflects interdisciplinary imbalance in favour of humanities, social sciences and general science whereas agricultural science and other technical areas which are related to the critical need of economic development have small number of students. One consequence of this is high incidence of unemployment among many of the graduates in liberal arts and general subjects. Ultimately it affects gradual development of the nation (Blaugh: 1993). To rectify this there is need for desired shift to science and technology which have to be built on a similar shift in the second level of education. But how to make such a shift successful? Higher education is expensive in terms of public sector investment. Per student recurring cost in higher education is very high. But science and technological education costs more resource than education in general universities. Therefore, the pace of progress towards a better balance will also be dependent on the availability of the required financial resources. Again resource investment in education without simultaneous national planning to absorb them in their respective occupation will cause surplus output in these areas which will prove more costly in terms of financial resource than a comparable surplus in liberal arts or social science. (Niblett: 1990).

Annually a huge number of students pass the HSC examination. The number of successful candidates in this examination generally exceeds two lakhs (BANBEIS:2006). Out of them quite a large

number seek admission in the institutions of higher education. In spite of limited capacity there was expansion of enrolment at the higher level of education in recent years. The existing trend of large number of candidates seeking admission for higher education and growth in enrolment imply that there is demand for higher education. Now it is the task of the planners, policy makers, the Government and the private bodies to devise alternative avenues so that the rising demand for higher education can be met through a variety of courses at various levels according to the choices and needs of the students. The establishment of 32 public and 51 private universities may address the problem of demand of higher education to some extent.

6. PROBLEMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

There are many problems in higher education in Bangladesh. We will touch upon some of the major areas.

Access: The growth of enrolment at the secondary level and large number of outputs from HSC examination put a pressure for admission in the higher educational institutions. But due to limitation of capacity, annually thirty-five thousand successful HSC examinees may be enrolled in these institutions. In 2008, over 275,000 students passed H.S.C., but only less than 100,000 could be admitted in the universities and most among the rest got admitted into the National University colleges or dropped out. For the remaining vast number, the need is to open alternative choices such as vocational education, correspondence course, open university programmes, departmental training by employing agencies, and the like, in order to conserve resources and maintain the academic standard. This will involve a careful and detailed planning, a massive programme of technical and vocational education and a larger allocation of funds.

Quality: Assurance of quality, rather than scoring just quantity, is a critical issue in higher education. It is a general perception and a very widely circulated view that the quality of higher education (and for that matter of education in general) in Bangladesh is low and that the standard has fallen over time. The benchmark of

comparison may be international or even national when the temporal reference is considered. Quality of higher education is usually measured by employability of the products. The existing pattern of unemployment and under-employment of university graduates implies that the system is not working efficiently and effectively.

Parental emphasis on measuring higher education through results of examination as an indicator for qualitative excellence, inadequate relationship between research and classroom teaching, unsuitable educational environment, want of educational implements, unsatisfactory teacher-student ratios are actual impediments in the way of acquiring the right type of higher education.

The demand for higher education also affects the quality of education. Lack of wide avenues for studying varieties of subjects and opportunities for studying in various streams put a great pressure upon the universities and colleges. This pressure for admission along with existing inadequate facilities, resources, personnel, library, laboratory facilities and accommodation significantly affect the quality of higher education.

Governance: The greatest challenge to higher education in Bangladesh today is definitely in establishing the principles of good governance, which includes, authority, autonomy, transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness, coordination, efficiency, capacity building, equity and sustainability. Satisfying demands of all these indicators is not at all easy, but efforts must be made to such an end.

The problems of governance are quite different in the public and private university systems, but it can summarily be said that most of the universities in either system suffer from the problems of misgovernance. During the past, many public universities have been accused of serious administrative and financial irregularities, while many among the private universities have similarly been charged specially with lack of transparency, non-compliance of conditions set for them by UGC and the Ministry of Education.

The challenge, therefore, is to come up with governance systems which can ensure quality education at a reasonable cost, (both time-wise and money-wise) . The fundamental purpose of higher education, which is to create knowledge and produce enlightened and skilled human resources, must be satisfied.

Relevance: One common criticism of higher education is that it is characterized by traditionalism without having any significant relevance to the national needs and problems of rural economy of the country. The output from seats of higher learning that could have made great impact on the economic life of the people by sparking off the green revolution is lacking.

The unemployment of huge products of education implies that it is not effective and relevant for their absorption in appropriate jobs. Higher education which consumes more money from public sector in per-student investment if not relevant, is a total waste. So the present pattern of higher education needs to be rectified through national planning, manpower requirements and educational relevancy.

Efficiency: The efficiency of higher education is proved by the usability of their products and their contribution to society. The contribution to efficiency of education system is also of the researchers, personnel and scholars working in the institutions. (Blaugh: 1998).

The outputs of higher education is one criterion for measuring efficiency. There is a large number of failure, nearly 52% in the degree examination. In the honours and masters level the percentage of pass is much higher than degree level. But among the successful outputs only the able students hope to enter into the profession which require high academic competency and professional skills. Another weakness of higher education is that universities and colleges have no follow up records of their graduates. The data on unemployment of graduates of universities and colleges which are currently available are scanty and sometimes contradictory. There is also lack of scientific tool for

measuring efficiency (both of internal & external) of higher education.

Brain drain is another indicator of measuring efficiency of the education system. A large number of able students going abroad every year means that education system lacks adequate facilities for higher studies and research. In this way we lose many of the potential best products who could have greatly contributed to the development of economy and the society.

7. CURRICULUM REFORM

Modernization of curriculum and syllabus in the light of new knowledge is one of the essential tasks of any education system. The curriculum of higher education, particularly, should be regularly updated so that it can incorporate the contributions of modern knowledge and research and make its standard acceptable to the outside world. There were curricular reforms in Bangladesh in the past but no radical reform was so far done.

There are bottlenecks in the way of curricular reform. The composition of university bodies, their mode of functioning together with present system of examination, the organizational set up of departments in universities and colleges vitiate rational consideration of any reform. In spite of such problems there were curricular reforms but those were not preceded by careful research and not followed by orientation of teachers or the provision of needed physical facilities.

But the restructuring of curriculum has become imperative in view of rapid change in the contemporary society. High priority has to be accorded to thorough revision and reorganization of the existing curricula and courses both at the first degree and the postgraduate level. The most important and urgent reform needed in education is to transform it so as that it becomes related to life, needs and aspirations of the people and serves as an instrument of socio-economic development and the realization of national goals. For this purpose, work experience which would help to reduce the existing gap between the world of learning and the world of work should be introduced as an integral part of higher education. With

these general principles there is an immediate need for combining the academic component of the courses with applied component suited to the work experience situation, especially in the rural areas.

Agriculture is vital to the life and progress of the country. Therefore, agricultural knowledge and skills should have a prominent place in the academic programme of higher education. Alongside there should be cooperation with the agricultural university and other user institutions in planning as well as running such new courses.

Post-graduate education and research assumes the highest significance for maintaining educational standard and for programme of development. The aim of education at this stage is to take a student to the threshold of new knowledge. It is essential that teachers and students at this stage are actively involved in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and its techniques. Therefore, every institutions offering post-graduate studies should have competent staff to actively engage in research work and adequate research facilities.

Fundamental discoveries in science lead to technological advances while technology provides the scientists with sophisticated tools and instrument and enables them to make fundamental discoveries. As such it is necessary to see that the best talent in the country is harnessed for development of science and technology. It is also necessary to understand that while fostering knowledge of science and technology at the highest theoretical level there is growing need to spread it in rural areas and to develop technology relevant to the emerging national needs. Such a development would also demand an interaction between the institutions of higher learning and the productive processes and organs of the society.

The planning of new curriculum or reform of curriculum should be related to the quality of teachers. The teaching community must enrich themselves with the new development to improve their competencies and quality. At present there is little provision for further education of teachers. The teachers require exposure to

various external influences within the country and abroad. In order to facilitate such an exposure, the universities should develop a multifaceted programme of faculty improvement on a regular basis such as encouraging professional conferences, participation of faculty member in such conference both in the country and outside, liaison with the industry, maintaining contact with national and international problems, inviting distinguished visitors for lecture, discussion and collaborating work, providing good library, reproduction facilities, encouraging faculty members to write text/reference books, encouraging exchange programme between similar institutions and organizations and developing suitable facility for documentation, abstracting, reference services for wider dissemination of information.

8. ISSUES AND TRENDS

Some emergent issues and trends of higher education deserve special attention in the context of future planning of education at this stage in present Bangladesh.

The objective of higher education demands a closed door education policy for a small number of intellectually motivated students who aspire for academic excellence. While the current sociological and political forces make a compelling demand on the system to inflate it quantitatively without affecting any fundamental change in its aims. As a result the colleges and universities have expanded to accommodate a bulk of unmotivated and ill-prepared students. Therefore, in the bid to achieve the quantitative target, the quality of schooling has been substantially sacrificed.

There is confusion over priorities and functions of higher education. The focus of education has shifted from cultural self-development to job accreditation. The dominant image of man now is of competition and exploitation. In such a climate of opinion, the important issue is identification, definition, protection of goals and values which make higher education an unique institution.

The question of improving the quality of higher education has been examined by various committees and commissions and their recommendations are also endorsed by the Government. But

implementation is difficult mainly due to obstacles in the existing institutions and attitudinal situation. Certainly it is comparatively easy to achieve the quantitative target with the help of monetary investment, yet the desired qualitative changes so urgently needed are difficult to achieve without transforming the quality of man and environment.

The relation between educational activity and economic growth has not been worked out efficiently either at the policy-making or at the implementation level. This is more truly represented in the economic growth rate and enrolment at the tertiary level. The economic growth rate is slightly over 5.5% while at higher education the growth rate of enrolment is nearly 7%. There has been naturally a constant increase in the number of educated unemployed and maladjustment between educational system and the socio-economic needs of the country. It is difficult for an economy with limited growth capacities to absorb the products of its system.

The unmanageable size of the higher educational institutions due to expansion of enrolment created management and administrative problems. Student population has increased ten times since 1972 whereas the number of universities increased from 6 to 23 in thirty five years period. This imbalance has inevitably caused strain on the efficiency of the management and principle organization.

Last but not the least, the vice of session jam to a great extent disrupts the academic life of the universities. The lengthening of academic life of the students beyond scheduled session consumes extra resources of the parents and the institutions. But the worst victim of the problem is the student community themselves. By the time they complete their studies, many of them become frustrated and lose vigour and energy. This also impairs their efficiency as worker. Besides, simultaneous operation of many sessions put great strain on the administration, management and facilities of the institution which ultimately affects the quality of higher education and community life of the students.

9. CONCLUSION

The goals of higher education and particularly the university education are to expand the frontier of knowledge, share knowledge and enable the society to enjoy the fruits of their intellectual pursuit. The discussion in the paper on demands for higher education, problems and issues show that there are constraints in the way of achieving the goals. Some of these constraints are within the system itself and some are the legacy of the past.

To address these, the Government has given serious thought to the reform of the education system. It has adopted several significant measures for improvement of national education policy from the primary to the tertiary level. The measures relating to the tertiary level deserves special mention. The establishment of the Open University, the enactment of Private University Act, the provision for private medical colleges and teachers' training colleges are a breakthrough in the existing higher education system. One of the innovative ideas behind these measures is involving the private sector in the expansion and development of higher education side by side with the public sector. It is expected that the academic programmes of the new institutions along with those offered in the existing higher educational institutions will be able to partly meet the rising demands for higher education in Bangladesh. We are very much optimistic about the *Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh: 2006-2026* which is already prepared by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the Government of Bangladesh has approved the project named *Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)* and the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh is the implementing agency of this project. If the project implements properly and effectively, the present scenario of higher education in Bangladesh will improve satisfactorily in respect of quality, demand, existing challenges and issues to keep pace with the globalised world.

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Crime Victim Compensation Right: A look into the existing laws of Bangladesh

Fahima Barrin *

ABSTRACT

Everyday thousands of people from all over the country are falling victims to different kinds of offences. As a result of the occurrences the victim as well as his/her family suffers tremendously. The victims as beneficiaries of the laws do not have any specific access to receive compensation as of right rather have been made optional by the laws in particular and by the courts in general. Apart from this the existing laws are quite insufficient to redress the sufferings of the victims as a whole. In this write-up, effort has been made to analyze the inherent weaknesses of the existing laws, to show inevitability of formulation of sufficient laws and to leave findings and recommendations befitting with the socio-economic conditions of Bangladesh. Structurally this paper has an open ending, as such, it calls for more and more debates to generate a holistic remedy for the victims.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the criminal justice system is to protect the rights of individuals against the intentional intrusion of criminals who infringe the basic rules and regulations of the society and of the state. An effective administration of the criminal justice system is the gateway to a democratic society and an essential ingredient to build up public confidence in government machineries.

After 190 years of British Colonial rule and another 24 years of Semi-colonial rule Bangladesh got its independence in 1971. Post-independent Bangladesh inherited and has continued to use a substantial body of criminal law as was codified by the then British ruler. The code of criminal procedure of 1898 is one of those statutes, which still regulates the procedural law in the criminal justice administration. Though remarkable changes have been initiated from time to time over last 38 years the statutes are still almost dormant about the rights of the victims regarding compensation.

However, some legal provisions do exist in this regard in some special laws. Due to lack in these provisions of general and special law victim's right to receive compensation is very much uncertain.

This paper is an endeavor to show the loopholes of the existing laws and, a hand out prescribing for necessary infiltration, modification and formulation.

2. OBJECTIVES

The entire criminal justice system of Bangladesh is designed in such a way that a person accused of an offence can get fair trial and justice. Article 35 of the Constitution of Bangladesh ensures this right to fair justice as a fundamental right. But the state and the society are hardly concerned about crime victim's right to get justice as well as compensation.

The main objectives of this study are three folds:

1. To focus on the present criminal justice system of Bangladesh from victim's perspective.

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2. To identify lacunae in the prevailing system regarding crime victim's right to receive compensation.
3. To suggest a few necessary steps to change the scenario.

To achieve these goals an analysis of the following has been taken care of in discussion:

1. Concept of Crime victim & Crime victim's compensation right.
2. Crime victim's compensation right: International perspective.
3. Crime victim in the criminal justice system of Bangladesh.
4. Findings & Recommendations.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on content analysis method. It is basically based on the review of primary and secondary literatures including books, journals, annual reports, newspaper etc. Internet browsing has been used for collection of most recent literature on the subject.

4. (i) VICTIM OF CRIME

A victim of crime is a person who has sustained physical, moral, material or social damage on account of being direct or indirect object of depredation.

In the commission of every crime there must be a direct or indirect victim. In cases of offence as against person and offence as relating to property there exist direct victim. But in case of white-collar crime there are no direct visual victims.

According to article 1 of the *UN declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*, "Victim" means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within members states, including those laws proscribing criminal abuse of power. Article 2 states, a person may be considered a victim, under this Declaration, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. The term "Victim" also includes, where appropriate, the immediate

family or dependants of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victim in distress or to prevent victimization. (General Assembly Resolution 40/43: 1985)

From this wide definition, any person feeling aggrieved or injured from any dimension, directly or indirectly, may be considered as victim. Thus the persons financially or psychologically dependent on the direct victim of a crime are also considered as victims.

4. (ii) CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION RIGHT

The idea of paying compensation to a crime victim is not an idea of recent time. In most of the ancient societies such system was recognized in different forms.

"Recreations to criminality by general confiscation of property or by imposition of a fine has existed in most literate societies, but there have been great variations in the emphasis placed upon this system. The practice developed somewhat as the general punitive reaction developed. When another injured an individual, he might claim damages, the amount depending on the injury done and the social position of the injured party. Then the king claimed a part of this payment or an additional payment for the participation of the state in the trial and for the injury done to the state by the disturbance of the peace. About the twelfth century, the victim's share began to decrease and the exactions of the king to increase, until finally king took the entire payment. (Sutherland, 1960:275)

Paranjape stated that punishment should include both compensation as well as imprisonment. As a matter of general policy, it would be ideal to prescribe reparation or payment of compensation for offences relating to property while penal sentence with or without fine may be awarded for crime against persons. (Paranjape, 2005:217)

In ancient criminal legal system of India "the right to claim compensation was very much recognized. The right to claim compensation from the wrong doer was generally accepted. In certain cases, the court was empowered to grant compensation to the aggrieved party in addition to the punishment given to the offender." (Kulshrestha, 2005:22)

Article 12 of the *'UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power'* reads, "When compensation is not fully available from the offender or other sources, states should endeavor to provide financial compensation to:

- (a) Victims who have sustained significant bodily injury or impairment of physical or mental health as a result of serious crimes;
- (b) The family, in particular dependants of persons who have died or become physically or mentally incapacitated as a result of such victimization." (General Assembly Resolution 40/43: 1985)

5. CRIME VICTIM'S COMPENSATION RIGHT: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

In the mid sixties (60s) in a number of countries we notice that a tendency has been initiated to formulate laws of compensation and restitution of the victims. Crime victim compensation program was introduced first in the Great Britain in 1964 and then in New Zealand in the same year. Compensation is paid in the UK under the criminal injuries compensation scheme 1964. Under the Criminal Justice Act of 1988 a statutory body is created to that effect.

In the USA, for the first time Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas introduced in 1964 to establish a crime victim compensation program as was established in the Great Britain, and in New Zealand but his attempt failed. California was the first state to establish the nation's first compensation program in 1965. By 1980, 28 states were providing victim compensation, and most of the rest of the states authorized programs during the next decade. Ultimately in 1984 the Federal Government enacted the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Currently, all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, are operating compensation programs. The UK, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and some other European countries also have

victim compensation program. (Source: www.nacvcb.org, accessed on March 2009)

The counties, running crime victim compensation program includes direct victim (who is injured physically or mentally, or died) and his or her dependents (spouse, children, parents) as eligible applicants for compensation.

By this time, United Nations General Assembly in 1985 adopted the *Declaration of the Basic Principles of Justice for the Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*. This declaration recognizes victims' right to information, treatment, restitution and compensation.

6. CRIME VICTIMS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF BANGLADESH

(i) Crime scenario of Bangladesh

Crime is one of the most challenging issues for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. The rate of crime is increasing day by day which is a serious impediment on ways to economic development and social stability.

Bangladesh police statistics of the last four years show that crime is increasing alarmingly.

**Crime Statistics
(Number of registered cases from 2004 to 2007)**

SL	Name of Offence	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	Dacoity	885	796	795	1,047
2	Robbery	1,207	898	843	1298
3	Murder	3,902	3,592	4,166	3,863
4	Speedy Trial Act	2,053	1,814	1,638	1,980
5	Rioting	754	570	570	263
6	Cruelty to Women	12,815	11,426	11,068	14,250
7	Child Abuse	503	555	662	967
8	Kidnapping	896	765	722	774
9	Police Assault	280	240	337	278
10	Burglary	3,356	3,270	2,991	4,439
11	Theft	8,605	8,101	8,332	12,015

12	Arms Act	2,370	1,836	1,552	1,746
13	Explosive Act	477	595	308	232
14	Narcotics	9,505	1,4195	15,479	15,622
15	Smuggling	4,181	4,334	4,734	5,202
16	Others	67,531	73,180	76,381	22,802
	Total	119,320	126,167	130,578	157,200

Source : www.police.gov.bd,accessed on March 2009

The statistics only show the number of registered cases.

The number of total incidents in 2007 was 165,339. (Source: Crime Index Bangladesh 2007:26)

Here the statistics includes the crimes reported to the police. Some crimes are reported to the newspaper, but not to the police. There are numerous offences committed every year which are rather not only remaining not-prosecuted but also remaining not reported to the police and not included in the government statistics.

The number of offenders against 165,339 crimes in 2007 was 327,896 and they victimized a total of 166,762 persons. (Source: Crime Index Bangladesh 2007:45,57)

The numbers of victims shown above are the direct victims of crime, that is, offences committed against those particular persons or against property of those persons. But there are numerous indirect victims of those offences who are dependent on the direct victims.

In 2007, 8,244 people have been killed. Those victims left away their family members who are none but the indirect victims of the crime.

All these victims of crime suffer mental, physical, financial and social injury. As a result of an offence one may become permanently incapable of working.

This huge numbers of victims seek justice the justice they want is not only to penalize the offender but also to ensure compensation for them.

In 2007, the total number of acid incidents was 155, which victimized 192 persons.(Source:www.acidsurvivors.org,accessed on March 2009)

The victims are usually poor and insolvent. Imprisonment for certain period with or without fine or even death penalty to the accused may not compensate the injury suffered by the victim and his/her family members. The punishment given to the accused may give some sort of mental satisfaction to the victim but in addition he/she may be in need of some financial help. So the victim must get adequate monetary compensation as of right.

(ii) EXISTING LAWS REGARDING VICTIM'S COMPENSATION RIGHT

Sufficient legal provisions do exist in different legislations regarding protection of individual from being victims of crimes. Very effective legal and penal measures are there to punish criminals. But still there is an absence of relevant laws for the protection of interest of the victims of crimes. This may be due to poverty and stringent economic condition of the people, which is why the legislature did not want to inflict financially burdensome punitive sentence upon the criminals. The statutes listed below have some provisions for compensation of the victims of crime.

- a. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898).
- b. The Nari-O-Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain(Act VIII of 2000).
- c. The Acid Niyantran Ain (Act I of 2002)
- d. The Acid Aparadh Daman Ain (Act II of 2002).

a. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Act V of 1898)

The Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (Act V of 1998) is an enactment of the then British colonial regime. Since its enactment it has been regulating the procedure of criminal adjudication. By the Code of the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1923 (Act XVIII of 1923) the legislature introduced a provision in the code empowering criminal court to deliver order for payment of compensation to a victim.

The provision reads as follows:

"545.-(i) Whenever under any law in force for the time being a Criminal Court imposes a fine or confirms in appeal, revision or otherwise a sentence of fine, or a sentence of which fine forms a part, the Court may, when passing judgment, order the whole or any part of the fine recovered to be applied-

- (a) In defraying expenses properly incurred in the prosecution;
- (b) (ii) In the payment of compensation to any person for any loss or injury caused by the offence, when substantial compensation is, in the opinion of the Court, recoverable by such person in a Civil Court."

It is clear from the above section that there is no recognition of the right of the victim to get compensation. This section confers a discretionary power on the criminal courts to pass an order to the effect that whole or part of the fine recovered to be applied in the payment to any person as compensation for any loss or injury caused by the respective crime. Besides, the substantial compensation shall be recoverable by such a person in a civil court and the victim shall have to file a civil suit by paying ad-valorem court fee. So this provision does not ensure a victim the possibility of getting compensation.

b. The Nari-O-Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (Act VIII of 2000)

In the Nari-O-Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain 2000 (Act VIII of 2000) there are some provisions in this regard.

According to section 15 of the Ain - from section 4 to 14, the offences for which fine is imposed by the tribunal, such fine may be treated as compensation for the victims and if it is not possible to realize the fine from existing wealth of the convict, the fine shall be recoverable from the future wealth of which the convict will be the owner and in such cases realization of fine will have more priority than that of other claims. Procedures for realization of fine have been mentioned in section 16 and sub-section 4 of section 4. Section 4(4) says, the fine recovered from the offender or from his/her property or from the property he/she leaves after his/her

death will be paid to the victim or to her heir/heirs, if the victim dies.

Provisions mentioned in the Ain are also enabling provisions empowering the tribunal to treat the fine imposed as compensation.

Another provision mentioned in section 13 of the Ain somehow is related to victim's restitution. Section 13 provides that a baby born as a result of rape is to be looked after by its mother or mothers relation and the expenses to be defrayed by the government and the Government is authorized to realize the amount of money required for that purpose from the offenders present or future assets.

c. The Acid Niyontran Ain (Act I of 2002)

The Acid Niyontran Ain 2002 (Act I of 2002) and the Acid Aparadh Daman Ain, 2002 (Act II of 2002) were enacted in consideration to the interests of victims of acid offences. These two statutes have incorporated laws for rehabilitation, compensation and restitution of victims of acid offences.

The preamble of the Acid Niyontran Ain, 2002 (Act I of 2002) articulates the purpose of the Act. It says that the law intends: (a) to give medical treatment (b) to rehabilitate and (c) to give legal aid to the victims of acid-offences. The law contemplates the formation of the National Acid Control Council whose duty, among others, is to make funds available for treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of acid offences. Section 13 of this Act requires that the government shall establish a rehabilitation center for the victims of acid offences. Section 14 authorizes local officers to make arrangements for the treatment of acid-victims. Section 15 authorizes the district committee to make arrangements for giving legal aid to acid-victims. Section 44 of the said Act enjoins that any amount of fine realized from an offender or from his/her property shall be given to the victim and in case of the death of the victim, the amount shall be given to his/her heir/heirs.

The Act provides for establishment of a National Acid Control Council Fund. The main source of the fund according to section 10 shall be from inter alia the following sources: government, local authority or institution, individual, foreign government,

international organization and any other sources. Money from the fund will be spent for making people aware of misuse of acid and, for treatment, rehabilitation and legal aid of the acid victims.

d. The Acid Aparadh Daman Ain (Act II of 2002)

The Acid Aparadh Daman Ain, 2002 (Act II of 2002) also follows the same line of legislation insofar as the interests of victims of offences are concerned. Section 9 of the Ain provides same provision as is in section 44 of the Acid Niyontran Ain. Section 10 provides the procedure for realization of the fine.

7. FINDINGS

Existing laws related to crime victim's compensation in Bangladesh are quite insufficient. Besides, the existing laws are not in conformity with the assurance that the victim would receive the compensation as of right.

Section 545 of CrPC has empowered the court to pass an order to the effect that the fine charged on the offender to be paid to the victim as compensation. But this provision does not confirm the victim to receive the compensation as of right.

Section 15 of Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain-2000 suffers the same shortcomings in confirming the victim to receive the compensation as of right. It is only an enabling provision. On the other hand, though the provision of section 4 (4) is mandatory for the courts yet it does not guarantee the right of the victim. Because, receipt of money charged on the offender as fine would be made by the victim or by his/her heir only when the same could be realized from the present property or from any such property the offender leaves after his death. This conditional payment provision has a serious lacking in ensuring the victim to receive the compensation as of right. Like section 4 (4) of Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain-2000, section 9 of Acid Aparadh Daman Ain-2002 & section 44 of Acid Niyontran Ain -2002 suffer the same weaknesses.

So no way it would be concluded that the existing laws confirming receipt of compensation by the victim as of right have got a strong footing in legal system.

Beside those a few among a huge criminal incidents fall within the ambit of the authority of the laws under section 4 of Nari O Shishu Ain and Acid Aparadh Daman Ain. In 2007, according to the statistic of Bangladesh Police 15,217 of 1,57,200 offences fall within Nari O Shishu Ain. The total number of acid incidents in the same year is 155. So, though the concurrent sections of these laws are considered to have been victim friendly those cover only a fraction of a huge number of cases occurred every year.

Since there is no reliable source to get specific information about in how many cases the fine charged against the offender has been treated as compensation and whether the victim has received that compensation. Study on how far the provisions under the existing laws have been materialized at present is absent. There could be a further study on this issue.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

⚖ In the light of the above discussion it can be emphatically said that the need for making provisions for payment of compensation to a crime victim should top the list without any variation in opinion. It is the duty of the state to ensure security of lives & property of its citizen. Responsibility goes on to the state if it cannot protect its citizen from being victimized. So ascertaining compensation for the victim is the prime responsibility of the state of which he/she is a citizen. State has to play a participatory role by cognizing the degree of its responsibility. Necessary amendments in the existing laws side by side formulation of new laws have to be accomplished to make sure that the victims could be paid compensation as of right.

⚖ Such provisions may be added by way of amendment in the existing penal laws. The term 'fine' could be changed to 'compensation' for the victim in the offences for which there are provisions to charge fine as an instrument to award punishment to the offenders.

- ⌚ Provisions for ascertaining payment of compensation for all sorts of offences are no way seemed to be either realistic or possible under the prevailing socioeconomic condition of our country. But grievous offences causing physical injury for which penalty is 7 or more years imprisonment could be brought under compensatory offence.
- ⌚ An enactment as proposed above should include various provisions regarding (i) definition of victim & aggrieved person etc. (ii) compensatory offences, (iii) eligibility to get compensation, (iv) process of assessment of loss or damage, (v) procedure for filing application for compensation, (vi) extent of the liability of the accused to pay the compensation assessed or determined by the Court, (vii) extent of the liability of the State, (viii) establishment of a Fund from which such payment may be made, (ix) procedure for realization, (x) evidence to be considered in support of the claim and similar other many more provisions. There is a difficult question of arranging money for making payment of compensation. There could be a 'State Compensation Fund' like 'National Acid Control Council Fund (NACC)' as mentioned in section 10 of Acid Niyatron Ain. The sources of the said fund could be as same as those of the NACC fund. Fine realized from the offenders could also be included as a source.
- ⌚ There could be the provisions to ensure receipt of compensation by the victim even when the offender is unidentified or not convicted. The main concern is whether the said person is a victim of that particular offence or not.

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Web resources

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