

# Inadequate Policy Directives Threaten Human Security: The Case of Bangladesh

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## Abstract

Government plays a monumental role in providing human safety and security for its citizens. There is a strong link between economic growth policy and social development perspectives. This article demonstrates how inadequate and delayed economic policy directives threaten badly needed human security in Bangladesh. Findings indicate that a stable democratic government is essential in ensuring human security in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Human security, good governance, poverty, economy, society.

## Directivas políticas inadecuadas amenazan la seguridad humana: el caso de Bangladesh

El Gobierno juega un papel monumental en la provisión de seguridad humana y seguridad para sus ciudadanos. Existe un fuerte vínculo entre la política de crecimiento económico y las perspectivas de desarrollo social. Este artículo demuestra cómo las directivas de política económica inadecuadas y demoradas amenazan la seguridad humana que tanto se necesita en Bangladesh. Los resultados indican que un Gobierno democrático estable es esencial para garantizar la seguridad humana en Bangladesh.

**Palabras clave:** seguridad humana, buen gobierno, pobreza, economía, sociedad.

## Introduction

One of the key responsibilities of government is to ensure safety and security of its citizens. Security has traditionally been defined in military and defense related terms. In recent years, the notion of security has been expanded to incorporate securing jobs, education, health, and other aspects to guarantee a realistic life consisting of affording or having the basic needs of life; this broad idea of security is known as 'Human Security.' Human security is a primary concept that applies to everyone. It is in fact a model that was created by the United Nations to include people's basic needs leading to protection of living a decent life throughout the world. According to its definition, there are six challenges to human security: armed conflict, poverty and deprivation, globalization, uncivil society, the environment, and new uncertainties. Therefore, the relevance and effectiveness of governments in terms of their capacity to ensure human security is an issue of paramount concern. However, the main concern of any fairly new country is economy due to being the underlying cause that can reduce many or all of the societal issues that a country may have. Given the premise, this article will focus mainly on the inadequate economic policy directives of Bangladesh as well as explore the government of Bangladesh in its role to guarantee human security.

## Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

There has been much research conducted on the government, economy, and so-

cio-cultural issues of Bangladesh. However, a few research studies have been conducted to focus on the impact of government policy decisions on the economy of Bangladesh. One of the main initiatives in reducing poverty that has been used is Grameen Bank (micro-credit banking), where decisions are made promptly by its borrowers to address the basic needs without any delay; such a relationship will naturally create empowerment and financial freedom, which will gradually eliminate the socio-cultural issues of today and help advance the country.

The significance of this research is that it is realistic. For instance, corruption is common in Bangladesh, and the main reason for this is that people are unable to fulfill their physiological needs. Therefore, if physiological needs are taken care of by providing employment from a stable source, then socio-cultural issues such as corruption will decrease progressively. The proposition of this research article is to shift from top down economic development policy to a bottom up economic development because it has been proven to work through the development and implementation of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. This article will shed some light to improve the existing status quo situations of Bangladesh if it is taken into consideration by the Bangladesh government.

## Structure of this Research

During the authors visit to Bangladesh for six weeks, they were able to conduct interviews with government officials and collect research material from highly

respectable places such as the Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) as well as collect recent budget proposal and newspaper articles. In addition, authors were able to live and experience life in the rural (Kutubdia, a small island in which people speak a dialect) and urban (Dhaka, capital city) areas of Bangladesh allowing them to expand their knowledge of people's thoughts and struggles to survive from different classes of society.

### Assumptions Involved in this Research

Government plays a fundamental role in shaping society. In developing countries, the government experiences severe pressure from historical challenges of the nation's historical legacy, social culture, and political system. A nation such as Bangladesh bears a British colonial legacy of more than two hundred years that continues to face challenges. The stability of politics and the government itself is a vital challenge due to the interrelation and interdependence of the economy and social culture. While these affect governmental decisions, similarly, government decisions affect the economy and the socio-economic culture of the nation.

Human security can be achieved in Bangladesh by having a stable political situation and economy with an acceptable unemployment rate. No society can achieve full employment because of seasonal shifts in labor demand and that portion of the population shifting employment. However, too much unemployment

destabilizes a society and may pose too much of a challenge for a government to be stable. In today's society, human security is intimately associated with "a good life" meaning having a job with sufficient remuneration to achieve a minimal standard of living. Jobs are not available unless there are businesses and corporations, a force behind economic development. Resource based economic development is difficult in Bangladesh as the nation lacks natural resources that can be used as a source of funding. Even the scarce resources available are not distributed optimally.

As part of the research on the government's ability to provide human security in terms of socio-political culture with its historical legacy on the economy, the potential contribution of micro-banking on assisting the government in achieving its goals will be encouraged. Micro-banks are major sources of help in reducing poverty because they involve working with different sectors of the population, which demonstrates that there is a need for shifting to the top down economic development policy from a bottom up economic development in Bangladesh. Needless to say, government should do more of what works and less of what does not work meaning that there needs to be more formulation of policy directives to have a bottom up economic development in Bangladesh.

### Findings and Discussion

To understand the culture and politics, it is imperative to identify a brief history of

the government, social culture, and economy as is discussed in the latter part of the article to draw a conclusion. In addition, if political and/or governmental stability and economic stability is achieved in Bangladesh, then the socio-cultural issues will or are expected to find their own course of action to resolve.

On a hopeful note, there are other countries such as India and China that have been where Bangladesh is today as is discussed in later part of the article. The difference is that they have found ways to improve their poor economic conditions though they still suffer from large populations. This just demonstrates that if other countries can improve, there is no reason for Bangladesh to not improve with proper planning and implementation.

### *Government*

Bangladesh became a multi-party democratic system with a parliamentary form of government shortly after independence in 1971. The Jatiya Sangsad, National Parliament, allows for people to be elected for a five-year term. The main role of Jatiya Sangsad is to act as a legislature as well as approve the annual budget. The parliament is able to modify the Constitution with the support of two-thirds of the three hundred and fifty members in the House. However, a majority is enough to approve laws and pass budget proposal (Global Edge-Bangladesh History, 2004, pp. 2-3).

Bangladesh is divided into eight administrative divisions headed by Divisional Commissioners. Each of these divisions

has many districts within them supervised by a Deputy Commissioner. There are 64 districts that are divided into 464 Thanas (sub-districts), 4,500 unions (Thanas are divided into unions) and over 68,000 villages. There are nearly 26 ministries to carry out the administration of various aspects of the country such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Finance, to name a few. However, it is apparent that the need to separate the judiciary from executive function must be fulfilled to establish a 'rule of law' for Bangladesh. Furthermore, there is a major need to downsize the government structure, particularly the council of ministers. There are about 67 ministers including full Ministers, State Ministers, and Deputy Ministers in Bangladesh for a population of 161 million as compared to the United States with 15 secretaries for a population of approximately three hundred and twenty three million. Benefits of confining bureaucracy will lead to greater efficiency, responsiveness, and savings.

### *Political Parties and Leadership Issues*

Countries with a strong economy are generally tied to strong political structures. Unfortunately, Bangladesh has an unstable political system that is weakening the economic structure of the country. In other words, Bangladesh is its own worst enemy. There are two major political parties, Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and Awami League (AL), taking turn one after another leaving little mark for robust development in the national economy. Frequent protests make it impossible for

people to travel to and from their work safely. With rules and regulations regarding corruption in corporations even at the bureaucratic level makes them difficult to implement. During protests, cars, trains, and other forms of transport are destroyed along with houses along with the cost of innocent lives. Additionally, protests create fear in people of death and harassment. Frequent protests mean frequent interruptions to economic activity, which disrupts the function of the nation. To create growth and to create an environment for future investments, it is imperative to have political stability.

### *Societal Culture*

The backbone of a nation is its social culture. Human rights, social and economic justice, religion, education, and health care are some of the factors that should be considered within the social culture as elaborated on below.

### *Policies and Issues*

#### a) Human Rights

There appears to be nearly no enforcement of compliance when it comes to human rights. Bangladesh lives by the idea that *money is such a thing that he/she who possesses it has the world wrapped around his/her finger*. It is mostly known to be true throughout the world but is more clearly seen in Bangladesh in the form of corruption. Wealthy people often avoid prosecution for crimes as severe as rape, robbery, kidnap, and murder. Needless to say, it is the government's job to ensure that

every citizen has basic human rights so violation of laws can be prosecuted.

#### b) Social and Economic Justice

Every time someone looks up to see the blue sky, all they see is a sky filled with high-rises giving a full sense of complete financial security. However, when one looks down from the interruption of a little child's voice begging for money, the child's eyes alone portray the great misery and agony present in Bangladesh? It can easily be noticed that on one side, economic growth has slightly increased over the years, but not much attention has been paid to human rights, social equality, and economic and social justice. How can a country survive without a fuller implementation of human rights and equitable social and economic justice?

There is indeed a mismatch between social and economic development as some would say "a distorted development." It seems that the wealth of the whole country is controlled by only a small percentage of the population. A small 10% of the population control 90% of the country's resource creating an unequal distribution of wealth and income. The population that controls this wealth is deeply involved with the political structure of the nation, which forms a situation in which the wealthy minority rules the majority. Undoubtedly, leadership should not reside entirely in the hands of too few individuals.

One of the social practices that have become popular over decades is

bribery, which has actually become part of the culture. Bribery is present at every level for every type of job especially in the bureaucracy. The problem with bribery is that most people cannot afford it, which leads to the suffering and injustice of the majority. In addition, high poverty and unemployment rates are the result of a poorly planned socioeconomic structure. Most people are not able to provide for their families adequately (Rahman, 2000, p. 319). This calls for an immediate enforcement of universal declaration of rights agendas as well as ensuring social and economic justice based on equality and equity principle.

The government and non-government organizations have taken many steps to alleviate poverty especially in the rural areas of Bangladesh, but they were not as successful as hoped. Part of the problem is the conservative mentality and religious beliefs of people. As a result of "...[the] negative mentality of the ruling community in social planning gradually placed Bangladesh in the World view as 'International begging sack,' 'Malthus country,' 'The biggest slum,' or 'Bottomless pit,'" and other insulting and degrading titles (Rahman, 2000, p. 319). Recent development and economic growth through speak against this propositions and claims.

c) Religion

Bangladesh is one of the largest Muslim populated countries in the world. Therefore, many social issues such as gender development, marriages, and

insecurity of minority people are linked with religion.

In terms of gender development, women of Bangladesh are advancing at a rapid pace within their families, workforce, and everyday life. Today, women understand the importance of education mostly due to non-government organizations in the urban and mainly rural areas of Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the traditional customs and manners of people in villages remain the same, which means their attitudes have not changed even though the world is evolving at a rapid pace. There is still a belief that the role of women is to be married at an early age, raise children, and take care of the family. Therefore, arranged marriages for young brides (at the age of 15 or 16) still occur in rural areas. In spite of this, the definition of arranged marriage has changed over the years; women are becoming more conscious of marrying men that they are compatible with rather than the ones forced upon them by their families.

Moreover, the catastrophe associated with religion is the lack of cohesion between Muslims and Hindus due to the religious dogmatism and ethnocentrism. A perfect example of this is the Rohingya persecution in Myanmar that is currently taking place in which there has been an ethnic cleansing between two different religious groups to wipe out Muslims in Myanmar. Interestingly, people in large and wealthy countries can accept and respect people of different religions and cultures,

yet it seems almost impossible for Muslims, being 90%, and Hindus, being 9.5%, to live together in Bangladesh. This constant religious tension leads to riots between Muslims and Hindus in India, which then spreads through Bangladesh.

#### d) Education

Education is the key to success. Of course, this not only applies to individuals, but also to countries. Countries with high literacy rates are wealthier compared to countries with low literacy rates. According to the Human Development Report of 2017, the adult (15 years and older) literacy rate of Bangladesh is 75.6%, which include a combination of 75.6% male and 69.9% female. A comparison of India and China arguably the world's next two leading nations, illustrate the condition of Bangladesh: the literacy rate in India is 71.2% of which 81.3% male and 60.6% female, and the literacy rate in China is 96.4% of which 98.2% male and 94.5% female (The World Factbook India and China, 2017). This demonstrates the gap of resources available for the education of the general population for a small country like Bangladesh with a smaller population compared to India with a population of 1,281,935,911 and China with a population of 1,379,302,771 (The World Factbook India and China, 2017) .

Another aspect of education is an enormous gap between rich and poor children, often the unseen victims of poverty. The difference in quality-teaching between private and public schools

make it possible only for the rich children to receive a good education. As holds true for most countries in the world, private schools offer a better education and are more expensive than public schools. Unfortunately, children unable to afford education are deprived of it regardless of their intelligence. There are few government aids to help these unfortunate children, and the practice of bribery in education system does not help either. It is not unheard of to have to pay to receive a good education, which means public schools are not attended by upper-middle or upper-class students. Their family status does not allow intermingling with poor people. The Ministry of Education spends a reasonable amount of money every year to educate people, yet Bangladesh still has one of the world's lowest literacy rates. If the government played a stronger role in implementing and ensuring the education of every citizen, specifically children of Bangladesh, it would be easier for the country to advance.

#### e) Health Care System

In 1999, there were 460 district health complexes, 1362 Union Sub-Centers, 3315 Community Clinics, 10 medical colleges, and 7 postgraduate/specialized hospitals. An idea of inadequacy of medical care is that there are approximately 43,293 hospital beds for a population of about 147 million (WHO Bangladesh, 2005, p. 4). Furthermore, a comparison of health expenditure as a percentage of GDP between Bangladesh being 3.1 for a population of

146,736,000 and India being 6.1 for a population of 1,065,462,000 as noted by the World Health Organization (pp. 1-2). Moreover, the total health expenditure per capita in Bangladesh is 54 whereas the total health expenditure per capita in India is 96. It evidently shows that even though India has a larger population than Bangladesh, it is advancing more rapidly than Bangladesh has in past years. It can be viewed as if India can do better than Bangladesh, when there is no reason for Bangladesh to be left behind.

Due to the change of lifestyles, many health issues have appeared. The World Health Organization of the United Nation stated that smoking among young males of 15 years and older have increased over the past few years; "data for 1995 show that the proportions of adult males and females who are regular smokers are 41% and 4.6% respectively" (p. 2). Fortunately, the government and non-government organizations are making endless efforts to create awareness among people about smoking's harmful effects. Moreover, substance abuse, drug trafficking, and juvenile delinquency need more attention.

Another aspect of health is the environment. The air is heavily polluted from vehicle emissions that lead to global warming. Unsafe drinking water causes the death of many people through arsenic poison and water-borne diseases. Disposal of solid waste adds to pollution. There is need for a national food safety policy to avoid food-borne

diseases. The government has failed to properly deal with these environmental issues due to a shortage of trained manpower, limited funds, poor community awareness, and weak information systems (WHO Bangladesh, 2017).

Human resources for health are limited. A survey done by WHO in 1997 showed that there were 2.034 physicians, 1.126 nurses, 0.57 pharmacists, 0.98 dentists, and 4.93 health providers per 10,000 people in Bangladesh. Factors that make it difficult to have a successful health care system include lack of attention in basic quality standards and in-service training, poor placement of personnel, ineffective training for health workers, and supervision (p. 3). "Constraints to mobilizing financial resources for health and their efficient use are the inability of communities to finance health services due to poverty, unwillingness of donors to support infrastructure development, and lack of coordination in financial mobilization" (WHO Bangladesh, 2005, pp. 3-4). Additionally, pharmaceutical drugs are generally unavailable and are expensive when available because there is no health insurance to cover the cost. For example, it is very difficult for most infants to receive all the immunization shots that they need. There are also many premature babies due mostly to poverty. Lastly, lack of advanced technology makes it difficult for health care systems to deliver good affordable services. However, if the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

uses their budget to implement reform measures efficiently, some of the inefficiencies of health care system can be eliminated.

### *Economy*

Historically, the main source of income in Bangladesh has been agriculture. The nation has a mild tropical climate, fertile soil, sufficient water, and plenty of fish, wildlife, and fruit. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Bangladesh was the main producer of rice and jute that was traded in Calcutta, India, and other places. The famous proverb of Bangladesh states that Bengalis thrive on rice and fish.

Nevertheless, there have been historical economic disadvantages such as annual floods, limited availability of land, and lack of advanced technology for transportation and communication. These add to the weakness of Bangladesh. It is clear to see that political leaders have had major impacts on the lives of people by not promoting a balanced economy. Some of the current struggles that Bangladesh faces include poverty, labor exploitation, low economic growth, high unemployment rate, and lack of land. Furthermore, a nation is heavily dependent on its political structure and the economy is dependent on the nation's local and foreign politics.

### *Policies and Issues*

#### **a) Poverty**

About 31.5% of the population lives below the poverty level (CIA World Fact Book Bangladesh, 2017). The level of poverty in Bangladesh is measured by

the economic condition of people (Rahman, 2000, p. 318). Some of the general measures of poverty in Bangladesh according to The World Bank Group section of Poverty in Bangladesh reports income and the level of consumption plus other dimensions such as hunger, lack of medical treatment, poor access to basic services such as electricity and water supply, inability to send children to school (children are needed to support the family), lack of assets such as land or savings, vulnerability to shocks from economic downturns, family illness, natural disasters, social exclusion, and continuous feeling of insecurity and stress due to an uncertain future (2003, p. 1).

It is safe to assume that poverty is responsible for much of Bangladesh's crime and social disintegration. When a person has no food, clothes, or shelter available, the likelihood of that person taking action to obtain the basic necessities of life, even if that means mugging, robbing, or kidnapping, is high. Although "...some [of the] poverty reduction initiatives of the [g]overnment are well focused, in many instances, weaknesses in various areas continue to erode the potential benefits of the interventions" (ASD-Country Strategy and Program Update, n.d., p. 3). It is the product of the current existing system, and it is simply not working.

#### **b) Labor Exploitation**

One of the major costs of a company is labor. Lately, western jobs are being outsourced to countries such as Ban-

gladesh, where man-power is as cheap as \$0.15 USD per hour. Surely, the most vulnerable age groups are children who must work to help support their families. As a result, they become exploited by the large affluent companies commonly in the garment industry. Although Bangladesh's garment industry is only 25 years old, it is flourishing and accounts for 76% of the nation's exports. Children workers in this industry work as long as 14 hours a day under horrific conditions similar to a sweatshop. Continuing the colonial legacy, Bangladesh managers treat workers as slaves regardless of the type of business. Workers do not have any benefits or rights nor are they permitted to be educated, visit their family when they want, or have a normal childhood. Children are often abused physically and verbally (Bearak, 2001, pp. 1-7). Some say that child exploitation is not necessarily a terrible problem because it allows for poor people to at least have jobs. However on a broader view, it does not add anything to better the economy because of the low wages paid.

Furthermore, most of the workers in the garment industry are women. One of the major concerns is that not only are these women working under

...substandard wages; long delays in payment of wages; illegally long overtime hours; no premium pay for overtime or holiday work; unhealthy working conditions; emergency exits locked 24 hours a day; unreason-

able restrictions on the use of toilets; verbal abuse; physical abuse of all kinds (slapping, beating, taping of the mouth); arbitrary discharges; unacceptable forms of discipline (cleaning toilets, standing on a table or outside of factory, as punishment)...[but are often sexually harassed and even raped] (Senser, 2000, p. 2).

Because women and children are vulnerable, it is easy for Bangladeshi and foreign managers to take advantage of them as they wish. Sometimes women are used as escorts for foreign visitors and are expected to fully comply with visitors desires. Moreover, some women, who think they are being sent abroad for training, are in reality used as sex slaves (Senser, 2000, pp. 1-5). Bangladesh assists the global economy by offering cheap labor.

#### c) Economic Growth

Similar to most countries, Bangladesh's economic growth is also measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of \$3,900 USD; the real rate of growth is 7.2% (CIA World Fact Book Bangladesh, 2017). GDP is calculated through personal consumer expenditures, gross private investment, government spending, and net exports. However, it is not an accurate way of measuring the economy because of its failure to include non-market transactions, equality of prices of different products, and advancement of technology over the course of time.

Bangladesh is mainly known for its agricultural products especially rice

and jute. However, the economy is hampered from annual floods and cyclones. As a matter of fact, Bangladesh expects a major natural disaster every two years such as flooding in which many suffer from lack of food, shelter, water, and medicine along with death rate jumping high.

Additionally, agriculture is limited by the small size of the country so not everyone can afford to grow crops. Exports of jute made products, clothing, and rice into foreign countries are almost impossible due to Bangladesh not being able to meet deadlines as well as lacking logistical infrastructure such as roads and ports. Also, there is no local or foreign investment taking place; if wealthy individuals invested more with their savings rather than borrowing from the bank into the country, it would be beneficial. From a lack of export for a need to import, Bangladesh has an external debt of about USD \$41.85 billion (CIA World Fact Book Bangladesh, 2017), another obstacle to overcome.

#### d) High Unemployment Rate

There is a vast imbalance between employment of men and women. Because of the cultural belief of women staying home to take care of children regardless of their class or status in society, most women either choose or are not permitted to hold a job. This results in an inconsistency of not only the workforce but as well as the unemployment rate.

At the same time, political leaders have always had major impacts on the lives of people by not maintaining a

balanced economy. The Ministry of Finance and Planning does an excellent job of creating a budget proposal every year. However, it is not implemented properly by the bureaucracy mainly because of bureaucratic corruption, where bribery is commonplace. Bribery cannot help alleviate the high unemployment rate nor form a basis for a sound economy.

#### *Environment*

One major aspect of any economy is the environment because it ultimately decides what and how much of a product can be produced with the given resources. Bangladesh is known to have a polluted environment from unplanned and sporadic development. Also, depletion of resources, ecological degradation, and urban and industrial pollution are expanding at a rapid pace. As the Asian Development Bank notes "[t]he main casualties of environmental deprivation are often the poorer segment of the population (2002-2004, p. 5)." The government is not creating enough awareness for people to know the harm of a polluted environment. Moreover, there are no restrictions that prevent taking effective action to clean the environment. Some of the major current issues include air pollution, where the lead content of Dhaka city's air is 100 times higher than the UN safety level. This affects the physical and mental well-being of everyone. Arsenic contamination of ground water has reached an alarming level causing many unnecessary deaths. Chemical runoff to surface water

bodies from the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides harm fresh water fish stocks. Industrial and medical waste being discharged in neighboring areas and water bodies greatly affect the ecosystem. Household waste, where the use of plastic has increased also pollutes the environment. Loss of wetlands from population pressure on more land for settlement generates temperature imbalance, ecological deterioration, flood, and deforestation. Bangladesh has fallen below 25% forested land that heavily affects air quality. The loss of bio-diversity of many animals becoming extinct is another negative impact of environmental degradation (Bangladesh Environment Network-Memorandum, 1998, pp. 3-4).

#### *Policies and Issues*

In 1970, the purpose of the Green Revolution in Bangladesh was to enhance the production of crops. This revolution involved spreading phosphate, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals in the soil to create fertile ground for crops to grow. Farmers were not able to realize the after effects since they did not have enough education and environmental awareness. Thus, the consequences of the Green Revolution have resulted in loss of soil fertility and groundwater contamination with arsenic poisons of the water supplies. All of these decrease economic and industrial growth.

Another important aspect of environment is the lack of land. Bangladesh has an area of 148,460 square kilometers for a population of 157,826,578, and out of this 148,460 square kilometers, only 130,170

square kilometers is land, the rest is water (CIA World Fact Book Bangladesh, 2017). This increases the population density. In Bangladesh, given that the economy is heavily dependent on the agriculture, destruction of forests is a common practice in the rural and urban areas to increase land for growing crops. The destruction has severely reduced the forest resources over the past three decades resulting in population explosion. Forest reserves are now down to approximately 9% of the total land mass, a continuous fall since Bangladesh became a nation. For a habitable and balanced ecological base, a country requires a minimum of 25% forested land. At the same time, it is difficult to prosecute people for cutting down trees in the forest area to farm or to build homes, when they cannot survive without an income or job from economic development that the government fails to provide.

Furthermore, unplanned housing areas have no land for drainage and sewerage facilities. This causes water logging during the monsoon period and contributes to the annual floods. According to an article in BBC World Service, the treaty signed with India to guarantee a fair share of water during hot and dry season was a wise decision for Bangladesh (2004, p. 1).

#### **Conclusion**

Human security is a broad term that is difficult to define due to different countries status of wealth and culture. According to the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), it is defined as "...the freedom

from want and freedom from fear." This certainly includes many characteristics such as having enough food, a home, good health, education, freedom from violence, safety during natural and human-caused disasters, democracy, respect for human rights, and most good governance (Ogata, 2004, p. 1).

After conducting intensive research and careful studies, it is clear to see that the political system and leadership must be revised in Bangladesh. If the political structure of Bangladesh can be improved, then the economy will strengthen; a strong economy will help provide people with jobs to lower the high unemployment rate. The most effective way to improve the economy is through the amplification of Grameen Bank with the help of the government of Bangladesh in helping to continue the success of Grameen Bank as well as a better and stronger implementation of the shift of top down economic development policy to a bottom up economic development. In the process of the collaboration and afterwards, there will be many available jobs to reduce the unemployment rate; this will mark the beginning of a new economic development era. Even though Bangladesh lacks comparative advantage in terms of skilled labor or natural resources compared to other countries, it is possible for Bangladesh to step out of being a third world country to a second or even a first world country

through proper planning and implementation of the existing resources in political, societal, and governmental structures as mentioned before.

A major aspect of any economy is its social culture. The existing societal cultural issues in Bangladesh are rooted in an unstable economy. For instance, if the majority of people in Bangladesh have jobs (or any other developing nation), this will decrease the poverty level, which ultimately helps to reduce corruption and social malaise; meaning that socio-cultural problems will be more easily resolved.

Human security can be achieved in Bangladesh by having a stable democratic government that will help produce a robust economy with an acceptable unemployment rate through effective government intervention with the help of Grameen Bank. As M. Khalequzzaman, Assistant Professor of Georgia Southwestern State University, states "...nothing can be said more succinctly than what the Chief of Mohawk Red Indian Tribe said, "not until the last tree has fallen, the last river has been poisoned, the last fish has been caught, will man realize that money isn't edible." We need to act to preserve the only habitable planet before it is too late," and as for the case of Bangladesh it can only be done through the collaboration of economic and political structures of the country (2004, p. 8).

## Semblanzas

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