Implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Institutional and Procedural Setbacks

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DECLARATION

I hereby affirm that the job presented here for the degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) of University of Dhaka, titled **"Implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Institutional and Procedural Setbacks"**, is an unique work done by me and has not been submitted or published in another place for obtaining a degree program. Every piece of literature date or work is done by others and cited within this thesis has given due acknowledgment and listed in the reference part.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis titled "**Implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Institutional and Procedural Setbacks"** is the genuine research work carried out by Shamim Hosen, Assistant Director of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Savar, Dhaka and M. Phil researcher bearing registration No. 268 (2013-2014) under my direct supervision. I, consequently, recommend it to research and academic wing for further essential deed.

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To

The Chancellor of Examiners

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Subject: **Evaluation Report on the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil), thesis titled "Implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Institutional and Procedural Setbacks" submitted by Shamim Hosen bearing registration number 268 (Session: 2013-2014), Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka.**

Dear Sir,

I have gone through the above-mentioned thesis and I appreciate the researcher for his hard work and dedication. I firmly believe that the thesis paper submitted is worthy of the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) in Political Science from the University of Dhaka.

Therefore, I do request the competent authority for taking necessary action to provide him the degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) in Political Science.

Sincerely

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Abstract

This research discusses the challenging issues which are considered as impediments in the overall implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in developing countries like Bangladesh. Although sustainable development postulates a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generations may also have their needs met. But it is exposed that Bangladesh as a developing country faces very complicated issues for the implementation of United Nations conventions on sustainable development via the existing facilities. Thus, developing countries need international assistance to support adaptation in the context of national planning for sustainable development, more capacity building and transfer of technology and funds. It is also revealed that the institutional structure and service delivery approaches in many cases are appeared barriers to make sure implementation plans towards all three dimensions of sustainable development such as economic, social and environmental. However, this research follows the mixed-method approach in the nature of research inquiry and depends on primary data largely through secondary data that has also been taken into consideration in numerous cases for suitable interpretation. Stratified Random Sampling was used to collect data from a range of institutions, organizations and civil societies. For this, various data collection techniques such as focus group discussion, interview, and open-ended and closed-ended questionnaires have been followed. The data have been presented in a descriptive pattern with some statistical analysis. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been analyzed by using suitable tools and techniques like MS Word, Excel and SPSS. The study has disclosed that major challenges of implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh. The study also incorporated, based on findings, some suggestions for the implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh through which the goals of sustainable development can be accomplished.

Keywords: Implementation, UN Conventions, Sustainable Development, Institutional Setbacks, Bangladesh

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ACRONYMS

AUC= African Union Commission

ACC= Anti Corruption Commission

AfDB= African Development Bank

BPATC= Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre

CBD=United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

Department of Immigration and Passport

DESA= Department of Economic and Social Affairs

DESD= United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

DNCRP= Department of National Consumer Rights Protection

DSS= Department of Social Service

DWA=Department of Women Affairs

FGD= Focus Group Discussions

FYP= Fifth Year Planning

G8 = Group Eight

GED= General Economic Division

GoB= Government of Bangladesh

HIPC= Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

ICPD=International Conference on Population and Development

ILO= International Labor Organization

IMF=International Monetary Fund

IUCN=International Union for the Conservation of Nature

IUPN=International Union for the Protection of Nature

KII= Key Informant Information

MDGs= Millennium Development Goals

MoA=Ministry of Agriculture

MoCA= Ministry of Cultural Affairs

MoE= Ministry of Education

MoFA= Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoFL= Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries

MoFood= Ministry of Food

MoHA= Ministry of Home Affairs

MoL=Ministry of Law

MoPA= Ministry of Public Administration

NGOs= Non-Government Organizations

NGOs= Nongovernment Organizations

NIMC= National Institution of Mass Communication

ODA= Official Development Assistance

PWD= Department of Public Works

RTD =Declaration on the Right to Development

SD= Sustainable Development

SDGS= Sustainable Development Goals

SRDI= Soil Resource Development Institute

UN= United Nation

UNCCD=United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCED=United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCSD= United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

UNDESA= United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNECA= United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNEP= United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP=United Nations Environment Program

UNFCCC=United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFPA=United Nations Population Fund

UNGA= United Nation General Assembly

UNHR= United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF= United Nation Children's Fund

UNRISD= United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

US= United States

WCED=World Commission on Environment and Development

WHO= World Health Organization

WHO= World Health Organization

WSSD= World Summit for Social Development

WSSD=World Summit on Sustainable Development

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures and Tables

Implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Institutional and Procedural setbacks.

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTORY

1.1   Preface

The notion of sustainable development has become a buzzword and climbed to status in the 1980s in reply to a growing consciousness of the requirement for action on international matters, for instance, environmental dilapidation, resource diminution, and socio-economic discriminations. In 1983, the 38th session of the United Nations determined to establish the World Commission on Environment and Development. This organization was to be accountable for formulating a global agenda for transformation. The Chairperson of the Commission, Gro Harlem Brundtland, was selected by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in December 1983 (Beattie, 2017). In 1987, the Commission issued its ultimate report entitled "Our Common Future", which has popularly known as the "Brundtland Report" following its chair.

However, sustainability refers to the maintenance or enhancement of resource's productivity on a long term basis. The belief of sustainable development assumes an attractive future state for human societies in which living conditions and "resource-use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generation may also have their needs met" (Commission, Sustainability, 1987). The term 'sustainable development' rose to significance after it was used by the Brundtland Commission in its 1987 report "Our Common Future". The concept of sustainable development has in the past most often been broken out into three constituent domains: environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability (Beattie, 2017). The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, provided the fundamental doctrines and the program of action for achieving sustainable development. We strongly reiterate our assurance to the Rio principles, the full implementation of Agenda 21 and the program for the further implementation of Agenda 21. We also commit ourselves to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations

Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

Furthermore, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh provides article 18 (A) for the Protection & Improvement of Environment and Biodiversity (Ministry of Law, 2010). For this reason, sustainable development is, therefore, a constitutional obligation in Bangladesh. Bangladesh as a member of the United Nations agreed to implement UN conventions of sustainable development. We recognize that the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit should benefit all, particularly women, youth, children and vulnerable groups. At this stage, Bangladesh has already taken a number of steps for implementing doctrines and documents of the United Nations [such as: United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) (1972), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (1980), World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (1987), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (1992), Documents from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (2002, and Sustainable Development Goals-2030] related for ensuring sustainable development such as perspective plan, 7th fifth-year plan, vision 2021, and implementation strategy for agenda 2030.

Although, Bangladesh has been made outstanding progress in achieving MDGs in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, improvising maternal health our country was not able to achieve entire goals like African and Latin American courtiers. At this point, I am concern that the efficient, as well as the entire implementation of United Nations conventions regarding sustainable development in the developing countries like Bangladesh, fail due to the lack of appropriate policies, lack of expertness, and lack of participation, procedural limitations, lack of logistics supports, implementing approaches, financial constraints, inadequate technical knowledge, lack of time management and improper way of behavior. So, by means of strengthening commitments to sustainable development, speeding up action in terms of funding and adopting sustainable development mechanisms, integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way, and promoting the rule of law will overcome institutional limitations for achieving sustainability.

1.2   Background of the Study

The model of sustainable development shaped the origin of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The meeting marked the initial worldwide endeavor for drawing up action plans and strategies for moving towards a further sustainable pattern of development. In addition, more than 100 representatives from 178 countries had attended the summit of those who were committed to solving the problems of environmental deprivation discussed by the Brundtland Commission in their report "Our Common Future" in 1987. The Brundtland Report was to explore the various concerns that were having ruthless and unconstructive impacts on the earth, and that patterns of growth and development would be unsound if they continued unchecked. It is identified that, in 1972, the concept of sustainable development acknowledged its earliest major international appreciation at the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm where the international community agreed to ensure mutual benefit on development and environment. The word had become familiarized one and half decades later in 1987 in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which incorporated the standard meaning of sustainable development that is "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Commission, Sustainability, 1987).

However, until the Rio Summit in 1992, the world leaders didn't accept sustainable development as the most important challenge it remains at the moment. Lately, the World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg in 2002, attended by national governments, UN agencies, multilateral financial institutions and other major groups for reviewing the improvement since the Rio summit. The Johannesburg Summit mentioned three major outcomes such as a political declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of implementation, and a range of partnership initiatives. But, it is experienced from the previous development document, these declarations, plans, initiatives of international summits, and implementation strategies of national government become unable to achieve the goal for a number of reasons. The most important causes of insufficient implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development are short of proficiency, and lack of involvement, procedural restrictions, need of logistics supports, implementing approaches, economic constraints, insufficient scientific knowledge, lack of time management and inappropriate way of activities.

The study has been undertaken with the following purposes such as a) Identify the barriers dependable for inefficient implementation of UN Conventions; b) Identify the factors that speed up national and international actions and commitments in terms of funding and adopting sustainable development mechanisms; c) Recognize the factors that increase integration among the three (For instance: economic, social and environmental) dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner; d) Identify the factors that assist in strengthening the implementation procedures including through the mobilization of financial and technological resources, as well as capacity-building programs, particularly for developing countries; e) Identify the factors that Promote the rule of law and strengthening of governmental institutions; and f) Recommend policy options to improve the status of United Nations conventions implementation.

1.2.1 The Problem Statement

It is believed that the sustainable development of Bangladesh is still a discussable and concrete theme for scientific researches, practical implementation, and political cooperation. Above and beyond, significant enhancement on the way to sustainable development there are ample variety of problems that should be solved and abundant steps should be completed. Subsequently, developing countries need international assistance to support adaptation in the context of national planning for sustainable development, more capacity building and transfer of technology and funds (Mimura, 2014). Moreover, systematic planning and capacity building are also needed to reduce the risk of disasters and raise the resilience of communities to increase extreme events such as droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones. The present world is experiencing numerous challenges in all three dimensions of sustainable development such as economic, social and environmental whereas Bangladesh is not out of these proved circumstances.

The previous study discovered that a point of contention has arisen between some developing and developed countries as a consequence of the differences in influence and responsibility. For example, developed countries have long benefitted from unsustainable practices and are now imposing their new-found sustainable values upon developing countries, for them this transition is much more complicated and expensive to implement. Another biggest conflict seen regarding sustainable development is economic in nature where the global economy has a neoliberal bowed

to it. With a view to sustainable development, the belief of freethinking economic agenda such as commoditization, deregulation, privatization, and cuts in government expenditure may in some perspective undermine the achievement of sustainable development by increasing poverty and inequality. This, in turn, increases the exploitation of environmental resources, such as forests, as a result of poverty-provoked constraints. Furthermore, the regulatory capability of environmental management provided by the state has been abridged mainly due to budgetary constrictions imposed by the adoption of neo-liberalism.

However, the implementation of the United Nation conventions on sustainable development in the developing countries has been faced with some most important troubles. To put into practice such policies third world countries require plenty of economy, expert human resource, sound political atmosphere and strategies associated with their own setting (Mérorès, 2008). Thus, sustainable development will need to be inclusive and take special care of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. Consequently, strategies need to be ambitious, action-oriented and collaborative, and to adapt to different levels of development. In the framework of represented research, it has been focused on implementation procedures of the United Nations Conventions on sustainable development.

1.2.2   Research Question

It is widely thought that research is an inclusive and planned study of setbacks, concerns, and issues where findings fulfill the answer to the questions. Based on the problem statement, this research study has been conducted following three questions to inquiry the finding out the reasons behind the insufficient implementation of sustainable development agenda in Bangladesh which are a) why UN policies implementation status is low? b) How can we ensure proper utilization of the UN's conventions? and c) Are UN conventions formulated by the concern of developing countries? However, these questions are asked to a number of people for searching out the reasons for the insufficient implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh and based on this answer a number of suggestions are provided to ensure better implementation measures.

1.2.3 Hypotheses

A hypothesis is very important in order to accomplish research work properly. The hypotheses of this research are:

a) Implementation may fail due to financial crisis and bindings of development partners;
b) UN policies are not often formulated based on the concern of developing countries;
c) Inability to utilize released fund;
d) Lack of co-ordination and co-operation among departments; and
e) Lack of supervision and control by the agency.

1.3 *Rationale of the Study*

Firstly, the United Nations conventions on sustainable development are highly emphasized on inclusive development and promote target-oriented planning and implementation mechanisms and are accompanied by achievable, time-bound targets, as calculated by quantifiable indicators. Although the indicators are intended to be flexible enough to respond to the different capacities and sustainable development challenges of each country as part of the planning process, countries are encouraged to put in place strong, public instruments for reporting, monitoring progress, learning lessons, and ensuring mutual accountability. But a developing country like Bangladesh has been experiencing a number of challenges regarding the implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development.

Then, previous development documents of the United Nations like Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Declaration on the Right to Development (1986), Millennium Declaration Goals (2000), Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), International Conference on Population and Development (1994), "Rio+ 20" (2012), World Summit for Social Development (1995), and Rome Declaration on Nutrition (2014) along with Sustainable Development Goals(2015) have been insufficiently implemented in Bangladesh due to institutional and procedurals flaws and retards.

Finally, present Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are built on the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals; inquire about completing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and respond to new-fangled challenges. The United Nations

constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their inter-linkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. Now, the question arises for the previous experience that the sufficient implementation of UN conventions is not achievable for a number of reasons. This study has been conducted to find out these reasons and to recommend some suggestions for decision-making procedures in implementing sustainable development documents and agenda in Bangladesh for transforming our world in order that no one is left behind in development activities and priorities.

1.4   *Conclusion*

To conclude, it can be reiterated that for the implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh, it needs a number of strategic planning if the intention of sustainable development is to be achieved. Bangladesh, as a signatory to most UN documents on development, has committed itself to the achievement of sustainable development. The country has already prepared strategic plans for reaching development goals and in some cases, it has obtained triumph. But the research has found, depending on problem statement and questions, that the lack of suitable policies, bindings of donor agencies, lack of skillfulness, and lack of contribution, procedural limitations, lack of logistics supports, implementing approaches, financial constraints, inadequate technical knowledge, glass ceiling effect, and improper way of behavior are significantly responsible for inefficient implementation of sustainable development conventions in Bangladesh. This study will suggest authorities approve an additional strategic and sophisticated approach for consultation, data collection, planning, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development documents in developing countries especially Bangladesh. However, the pledge of financial (capital, equipment, materials) and non-financial (human recourse, consultants) resources necessary to carry out these actions will place considerable weights on government agencies, particularly in the deficiency of funding from benefactor agencies and overseas governments.

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CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   *Prologue*

Chapter two has been included due to analyzing kinds of literature on sustainable development and its implementation procedures. However, this is not the first review of the sustainable development literature. It can be mentioned that from the middle of 1987, reviews have emerged several times and researchers have contributed to the argument on sustainable development. The ample review of the sustainable development literature that critically examines the semantic and theoretical issues is still absent. As sustainable development has become the "buzzword" (Cornwall, 2007) of both the academic and the business world, so that it has been present for the last decades in academic papers, syllabuses of faculties, boardrooms of local authorities and corporations and offices of public relations officers. Regrettably, sustainability has become a "fashionable" notion in theory, but it is considered extremely luxurious to be put in practice by major corporations, firms, and local or national governments. In this section, it has provided literature on sustainable development approach, the theoretical framework of sustainable development, on sustainable development in Bangladesh, and institutional and procedural setbacks. It can also mention that it has given details about the UN conventions on sustainable development in chapter four. The research has also made a comparative critical analysis in chapter Seven.

2.2   *Sustainable Development Approach*

Firstly, the beginnings of Sustainable Development (SD) can be traced to the seventies, is in the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 (WCED that the word is coined and as well defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Blanc D. L., Liu, O'Connor, & Zubcevic, 2012), (Commission, Sustainability, 1987). Blanc and others said that one of the defining moments for sustainable development was the "Earth Summit" in 1992 with the agreement by member states to commence a procedure to build up a set of sustainable

development goals (SDGs) that could be a useful tool for pursuing focused and rational action on sustainable development (Blanc D. L., Liu, O'Connor, & Zubcevic, 2012).

Secondly, the key UN policy documents on sustainable development which have mentioned the most significant dimensions of sustainable development, various aspects of policies, and implementation strategies are: a) United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) (1972), b) International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (1980), c) World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (1987), d) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (1992), e) World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (2002), f) United Nations Economic, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2004), g) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), and h) Sustainable development Goals-2030. These documents have some pitfalls that they are not formulated completely based on the opinions of 3rd world countries and these are not similarly applications for them.

Thirdly, the triple outcome discourse in sustainable development varies from "weak" to "strong" sustainability concepts. The weak sustainability considers that nature and human-made capital can be interchanged and the goal of such models being related towards maintaining total capital stocks (Robinson, 2004) gaps, for instance, lack of resources are considered as compensable through progress in technology (Hopwood, Mellor, & O'brien, 2005). Weak sustainability models are commonly described as three concentric circles picturing social, environmental and economic aspects, with sustainable development lying in the center of the three circles (Connelly, June 2007).
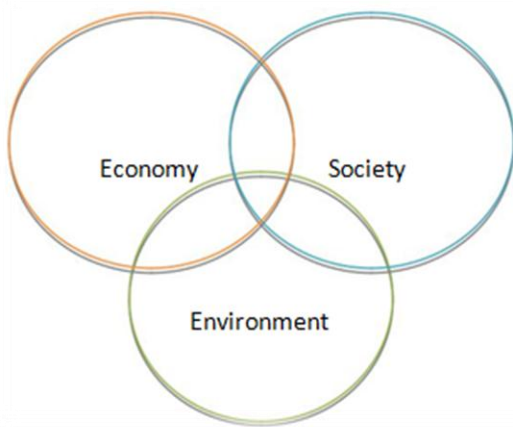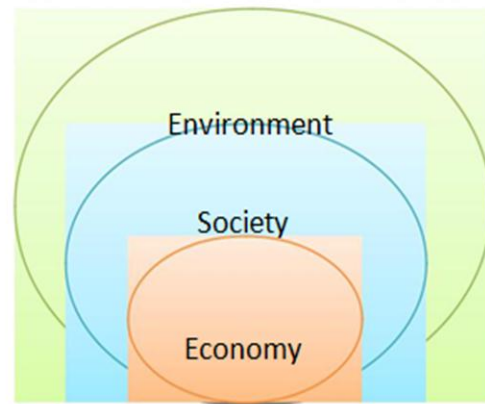
Weak Sustainability	**Strong Sustainability**

In contrast, strong sustainability refers to an ecological sustainability model that relates to finding a way to live within the limits of natural sources in view of the view that natural resources are finite. Conversely to weak sustainability, the argument here is that some natural capital stocks are "incommensurable and non-substitutable" (Robinson, 2004) and thus must be maintained independently of the growth of other forms of capital.

Fourthly, the previous research on sustainability indicators have changed from a preliminary focus on conceptual debates regarding the actual meaning of sustainable development and the possibility to generate indicators, followed by a concern for the creation of optimum models and methods to frame optimal indicators, towards a point research area that views sustainability indicators as policy tools and ingredient of governance discourses (Mineur, 2007). Therefore, the need to increase research on the linkages between sustainable development and climate change mitigation has been most notably highlighted by authors of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Sathaye, 2007).

Fifthly, Jon Hawkes in his book "The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: Culture's essential role in public planning", contributes with the 'Cultural' dimension for sustainable development, states if a society's culture disintegrates, so will everything else. Cultural action is required in order to lay the groundwork for a sustainable future (Hawkes, 2001).

Lastly, Kevin Murphy (2012) has described about consciousness of sustainability, participation, social cohesion, Environmental Framework, developing Links between the Social and Environmental Pillars, relation between UN Commission for Sustainable Development and EU Sustainable Development Indicators but he did not point out implementation problems of sustainable development policies (Murphy, 2012).

2.3   Theoretical Framework

First of all, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (UNGA, 1992) is the foundation of Sustainable Development, a set of 27 principles advanced concepts such as the centrality of human beings to the concerns of sustainable development (Principle 1); the primacy of poverty eradication (Principle 5); the significance of the environment for current and future generations and its equivalent grip with development (Principles 3 and 4); the special thought given to developing countries (Principle 6); the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (Principle 7). It also protected the two vital economic principles of polluter pays (Principle 16) and the preventive approach (Principle 15). It commenced principles concerning participation and the importance of particular groups for sustainable development (Principles 10, 20, 21, 22) (Blanc D. L., Liu, O'Connor, & Zubcevic, 2012).

After that, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was celebrated, twenty years later, in June 2012, and the member states agreed to begin a process for developing a set of sustainable development goals that could be a useful tool for pursuing focused and rational action on sustainable development. Additional frameworks resembling the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were a clear exhibition that world leaders can come together for addressing the major challenges of the present time not only war and financial crisis but also poverty (UNRISD, 2010).

Then, a difference between the MDGs and the SDGs is the degree of agreement that exists among countries on the large fundamental objectives, as well between the contexts of the MDGs and the SDGs is the dominance of combined action problems at the heart of sustainable development, and the frequent failure of countries at solving those problems (Blanc D. L., Liu, O'Connor, & Zubcevic, 2012).

Next, in 2012, the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability of UN (PGS, 2012), establish the most uniform and consistent review of principles related with any framework related with sustainable development (SD):

a) It should be universal in character, covering challenges to all countries rather than just developing nations;

b) It should express a broadly agreed global strategy for sustainable development;

c) It should incorporate a range of key areas that were not fully covered in the MDGs;

d) It should be comprehensive, reflecting three dimensions of SD;

e) It should incorporate near-term benchmarks while being long-term in scope, looking ahead to a deadline of perhaps 2030;

f) It should engage all stakeholders in the implementation and mobilization of resources; and

g) It should provide scope for the review of these goals in view of evolving scientific evidence.

Subsequently, in Agenda 21, article 8.6 states that countries might develop systems for monitoring and evaluation of advancement towards achieving sustainable development by adopting indicators that measure changes crosswise economic, social and environmental dimensions (Nations, 1992).

Lastly, Olsen (2013) has also explained that the individual sustainable objectives of policy frameworks of existing and emerging mechanisms for mitigation actions comprising of the clean development mechanism, low carbon development strategies, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus conservation, new market mechanisms and framework for various approaches, over and above their comparative strengths and weaknesses (Olsen, 2013).

2.4 Sustainable Development in Bangladesh

Undoubtedly, there are lots of works on literature focusing on country-specific implementation guidelines as well as challenges to meet the targets of sustainable development. Therefore, a number of works are also available focusing on the implementation challenges of different goals and targets of sustainable development from the perspective of Bangladesh. However, some

works of literature are reviewed and presented here to find out the research gap for this present research.

Interestingly, before adopting the Agenda 2030 by the UN, the government of Bangladesh took a 'Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021: Making Vision 2021 A Reality' to achieve a middle-income country status by 2021 (GoB, 2012, pp:15-18). The document under the heading Institutional and Foundations of Stability and Prosperity: Towards Fast-track Governance denotes '…the public sector will have to reform the existing regulations in the service delivery system of ministries and departments, and the agencies…to facilitate citizens' access to government services (GoB, 2012, pp:15-18)'.

The government document reveals that it has no available data to meet the targets of SDGs, especially to 'develop effective, accountable and transparent institution at all levels and to ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision making at all levels' (GoB, 2016, p-40). Another report (Rahman M. K., 2015, p-34) published by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CDP) also stressed the availability of data for implementing sustainable development policies.
Haque discusses and compares the implementation challenges between MDGs and SDGs in the context of Bangladesh (Haque, From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: Implementation Challenges for Bangladesh, 2016). But he has not discussed the institutional and procedural setbacks of implementation UN convention on sustainable development in Bangladesh. Therefore, it stimulates us to carry out research to explore strategies to attain the targets successfully.

A country study (Bhattacharya, Rezbana, & Khatun, 2018) identified five key challenges in the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. These are overall challenges for Bangladesh to meet the targets of SDGs. These include: (i) management, coordination and leadership, (ii) aligning SDG implementation with national planning and policy process, (iii) partnership and stakeholder participation including institutional arrangements, (iv) data-related issues and capacity of the national statistical agencies, and (v) financing and other means of implementation including systemic issues.

Hosen, Islam and Alam have conducted a research on the implementation challenges of SDG 16 in Bangladesh and found several barriers, for instance procedural limitations, lack of logistics

supports, implementing approaches, financial constraints, inadequate technical knowledge, and improper way of behavior of a service provider and a recipient in public offices (Hosen, Islam, & Alam, 2019). But they did not explore all UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh.

The conference (EU, 24 April 2012) on "Sustainable development in Bangladesh: a civil society perspective", has been discussed various portions of sustainable development but the following gaps are still to be fulfilled such as a) large-scale projects should take into account local people's opinions; b) an evaluation of the environmental and social impact should be conducted prior to any project affecting natural and human resources; c) humanitarian aspects should be addressed before security issues; d) protection of vulnerable populations should constitute a principle for future development Policies; e) develop long-term localized planning and effective use of project funds; and f) capacity building for the most vulnerable people.

2.5   *Institutional and Procedural setbacks*

In this evolving world, continuous changes are approaching all institutions concerned with sustainable development to be changed. Here, the non-governmental actors have also become key players in international relations and sustainable development. However, various international and national civil society organizations and movements are breaking out of the single issue and searching for further cross-cutting programs. Therefore, these organizations have vital roles to play in influencing and implementing sustainable development at both the national and global levels.

Currently, a special incident can transform not only the concentration but also the participation of individuals in sustainable development. The explosive enlargement of social networking technologies is continuing to empower individuals and to have highly volatile political consequences. A study (PGS, 2012) revealed that "the technology could unlock positive political outcomes, particularly if "crowdsourcing" platforms enable more collaborative, participatory and transparent approaches to governance and policy-making (PGS, 2012)". But the political scenario is not stable all over the world for the smooth implementation of UN conventions on sustainable development.

The World Economic and Social Survey (DESA, 2013) revealed that an important sustainable development challenge arises from unsustainable consumption and production patterns that have evolved in developed countries, a pattern that is increasingly being followed by developing countries (DESA, 2013). It is also seen that the executive summary of the mentioned survey presented "the world is faced with challenges in all three dimensions of sustainable development such as economic, social and environmental" (DESA, 2013).

It is believed that achieving sustainable development will require global actions to deliver on the justifiable target towards additional economic and social progress, requiring growth and employment, and simultaneously strengthening ecological safeguard (DESA, 2013). The study has also exposed that sustainable development will need to be inclusive and take unique care of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. But, mutual cooperation along with universal integration is mandatory to ensure consumer rights which will assist in achieving sustainable development.

In the perspective of South Africa, Hussey and others (Hussey, Mac, & Mji, Barriers to the Implementation of the Health and Rehabilitation Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in South Africa, 2017) disclose some barriers in the implementation process of different UN policies, for instance: attitude, political, financial, health system, physical and communication. This is also similar in third world countries. Among them, financial and political issues are incredibly significant factors in Bangladesh.

In a study, Vladimirova (Vladimirova, 2014) discusses that "if a sustainable future requires behavioral changes, then we need to focus on changing the underlying values and how to achieve these changes." It is also said that "current lifestyles in development states are unsustainable and need to be changed." It discloses that there is a lot of challenges to meet sustainable development and the developed nations do not demonstrate larger interests in developing nations for which they are not responsible. Consequently, the implementation of UN policies faces challenges in developing countries.

Lares and Kitada (2013) admit that even if advancement in achieving a number of the MDGs (UN, 2013), equal access by women to education, work and decision-making positions still remains a challenge across the globe (Ortega, Sanabra, & Osés, 2012). So, it reveals that

regardless of diverse initiatives globally, there is gender imbalance and it will hamper for ensuring gender-based sustainable development.

Lastly, it can be said that a number of studies have been conducted for finding out different challenges of policy implementation, but there is minimal research on institutional and procedural pitfalls for implementing UN conventions on sustainable development in developing countries particularly Bangladesh. This research will be specified in this area.

2.6   Summary

To conclude this chapter it can be described that a starting point of literature related to sustainable development assessments, the present study has attempted to find out the linkage among the problem statement, thesis statement and available documents of the United Nation on sustainable development. This chapter has also identified the barriers related to the implementation procedures of sustainable development and the realization of Bangladesh within the current institutional setup. It is thought that the framing of sustainable development will require combining views from stakeholders with sometimes radically different values, the contribution from varying disciplines and sectors. The literature review spots towards the use of holistic approaches in defining visions and means to achieve sustainability and the review have revealed a wide array of characteristics that sustainability measurement should acquire.

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CHAPTER THREE

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section presents an overview of the methods used in the study. Chapter three has been described the total process and procedures of this research project how each and every work has been done. Here, the research technique has been used for qualitative and quantitative studies based on both primary and secondary data. The report has been presented in a descriptive pattern with some statistical analysis. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been analyzed by using suitable statistical tools and techniques. Firstly, it has been described as the research design, methods, and procedures. Then, it has been illustrated the sampling process and data collection and presentation techniques. Again, in the data collection and presentation phase, it has been explained about data collection tools and data analysis systems.

3.2 The Design, Methods, and Procedures

It is believed that qualitative research has commonly (however not completely) been linked with the set of beliefs (Snape & Spencer, 2003). As the qualitative study methods are used to respond queries about experiences, meaning, understanding, and perspective, most often from the viewpoint of participant (Hammarberg, K.; Kirkman, M.; Lacey, S. de, 2016), for that a close-ended survey questionnaire[1], Focus Group Discussion (FGD) [2], and Key Informant Interview (KII) [3] have been conducted for collecting primary data. However, by content analysis[4], secondary data has also been considered for understanding the theoretical concept of the research which is cost-effective and convenience (Mohajan H. , 2017, p-6). Finally, data have been presented in percentages having the touch of the quantitative nature of research as the quantitative research is the systematic empirical investigation of observable phenomena via statistical, mathematical, or

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[1] The survey questionnaire is a category of collecting diverse views of a group of community from a particular population.
[2] A *Focus Group Discussion* (FGD) is a method of gathering people from parallel environment or understanding to *talk about* a definite issue and mostly contains 6-8 members.
[3] *Interview is a* verbal exchange of views between two people to collect appropriate data for the purpose of research.
[4] The content analysis is an investigation technique for studying papers and communication objects, which might be texts, pictures, audios and videos.

computational techniques (Given, 2008). However, the mixed method has been added more significance to this research.

3.3 Population and Sampling

Sampling is the process of selection of the representative part of the population. To conduct this research it has been used Stratified Random Sampling to collect data from various institutions, organizations and civil societies through a semi-structured questionnaire. A total of 100 respondents have been selected for collecting data by survey questionnaire. However, four Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) have been conducted among the participants (almost 32 participated in FGD) who participated in training courses at the Regional Public Administration Training Centre, Rajshahi.

3.4 Instrumentation

It has been collecting data by administering a questionnaire. The questionnaire has been used semi-structured questions, consisting of 30 questions divided into three sections. Firstly, a number of questions have been set for seeking to answer the first research question. Secondly, some questions have been covering for finding out the answer to the second research question. Finally, the rests of the questions have been used for testing hypotheses and also answer the third research question.

3.5 Data collection and presentation techniques

A number of ways of collecting data are helpful for diverse purposes, and each one has benefits and drawbacks. The qualitative data collection technique has been used to realize the processes behind observed results and evaluate changes in people's views of their well-being. In addition, it has also used to progress the excellence of survey-based quantitative evaluations by helping generate hypotheses; strengthening the blueprint of survey questionnaires and expanding or clarifying quantitative findings.

3.5.1 Data Collection

The most important primary data have been collected by administering a close-ended survey questionnaire. Paper-pencil questionnaires were prepared as people are more truthful while

responding to the questionnaires regarding controversial issues in particular due to the fact that their responses are anonymous. Again, it has been conducted FGDs and KII for collecting in-depth information. Books, articles, journals, reports, documents, and dailies have been used to collect secondary data which are accurate, long-term, consistent and reliable.

3.5.2 Data Analysis

Data analysis is the most important action to get information. It is simply the conversion of raw data to meaningful information through a process. First of all, we have organized the data. Secondly, we have figured the data into information to interpret and summarize the information. Finally, we have explained the information. However, some of the responses to the structured close-ended questions have been rated in percentages. The percentage of each respondent has been given and analyzed. It was done by computer systems to carry out a series of operations on the data in order to present, interpret, or obtain information. The data has been analyzed using the computer software known as Excel and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

3.6   Limitation of the study

This study definitely keeps some space for future researchers to investigate further queries on sustainable development. As the world is moving on and development strategies are evolving for establishing this globe a better place for the future generation so that there will have the scope of incorporation in the near future. By doing this research it has got to know that there are some gaps in the organizational structures of different countries all over the world. Consequently, it reflects an impact data mining process as dissimilarity arises. One of the limitations of my research was to collect relevant data from the relevant person and sometimes respondents were not agreeing to provide authentic information. Again, for completing this research project budget was a problem. One more thing must be acknowledged that it has taken much time for completing this research.

3.7   Summary

To summarize this chapter, it can ponder over that the study has been conducted based on qualitative and quantitative approaches to the research. Purposive random sampling has been used and the sample size was100 for the survey questionnaire. To collect primary data semi-

structured survey questionnaires, FGDs and KII have been administered. Moreover, four focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted among the 32 trainees those who were taking training at regional Public Administration Training Centre, Rajshahi in FY2018-19. For collecting data a number of tools have been used in this study. To collect secondary data for understanding theory and concepts, content analysis has been used in this research. Data has been presented into the figure and graphs through analyzing by Excel and SPSS. Brief descriptions of the diagrams, charts, and tables have been provided for comparative discussion.

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CHAPTER FOUR

4. THE UN CONVENTIONS AND POLICIES

4.1 Introduction

Chapter four has been incorporated in this research to make a clear understanding of the conferences, documents and summits of the United Nations on sustainable development including the United Nations. Firstly, it has endeavored for finding out the backgrounds, themes, objectives, and outcomes of treaties and conventions of the UN towards long-term development frameworks all over the world especially in developing and under-developing countries. Secondly, it has tried to make a connection with my research hypothesis to these conventions so that the institutional and procedural drawbacks may reveal easily. Lastly, it has searched literature on the UN conventions related to sustainable development for getting the critical evaluation of numerous scholars.

4.1.1 United Nations

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization established on October 24, 1945, and it's headquartered is in New York, USA. It is presently made up of 193 member states (UN, 2019). It has six official languages, for instance, English, French, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish. The study revealed that it was the second versatile international organization established in the 20th century that was global in scope and association. The League of Nations, the antecedent of the UN, was formed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and disbanded in 1946. Apart from this, the mission and work of the UN are directed by the purposes and principles contained in its founding charted (UN, 2019). Thus, the charter of the United Nations describes the objectives of the organization. The core objectives are to maintaining peace and security; developing friendly relations among countries based on respect for the principles of equal rights and independence of peoples; obtaining global teamwork to resolve international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian troubles; promoting and respecting human rights; and serving as a hub where countries can coordinate their actions and activities toward these diverse ends (UN, 2019). Furthermore, the UN shaped a continuum with the League of Nations in general-purpose, structure, and functions. However, in some respects, the UN established an extremely

diverse organization, particularly with regard to its objective of maintaining international peace and security and its commitment to economic and social development. A brief description of the six organs of the United Nations has been included here.

a) The General Assembly is the central deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN where each member state has one vote. It requires a two-thirds majority for the adoption of resolutions regarding peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters.

b) The Security Council is the main body of the UN and is responsible for the preservation of international peace and security. It is composed of 15 members, each with one vote and five-member states preserve a permanent seat at the council and hold Veto power.

c) The ECOSOC, the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, is accountable for coordinating the economic, social and associated work of 14 UN agencies, their functional commissions, and five regional commissions.

d) The Trusteeship Council was assigned the task of supervising the administration of the trust territories. The Council suspended its operations in 1994. Currently, the Chamber itself is utilized for other meetings namely related to the 2030 Agenda, negotiation of documents and conferences.

e) Fifthly, the International Court of Justice is the main judicial organ, headquartered in The Hague (Netherlands). Its role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted by States and to advise on Legal questions by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. It is composed of 15 judges, elected by the UNGA and the Security Council.

f) The Secretariat, led by the Secretary-General, carries out the day to day work of the UN as mandated by the organs of the UN. The job of the Secretary-General is more Complex than just being a CEO (Chief Executive Officer). It is within his duties to be a symbol of the UN ideals and a spokesman for the common interests of the global people.

In the middle of a progressively unstable geopolitical atmosphere, there are the latest challenges to established practices and functions, mainly in the areas of conflict resolution and humanitarian support. In addition, at the commencement of the 21st century, the UN and its programs and allied agencies struggled for addressing humanitarian crises and civil wars, unparalleled refugee

flows, global financial interruptions, intercontinental violence, and the inconsistencies in wealth between the rich and poor.

4.1.2 Implementation of UN Conventions

The United Nations has been formulated a number of global conventions regarding development issues worldwide. As a member, all the parties to the UN are bound to execute these documents for their individual prosperities. Although, it is found that, all the papers do not get final success due to the pitfalls of conventions or achievement strategies. However, the following conventions, documents, papers, and treaties have been found for the development of the nations globally.

4.1.2.1 *United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) (1972)*

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) which is a prominence global association under the larger sunshade of the United Nations. It has a mandate for coordinating all issues correlated to the environment including offering assistance to third world countries to implement policies that are environmentally sound. This organization was founded on the Stockholm conference (UN conference on the human environment) in June 1972 for governing environmental troubles. It is the significant international environmental authority that sets the parameter of the global environmental agenda, supports the rational implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and works as a trustworthy promoter for the international environment (UNEP, 2019). It has displayed a significant role in developing worldwide environmental conventions, promoting environmental science and information and illustrating the implementation of policy with national governments. It has also aided in the formulation of guidelines and treaties on issues such as the international trade in potentially detrimental chemicals, transboundary air pollution, and contamination of intercontinental waterways. Furthermore, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Environment Program established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. However, the UNEP is not another institution inside the United Nations but simply a program as suggested by its name and consequently majorly stick to the governance of the larger United Nations from which it was born. According to UNEP (2010), as an international program, the United Nations has been able to help many governments in making important and sound assessments in subjects pertaining to the environment both locally and internationally and incomplete application of environmental law to make certain a sustainable environmental

development (UNEP, February 2011). Consequently, this has enabled it to be competent to move on its regional and national objectives pertaining to the environment and bringing together quite a lot of diverse organizations or governments to work collectively with a common ambition of implementing environmental policies. However, the largest challenge for the UNEP has been the issue of dealing with the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) which has turned out to be very complicated and non-uniform and sometimes contains information that in most cases is unreachable to the ordinary man. Corresponding to this drawback, there has been shaped the Issue Brief Series which is mandated to address these gaps and lack of information as well as to help all players in understanding significant issues that so far have not been raised (UNEP, 2014). Last, the UNEP should also have an apparent configuration of fundraising with the intention of facilitating its ecological concerns other than contributions from the UN besides a self-governing panel of leaders who will effort in light with the organizations' policies and guidelines.

4.1.2.2 *International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (1980)*

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was established in 1948 (IUCN), as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUPN). It has been working on the ground of nature conservation and sustainable consumption of natural resources. This organization is also concerned with data assembly and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and instruction. It is noticed that, over the past decades, IUCN has expanded its hub beyond conservation ecology and currently incorporates issues connected to sustainable development within its projects. Moreover, it tries to influence the actions of governments, business, and further stakeholders by providing information and advice, and through building partnerships. Recently, the organization is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which evaluates the protection status of species worldwide (IUCN, 2012). It is documented that the IUCN has a membership of more than 1400 governmental and non-governmental organizations committed to protecting wildlife, environments and natural resources. The IUCN plays an important role in executing a number of global conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity. This organization had worked in establishing the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The IUPN amended to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural

Resources (IUCN) in 1956. Gradually, it had become a much bigger institution and competent of exerting additional political authority. In 2008, the 'World Conservation Union' was discarded, as was any reference to natural resources. However, the Red List is an analytical call for protecting the destruction of wildlife worldwide. The provision of status data to the Red List relies on an immense unpaid endeavor by global scientists. But when tested, different biologists presented with the same data sets on the status of 13 species of wildlife assigned extinction risk categories ranging from not threatened to critically endanger for the same species. There were problems with both accuracy and correctness. Thus, the IUCN places serious but confusing limitations on the veracity of their own Red List assessments. These technical limitations tend to be unknown outside the IUCN and are thus ignored in the public and political arenas.

4.1.2.3   Declaration on the Right to Development (1986)

The endeavor of right to development was first recognized in 1981 in Article 22 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Union, 1981). It was considered as a definitive individual and collective right. Article 22(122) provides that "All peoples shall have the right to their economic, social and cultural development with due regard to their freedom and identity and in the equal enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind" (Union, 1981). Then, the Right to Development (RTD) was proclaimed in a 1986 General Assembly Declaration (Res. 128/41) and passed by a recorded vote of 146 in favor, 1 against (US), with 8 abstentions those was mostly developed countries (UN, 4 December 1986). The Right to Development charter demonstrates that the development is a wide-ranging economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant development of the well-being of the entire population. It also believes to advance the conditions of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in the development process. In 1992, the General Assembly (Res. 47/181) requested the Secretary-General, Boutros-Ghali, to prepare an agenda for development (UN, 22 December 1992). The report submitted by the Secretary-General (Boutros-Ghali, 6 May 1994), plainly established the fact that the UN has initiated a process of re-examination and redefinition of development. Against this background, the 1990s witnessed major changes in the human rights and development connection. This relation has found expression in the rights-based approach to development. The main source of this linkage lies in the concept of the RTD that recognizes development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process in

which all human rights and basic freedoms can be assured. It has stated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (article I/8) that "democracy, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing" (UNHR, 1993). Between 1992 and 2001, a series of major international conferences and events were held: environment, human rights, population, social development, women, the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and racism. All these conferences explicitly made references to the right to development. The issue of implementation is internationally essential; however, developing countries, as well as the international community, need to be actively and meaningfully committed to strengthening international development cooperation.

4.1.2.4   *World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) (1987)*

The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) aimed to generate a unified global society with shared sustainability goals by means of recognizing sustainability problems worldwide, building consciousness about them, and telling the execution of solutions (Guido, Farzaneh, & Guo, 2012). In 1983, UN General Assembly (UNGA, 1983) passed Resolution 38/161 and in A/RES/38/161, and the General Assembly suggests that the Special Commission, when established, should focus mainly on the following terms of reference for its work: (a) To propose long-term ecological strategies for achieving sustainable development to the year 2000 and beyond; (b) To recommend ways in which concern for the environment may be interpreted into better collaboration among developing countries and between countries at dissimilar stages of economic and social development; (c) To think about ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environmental concerns; and (d) To assist to define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and of the suitable efforts desired to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment (UNGA, 1983). However, in 1987, the Brundtland Commission published the first volume of "Our Common Future," the organization's main report. The manuscript popularized and defined the term "Sustainable Development". The report efficiently demonstrated the meaning of sustainable development as "meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future generation" (Commission, Sustainability, 1987). It is raveled that after the ten years of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, a number of global

environmental challenges had clearly not been adequately addressed. These challenges had grown in a number of ways. Thus, there was a concrete need for a developmental concept that would permit the integration of economic development with environmental protection. For the duration of the 1980s, it had been exposed that the World Bank had started to experience an expanded task in superseding with the economic and social policies of the Third World. The ideas of neoliberalism and the institutions promoting economic globalization dominated the political agenda of the world. The Brundtland Report was intended as a response to the conflict between the nascent order promoting globalized economic growth and the accelerating ecological degradation occurring on a global scale (Commission, Sustainability, 1987). The challenge posed in the 1980s was to harmonize success with ecology. It was assumed finding the means to maintain economic growth without undue harm to the environment. For addressing the vital requirements of developing countries, the United Nations saw a need to hit an enhanced balance of human and environmental welfare.

4.1.2.5   *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (1992)*

The UN Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (3-14 June 1992), 20 years after the first global environmental conference in Stockholm. The most important spotlight of this talks was "the state of the global environment and the relationship between economics, science and the environment in a political context" (Meakin, 1992), so that it can be re-thinking about the global development agenda for including the sustainable use of natural resources. In this conference, the world leaders attempted to restructure the critical environmental issues by supporting a wide-ranging strategy. This approach aimed to gather existing socio-environmental needs though ensuring a sound and viable planet for the next generations. The representatives from 172 governments (including 108 heads of state) and the participation of 1,400 NGOs had ensured incomparable engagement at the Rio Summit (UN, 23 May 1997). Moreover, the marvelous outcomes of the talks incorporate the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Agenda 21, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Again, it also formed new-fangled global institutions, among them the Commission on Sustainable Development led to the reform of the universal environment facilities. The UNCED process offers a number of useful lessons for future environmental

negotiations with respect to the methods of issue clarification as well as to the functions of consensual knowledge, once it has been established (Wolf, 1994). It is also revealed that the Rio Summit was sharply criticized for its failure to incorporate the guideline of businesses, financial institutions, and transnational corporations in Agenda 21 in spite of their central role as carbon producers. In addition, numerous accords were left unmet after Rio, largely due to the United States' reluctance to sign major treaties. Agenda 21 is a non-binding action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development although it aims in achieving global sustainable development.

4.1.2.6   *International Conference on Population and Development (1994)*

The United Nations synchronized an International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, on 5 to13 September 1994 (UNFPA, 1994). It is recorded that, almost 20,000 delegates from different governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and the media assembled for a diversity of population matters, including immigration, infant mortality, birth control, family planning, the schooling of women, and safeguard for women from perilous abortion services (UN, 1995). In fact, the forum received significant media attention because of arguments concerning the statement of reproductive rights. The ICPD official report (UN, 2014) demonstrated that the conference got the consent on the following four qualitative and quantitative goals: a) the universal primary education in all countries by 2015 by advising countries to offer wider access to women for secondary and higher-level education as well as vocational and technical training; b) countries should strive to reduce infant and under-5 child mortality rates by one-third or to 50–70 deaths per 1000 by the year 2000. All countries should aim to achieve a rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000 by 2015; c) a reduction of maternal mortality by 1/2 the 1990 levels by 2000 and 1/2 of that by 2015. Inconsistencies in maternal mortality within countries and between geographical regions, socio-economic and ethnic groups should be lessened; and d) access to reproductive and sexual health services including family planning counseling, pre-natal care, safe delivery and post-natal care, prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility, prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion, treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually conveyed diseases and other reproductive health conditions. All these issues are not settled yet, but it has definitely added uncountable values to human wellbeing and development. Africa
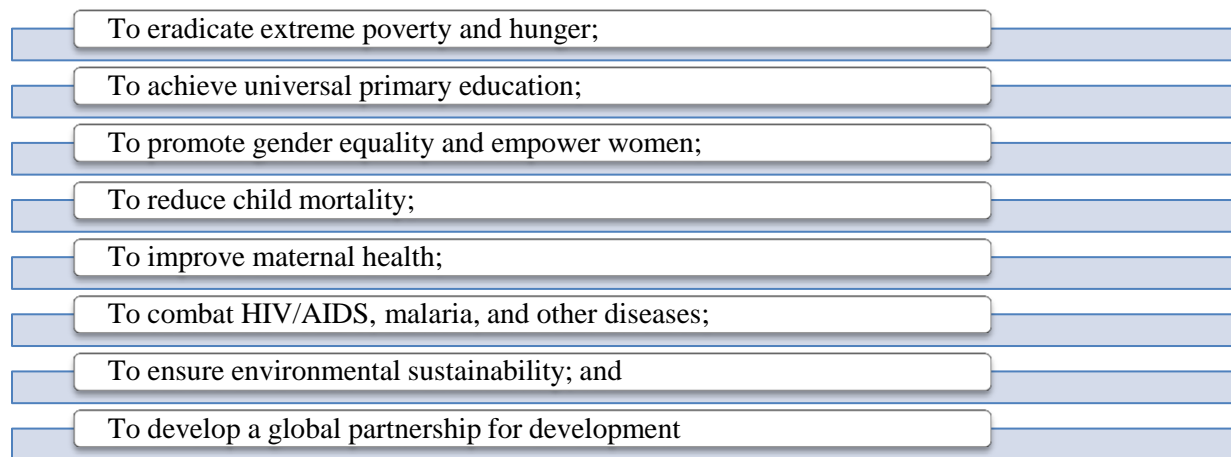
Regional Review Report (2009), however, found the following challenges and constraints: "a) international financial crisis, energy deficits, food crisis, and climatic change; b) profound dependence on the donor community for social protection, poverty reduction, and improvement interference belongs to almost in all countries; c) incapability to execute national plans and international agreement; d) inadequate participation and investment of the local private sector in communal development mainly in social security; e) lack of community participation and involvement in ICPD actions; and f) a continuous towering fertility rate, increase in population size, and weak economic performance" (AUC; UNECA; UNFPA, 2009).

4.1.2.7   World Summit for Social Development (1995)

The meeting on World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 6 to 12 March 1995 (UNDESA). The aim of the conference was to establish a people-centered structure for social development, to build a culture of cooperation and partnership and to respond to the urgent needs of individuals who are most affected by human suffering. The summit brought together over 118 world leaders to agree on a political Declaration to alleviate and diminish poverty, increase productive employment and improve social integration (Bernstein, Goree, Wagner, Wise, & Gadhoum, 1995). In addition, the summit (WSSD) brought together over 118 world leaders to agree on a political declaration and list of actions to lessen and reduce poverty, enlarge productive employment and enhance social integration. Thus, in the declaration, the outstanding questions to be resolved included debt termination; new and additional financial resources; respect for ILO conventions; human rights and national sovereignty; access to health care services; and countries with economies in changeover. However, regardless of tricky debates and some delegates wish to reconsider agreements reached throughout the Earth Summit in Rio, the Human Rights Conference in Vienna and the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, delegates managed to reach agreement on all these issues. For the first time, global society has expressed an understandable promise for eliminating absolute poverty and deficiency. As well, the UN documents have not formally addressed the need for collectively responsible structural adjustment and larger responsibility by the Bretton Woods institutions to the UN structure. Lastly, it is also believed that the WSSD highlighted the fact that the empowerment of civil society is important for sound social development strategy.

The Millennium Summit (UN, 2000) of the United Nations had been approved the United Nations Millennium Declaration (UNGA, 2000) consisting of eight international development goals (UN, 2000) (MDGs) for the year 2015. The then 191members states of the UN along with least 22 international organizations assured for attaining the following Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
To achieve universal primary education;
To promote gender equality and empower women;
To reduce child mortality;
To improve maternal health;
To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
To ensure environmental sustainability; and
To develop a global partnership for development

Figure 1 Millennium Development Goals 2000

These above-mentioned goals were measured by 18 targets. To speed up progress in achieving targets, the G8 finance ministers agreed in June 2005 to afford enough funds to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and this step was taken to cancel $40 to $55 billion in debt payable by members of the profoundly indebted poor countries to allow them for redirecting resources to programs for improving health and education and for alleviating poverty (Project, 2005). However, the MDGs had been criticized for the lack of analysis and validation behind the preferred objectives, and the obscurity or lack of measurements for some goals and uneven progress among countries. Moreover, the developed nations have supported for achieving the MDGs rose throughout the challenge period, but more than half went for debt relief and much of the rest going towards natural disaster relief and military aid, rather than additional development. Finally, some countries achieved many goals, while others were not heading in the right direction to understand a single one.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (known as Earth Summit II), held on 26 August to 4 September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa (Shah, 2002). This summit was convened to talk about sustainable development by the United Nations. However, the background against the summit (WSSD) was the issue of environmental degradation caused by human actions in attaining speedy economic growth, threatening the course of life-supporting natural process and depleting the resources those future generations will require for their development and prosperity. This was followed by the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 when an important agenda of sustainable development was agreed to. After the recognition of the Brundtland Commission Report by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), numerous international institutions made an essential promise to sustainable development. The Rio Summit determined to fix targets, draw time tables and name partnerships (Shah, 2002).

Figure 2 Targets of Rio Earth Summit in 1992

The Earth Summit-I in 1992 had an extremely broad and ambitious agenda on climate change, depletion of ozone layer, shrinking of tropical rain forests, loss of bio-diversities, worldwide loss of topsoil and a lot of issues intimately linked to the alleviation of poverty in terms of income, health, education, food, and nutrition. The Earth Summit-II in 2002 repeated the global commitment to sustainable development for ensuring the relationship between nature's resources and human needs. It had also determined to build humanitarian, equitable and caring global community awareness about the need for human dignity for all. The Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment Report 2000 (WHO; UNICEF, 2000) reported that nearly one of five

people, or 1.2 billion men, women and children have no access to freshwater and incredibly 2.4 billion experience from lack of sufficient sanitation. Another report found that "to meet the MDG sanitation target, over 1.6 billion more people need to gain access to improved sanitation over the coming decade, the main challenge being in developing countries" (WHO; UNICEF, 2006). Thus, people suffering water and sanitation allied diseases are unable to maintain their own livelihoods or to contribute to the socio-economic development platform. As a result, the road towards sustainable development is hampered.

4.1.2.10   United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) had multifaceted and far-reaching objectives and strategies particularly about learning (Bernard P. Y. Combes, 2005). Among them, the environmental, social, and economic implications are massive and touch many aspects of the life of the world's population. However, the overall purpose of the DESD was to incorporate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. The primary goal for the DESD is laid out in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 59/237 in which the General Assembly invites Governments to promote public consciousness of and wider participation in the Decade (UNGA, 2005). Thus, the objectives for the DESD was a) to facilitate networking, linkages, exchange, and interaction among stakeholders in education for sustainable development; b) to foster an increased quality of teaching and learning in education for sustainable development; c) to help countries make development towards and attain the millennium development goals; and d) to provide countries with new opportunities to incorporate education reform efforts.

4.1.2.11   The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) (2012)

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) which is also known as Earth Summit 2012 was the third international conference on sustainable development intended at integration the economic and environmental goals of the international community (UN, 2012). It was a 20-year follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Firstly, this mega-summit was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and included participation

from 192 UN member states including 57 Heads of State and 31 Heads of Government, private sector companies, NGOs and other groups. Secondly, it was intended to be a sophisticated conference including heads of state and government resulting in a focused political document designed to form global environmental policy. Moreover, Rio+20 wanted to safe affirmations for the political commitments made at past Earth Summits. Thirdly, the UN wanted Rio to endorse a green economy roadmap with environmental goals, targets, and deadlines. Whereas, developing countries preferred establishing new sustainable development goals to protect the environment, guarantee food and power to the poorest, and alleviate poverty. Finally, the summit attracted many protests, and more than 500 parallel events, exhibitions, presentations, fairs and announcements as a wide range of diverse groups struggled to take advantage of the conference in order to gain international attention.

4.1.2.12   Sustainable development Goals-2030

The notion of "sustainable development" has become a "buzzword" (Cornwall, 2007) which means "resource-use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generations may also have their needs met" (Commission, Sustainability, 1987). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030. The SDGs are part of Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly as "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (UN, 2015). The goals are broad and interdependent, yet each has a separate list of targets to achieve. Achieving all 169 targets would signal to accomplish all 17 goals. The 169 targets are measured with 232 indicators. The SDGs cover social, economic and environmental development issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water, sanitation, affordable energy, decent work, inequality, urbanization, global warming, environment, social justice, and peace. However, the key to making the SDGs successful is to make the data on the 17 goals available and understandable. The Post-2015 Development Agenda was a process from 2012 to 2015 led by the United Nations to define the future global development framework that would succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs were developed to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended in 2015. The gaps and shortcomings of MDG Goal 8 (to develop a global partnership for development) led to identifying a problematic "donor-

recipient" relationship. As a substitute, the new SDGs favor collective action by all countries. But, the scholars are having doubt that the whole goals, targets, and indications will not be attainable by 2030 equally. Bangladesh is one of the most successful countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The government also contributed to the process of developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Bangladesh's proposal to the United Nations (UN) in 2013 contained 11 Goals, 58 targets, and 241 indicators. The targets identified for Bangladesh under the country study overlap with the targets proposed by the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs to a significant extent. During the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) the new global agenda SDGs were adopted by all member nations of the United Nations. The new Agenda focusing on 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets are integrated and indivisible. Alongside, it is continuing development priorities such as poverty eradication, health, education, food security, and nutrition; it sets out a wide range of economic and environmental objectives. It also promises more peaceful and inclusive societies. It also, crucially, defines means of implementation.

4.2 Summary

To conclude this chapter four, it can be noted again that the United Nations (UN) is an international organization that has been originated several international conventions, treaties, and strategies regarding development issues. Among them, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is coordinating all issues connected to the environment including offering assistance to third world countries to implement policies that are environmentally sound. In the ground, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is also working for the conservation of nature and sustainable consumption of natural resources.

Furthermore, the endeavor of Right to Development (RTD) is to ensure economic, social and cultural development. The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) worked for ensuring a unified global society with shared sustainability goals by means of recognizing sustainability problems worldwide. Besides, the most important spotlight of the Conference on Environment and Development was "the state of the global environment and the relationship between economics, science and the environment in a political context" (Meakin, 1992). Again, the meeting on World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) aimed to establish

a people-centered structure for social development, to build a culture of cooperation and partnership.

In addition, the United Nations Millennium Declaration (UNGA, 2000) had been included eight international development goals (UN, 2000) for the year 2015. Though the Earth Summit II (2002) was convened to talk about sustainable development by the United Nations, the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) had extended the concept of sustainable development with multifaceted and far-reaching objectives especially about teaching (Bernard P. Y. Combes, 2005). Thus, Earth Summit III (2012) was intended to integrate the economic and environmental goals of the international community (UN, 2012). Finally, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015) is ongoing and it has broad and interdependent goals with a specific set of targets.

4.3   References

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CHAPTER FIVE

5. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN BANGLADESH

5.1 Introduction

Bangladesh is one of the highest growing market-based economies in the globe. As said by the United Nations report (Ahasan, 2019), Bangladesh will be the third fastest-growing economy in the world in terms of achieving high GDP in 2019. Bangladesh's economic freedom score is 55.6, making it's economy the 121st freest in the 2019 index (Index, 2019). It is also classified amongst the next eleven rising market middle profits economies and a frontier market. According to the IMF, Bangladesh's economy is the second-fastest-growing major economy (Tribune, 2014) of 2016, with a rate of 7.1%. In the decade, Bangladesh averaged a GDP growth of 6.5% that has been largely driven by its exports of handy garments, remittances, and the domestic farming segment. It is tactically important for the economies of Northeast India, Nepal and Bhutan, as Bangladeshi seaports offer marine entrance for these non-coastal regions and countries (Express, 2013). However, the per-capita income was expected as per IMF data at US$4,561 (PPP) and US$1,754 (Nominal) in 2018 (Rahman M. F., 2015). It is also observed that Bangladesh holds membership in a number of international and regional development and financial organizations such as D-8, SAARC, IMF, WB, ADB, AIIB, and so on. But the country faces challenges of infrastructure bottlenecks, insufficient power and gas supplies, bureaucratic corruption, political unsteadiness, natural calamities and a lack of skilled human resources.

5.2 Achievements in Different 5-Year Plan Periods

Since the liberation of the country, it has taken a number of five-year plans for the development of the country by reducing poverty and hunger for ensuring basic human needs and well being of the people. The following table has been presented for getting at quick information about different five-year plans of Bangladesh.

Specific Plan	Plan Periods (FY)	Average GDP Growth Rate		Per Capita GDP growth	Per Capita GNI**	Life** Expectancy	Foreign Reserve	Headcount Poverty Ratio***
		Plan (%)	Actual (%)	(%)	USD	Years	Million USD*	(%)
First Plan	1973-1978	5.5	4.0	1.3	111	53.07	-	82.1
Second Plan	1980-1985	5.4	3.8	1.5	145	55.10	395	69.9
Third Plan	1985-1990	5.4	3.8	1.6	204	56.10	520	56.6
Fourth Plan	1990-1995	5.0	4.2	2.4	253	58.70	3070	50.1
Fifth Plan	1997-2002	7.1	5.1	3.5	431	64.90	1583	48.9
Sixth Plan	2011-2015	7.3	6.3	4.9	1314	70.70	24141	24.8
Seventh Plan	2016-2020	8	8.1	-	-	72.3	33000 (up to July 2019)	21.8

Source: GED, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and Seventh Plan

5.3   Development Approach of the 7th Five Year Plan

It is mentioned based on the suggestions of the 6th five-year plan that the development strategy of the government is on track and the challenge for the 7th Plan is to construct on the successes though taking further actions to tackle the parts of deficits (GED, 2015). The 7th FYP, prominently, across financial years 2016-2020, begins with the country has entered the ranks of middle-income countries. The 7th Plan also corresponds with commencing the UN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the 7th Plan (GED, 2015) seeks to elevate the GDP growth rate increased from 6.5% in FY15 to 8% by FY20 and the average growth rate is projected at 7.4% over the period. The 7th FYP will guarantee that gracious strategies and policies for making the growth path comprehensive, responsive and flexible to the enduring transformations, and for ensuring resilient to climate change over the long term devoid of damaging the natural environment. The strategy of inclusive growth will empower the community by creating employment opportunities, developing the span for greater workforce involvement, allowing access to credit for small and medium endeavors, and improving health and education for people to be supplementary productive. Thus, inclusiveness is intended to

capture more than income, to include opportunity, productive employment, and access to services for the marginalized and physically challenged people.

5.3.1 Goals and Targets of the 7th Five Year Plan

The fifth-year panning is mostly continuous procedures in Bangladesh. The 7th FYP also illustrates the extension of the main goals articulated in the 6th FYP. The central parts of the targets are presented according to the vision and goals of the Perspective Plan:

a) Income and Poverty
- Achieving an average real GDP growth rate of 7.4% per year over the Plan period;
- Lessening in the head-count poverty proportion by 6.2 percentage points;
- Diminution in severe poverty by about 4.0 percentage points; and
- Creating excellent jobs for the large team of unemployed and fresh workforce.

b) Sector Development
- Important growth of the agriculture, industry and service sectors;
- Increase the contribution of the manufacturing segment to 21% of GDP by FY20;
- Significant enhancement of exports to $54.1 billion by FY20; and
- Attaining a trade GDP ratio of 50% by FY20.

c) Macroeconomic Improvement
- Total revenue to be raised from 10.7% of GDP to 16.1% by FY20;
- Maintain the current fiscal deficit of 5% of GDP;
- Government spending to be increased to 21.1% of GDP by FY20; and
- FDI to be increased substantially to $9.6 billion by FY20.

d) Urban Development
- Infrastructural investment and civic facilities in urban growth centers especially around Special Economic Zones;
- Comprehensive housing and other civic services for people living in informal settlements and slums;
- Complete urban planning based on sustainable land use planning and zoning; and
- Increased productivity, entrance to finance, and policy support for urban micro-small and medium enterprises.

e) Human Resource Development

- Achieving 100% net enrolment rate for primary and secondary education;

- Minimizing below 5 mortality rate to 37 per 1000 live birth;

- Reducing the maternal mortality ratio to 105 per 100,000 live births;

- Reducing the percentage of malnourished children among under-five children to 20 percent;

- Increasing births attended by skilled health staff to 65 percent;

- Decreasing total fertility rate to 2.0; and

- Escalating Contraceptive Prevalence Rate to 75 percent.

f) Water and Sanitation

- Ensuring safe drinking water for all;

- Increasing ratio of urban population with access to sanitary latrines to 100 percent; and

- Raising the quantity of rural population with access to sanitary latrines to 90 percent.

g) Energy and Infrastructure

- Installed Generation Capacity of electricity to be increased to 23,000 MW by 2020;

- Electricity coverage to be increased to 96 percent with uninterrupted supply to industries;

- Reduce system loss from 13% to 9%, improve energy efficiency & conservation;

- Construction of 6.15 km. long Padma Multipurpose Bridge at Mawa-Janjira;

- Construction of about 26 km. long Dhaka Elevated Expressway;

- Construction of Dhaka-Chittagong expressway and up-gradation of Dhaka-Chittagong highway to 4-6 lanes;

- Improve the multimodal transport network with a significant increase in the share of rail and waterways traffic;

- Reduce urban traffic congestion with focus on Dhaka and Chittagong cities;

- Reduce the incidence of road accidents; and

- Completion of the following high Priority Mega Projects: Padma Bridge, Deep Sea Port Project; Payra Port Project; Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project; Rampal Coal Power Project; Matarbari Coal Power Project

h) Gender equality, income inequality, and social protection

- Female to male ratio in tertiary education to be raised from the current 70 percent to 100 percent;

- The ratio of literate female to male for the age group 20-24 to be raised to 100 percent from the current 86 percent;
- Encourage female enrolment in technical and vocational education;
- Reduce or maintain the current income inequality of 0.45; and
- Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3% of GDP.

i) Environmental Sustainability

- Increase productive forest coverage to 20 percent;
- Improve air quality in Dhaka and other large cities and enact Clean Air Act;
- At least 15% of the wetland in peak dry season is protected as an aquatic sanctuary;
- 500 meter wide permanent green belt established and protected along the coast;
- Environmental, Climate Change, and disaster risk reduction considerations are integrated into project design, budgetary allocations, and implementation process; and
- Canals and natural water flows of Dhaka and other major cities restored.

j) ICT Development

- Improve internet dissemination to 100% and broadband coverage to 50%;
- All primary schools and secondary schools to have at least 1 and 3 multimedia classrooms along with ICT laboratory respectively;
- 25% of Community Health Clinics provide teleconsultation with specialists in urban areas;
- Most vital government services are made available at all Digital Centres, through the national portal, and over mobile devices;
- Open government data and big data analysis are regularly used in public decision support;
- Increase domestic ICT earnings to $2 billion and export earnings to $2 billion; 1 million trained HR for the ICT industry; and
- Expenditure on Research and Development to constitute 1 % of GDP.

5.3.2 Implications for the Seventh Plan

In general, the positive record of Sixth Plan implementation and associated progress in development measured in terms of poverty reduction, employment, human development and growth in incomes. It has significant gains in moving towards the targets of Vision 2021.

Particularly, Bangladesh has attained a lower-middle-income category earlier than in 2021 while also achieved the MDG targets in most areas, especially poverty reduction. There are four areas where the Seventh Plan would investigate deeper and take a more focused and inclusive approach than was possible in the Sixth Plan. The first concern is necessitating building stronger institutions. The strengthening of the judiciary, the Elections Commission and other democratic institutions are also long-term challenges that will be continued. Secondly, building implementation capacity in public agencies and ministries requires further efforts. Thirdly, stronger policy focus will be given to the area of income inequality. In particular, the transformation of public finances that increases the equity of tax collection and public spending is of considerable importance. Finally, the plans in environmental administration and climate change will be fortified and integrated into the mainstream economic policy supervision. The combination of climate change and environmental management issues in growth and fiscal policy management will be an additional high concern issue for the Seventh Plan.

5.4   *The Perspective Plan 2010-2021*

The Perspective Plan 2010-2021 has set a number of solid development targets for Bangladesh by the end of 2021. If these targets achieved the socio-economic environment of Bangladesh from a low-income economy to the first stages of a middle-income economy will be transformed. The Vision 2021 lays down a development setting where citizens will have a privileged standard of living, will be improved educated, will face enhanced social justice, will have a more equitable socio-economic environment, and the sustainability of development will be ensured through better protection from climate change and natural disasters. The associated political environment will be based on democratic principles with emphasis on human rights, freedom of expression, rule of law, equality of citizens irrespective of race, religion, and creed, and equality of opportunities. The Bangladesh economy will be managed within the framework of a market economy with appropriate government interventions to correct market distortions, to ensure equality of opportunities, and to ensure equity and social justice for all. First, the goals of long-run stability and prosperity cannot be achieved without building effective institutions for sound overall governance. The Government recognizes that without fundamental reforms of core institutions, improvement in public administration capacity and a strong anti-corruption strategy, the ability to implement Vision 2021 and the underlying five-year development plans and the

Perspective Plan will be seriously compromised. Second, the macroeconomic framework of the Perspective Plan will support the strategies and policy guidelines to attain the development vision through ensuring macroeconomic stability over the long-term. Third, the Perspective Plan aims yearly real GDP growth rate to rise to 8% by 2015, and further to 10% by 2021, considerably improving living standards of the people by radically reducing unemployment and poverty, riding on substantially higher output and export growth, while maintaining macroeconomic stability. Fourth, manufacturing is the major and important sector within a large industry which also includes such activities as power generation, water and sewage, and mining and quarrying. However, Bangladesh has embraced globalization, the right policy framework and infrastructure needs to grab opportunities in the coming days and to address challenges. Fifth, addressing the multilateral trading regime will mean coping with the challenges of asymmetric and inequitable trading rules that are harmful to the trading interests and performance of LDCs, including Bangladesh. Moreover strengthening our balance of payments position, remittance inflows have had a momentous impact on poverty reduction. Sixth, the perspective plan means to build up an efficient, sustainable, safe and regionally balanced transportation system in which a variety of modes complement each other, interface appropriately and, provide healthy competition. Seventh, it is projected that by the year 2021 nearly 33% of the population of Bangladesh will be living in urban areas. The remarkable challenges of absorbing such a huge number of people in urban areas are food, shelter, employment, healthcare, education, municipal services, and recreation facilities. Finally, the goal of the perspective plan is to implement strategies to protect Bangladesh from the unpleasant effects of climate change and global warming. It has also taken necessary actions to protect the vulnerable people from natural calamities, to take action for the prevention of industry and transport-related air pollution and to ensure the disposal of waste in a scientific manner.

5.5   Integration of SDGs into 7th Five Year Planning

The inter-ministerial consultation workshop on "Integration of SDGs into the 7th Five Year Plan" held on 04-07 December 2015 at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (GED, February 2016). The workshop successfully found out some linkages between the SDGs document and the seventh five-year planning. The workshop revealed that the Five Year Plan for the period FY2016-2020 is a national landmark policy paper in a participatory and inclusive manner that directs the

development interventions in the pubic area and provides tracking to the whole national development for a period of 5 years. It is also exposed that the plan focuses on pro-poor financial growth, sustainable development and risk resilience with the dream of accelerating growth, and empowering the general public. The monitoring and evaluation along with the comprehensive development results framework have been organized in inclusive association and consultation with government and nongovernment stakeholders for observing the document. The results based system would help the government to monitor performance and advancement on implementation of the 7th Five Year Plan. However, throughout the formulation of the 7th plan document, the proposed goals by UN Open Working Group (OWG) were incredibly gained into concern with the intention that the possible goals of the SDGs can be demonstrated in the national plan. Moreover, the goals of SDGs were provided importance though setting up the main concern areas of the 7FYP. Consequently, the UNDP supported the Sustainable and Inclusive Planning (SSIP) project extensively provided technical assistance to the GED for the preparation of the 7th Five Year Plan with a robust results-based monitoring system and Bangladesh proposal on SDGs to the UN (GED, February 2016).

5.6 Sustainable Development Goals and Bangladesh

The world has the opportunity to agree upon a new global sustainable development framework between 25 and 27 September 2015 during the 70th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The agreed Sustainable Development Goals during the 70th UNGA will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), forged in the year 2000. Bangladesh has made creditable progress in achieving most of the goals set in MDGs. However, the 8 goals of MDGs somehow unnoticed to consider the root causes of poverty, or gender inequality, or the urgency of the holistic nature of development. In this environment, the UN Member States engaged in discourse for setting a complete development agenda beyond 2015 at the September 2010 MDG Summit, with the end date of the MDGs insight (GED, September 2015).

5.6.1 Bangladesh Proposal to UN

The main objective of the Post-2015 consultation process in Bangladesh led during 2013 by the General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, was to expand the debates and ensure people's active participation in the negotiations. The country consultations were designed

to stimulate an inclusive debate on formulation of a post-2015 development agenda by providing an analytical base, inputs and ideas that (a) build a shared global vision; (b) amplify the voices of the poor and other marginalized group; and (c) influence the inter-governmental processes (GED, September 2015). The first round of post-2015 national consultations provided opportunities for the country to reflect and draw upon its experiences with the MDG framework, and to ensure that the goals set are relevant to Bangladesh development context. The GoB conducted the first National Expert Level Consultation Conference that 'kick-off' the national consultation process on 10 November 2012. The aim of the conference was to identify gaps and challenges that exist in relation to sustainable development and generate ideas on preliminary goals, targets, and indicators for the Post-2015 development agenda. The draft framework was reviewed by various experts from the UN System who provided insights and inputs for inclusion in May 2013. The national document of Bangladesh contains 11 goals, 58 targets and 241 indicators. The goals set are:

Goal 1: Unleash human potentials for sustainable development;

Goal 2: Eradicate poverty and reduce inequality;

Goal 3: Ensure sustainable food security and nutrition for all;

Goal 4: Universal access to health and family planning services;

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality;

Goal 6: Ensure quality education and skills for all;

Goal 7: Increase employment opportunities and ensure worker rights;

Goal 8: Ensure good governance;

Goal 9: Promote sustainable production and consumption;

Goal 10: Ensure environmental sustainability and disaster management; and

Goal 11: Strengthen international cooperation and partnership for sustainable development.

5.6.2   SDGs in National Plan of Bangladesh

Taking the UN Millennium Declaration into consideration, Bangladesh mainstreamed the goals in its developmental agenda which is clearly reflected through either in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or ongoing Sixth Five Year Plan. As the terminal year of MDGs and 6th FYP coincides, implementing one, ultimately paves the way for implementing the other. Bangladesh is now implementing its Seventh Five Year Plan (7th FYP) for the period of 2016-2020. While

formulating the plan document, the proposed goals by both OWG were well taken into consideration so that the proposed goals of the SDGs can be illustrated in the national plan. As the goals, targets and indicators of the SDGs are well taken care of in the formulation process of the 7th FYP of Bangladesh, it can be said that the country will be an 'early starter' in the implementation process of the SDGs. In addition, being a commendable achiever of the MDGs and 'early starter' of SDGs, Bangladesh will perform well in attaining the SDGs goals and targets that will be signed by the head of the states in September 2015.

Firstly, eradicating poverty and hunger would be central to the post-2015 development agenda. Although the MDG targets of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger have been met or almost met, the world is still far from reaching the MDG goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Secondly, women's participation in the decision-making process has also marked a significant improvement in the country. There has been a sharp increase in the number of women parliamentarians elected in 2014 (20 percent) compared to 1991 (12.73 percent). According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2014, Bangladesh ranks 10th position out of 142 countries in the political empowerment sphere and was awarded the prestigious Women in Parliaments Global Forum award in 2015. However, wage employment for women in Bangladesh is still low. Only one out of every five women is engaged in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.

Thirdly, the challenge in completing the full cycle of primary and secondary education requires attention as it results in a lower level of female enrolment at the higher secondary and tertiary levels. Poverty and other hidden costs of education are major causes of dropouts, especially in rural areas. Other factors that contribute to dropouts of the girl students at the secondary level include violence against girls, restricted mobility, lack of separate toilet facilities for girls, fewer female teachers at secondary level, and lack of girls' hostel facilities.

Fourthly, poverty and other hidden costs of education and some factors that contribute to lower enrolment of girls in tertiary education include violence against girls, restricted mobility, wage increase and widening labor market, and lack of adequate girls' hostel facilities. As a result, more attention is needed to achieve gender parity in tertiary education.

Fifthly, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2014, Bangladesh ranks 68th out of 142 countries with an overall score of 0.6973. Its rank was, however, 76th in 2013. The encouraging fact is that Bangladesh ranks 10th position out of 142 countries in the political empowerment sphere. It was internationally acclaimed when Bangladesh was awarded the prestigious Women in Parliaments Global Forum award, known as the WIP award, in 2015 for its outstanding success in closing the gender gap in the political sphere (WEF, 2014).

Sixthly, according to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 of the United Nations, the Global number of deaths of children under five was 12.7 million in 1990, which has come down to 6 million in 2015 (UN, 2015). Improving maternal health is part of the unfinished agenda that remained for the post-2015 period. Goal 5 brought a concentrated focus on efforts to reduce maternal deaths and ensure universal access to reproductive health.

Lastly, Although Bangladesh is not a big emitter of CO_2 and the country has no obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions given its LDC status, the government has identified mitigation and low carbon development as one of the priority areas in its Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009. Bangladesh submitted its Second National Communication (SNC) to UNFCCC in 2012. Bangladesh is very low in the global context. However, there are some major areas of intervention to reduce emissions such as power generation, transportation and industrial production (GED, September 2015).

5.7   Challenges of Development in Bangladesh

The common risks and challenges of development in Bangladesh are as followed:
  a) A quarter of the population of 160 million still living below the poverty line, faster growth is a necessary condition for attacking poverty (GED, 2015);
  b) The Sixth Plan clearly highlights the inefficiency of domestic investment for realizing the highest benefits out of the limited public sector investments;
  c) Limited allocations to the priority social sector programs in the health and education sectors for creating better human capital;
  d) Increasing the inflow of foreign investment in Bangladesh to 3% of GDP would be critical for achieving the financing of the investment target of the 7th Plan;

e) Lack of transparency in the tendering process and ensuring quality at different phases of project implementation, and making contractors responsible even after the delivery of projects;

f) The natural risks such as cyclone and flood may set back the progress on the Plan by diverting resources and attention of the policymakers away from plan implementation;

g) Public sector resource mobilization has always been the most important constraint in expanding the investment program to meet the growing infrastructure demand, and meet the needs of expanding social spending in education, health, and social protection;

h) The most important issues and challenges facing Bangladesh agriculture are backdated agricultural technology; lack of diversification of production; lacking of private sector participation in the agriculture and agribusiness; instability of production; loss of arable land; huge yield gap; absence of irrigation and farm mechanization through suitable technology; and lack of resilience to climate change impacts;

i) The population growth rose from 29 million in 1901 to 130 in 2001 which is expected to rise to 181 million by 2025 and 224 million by 2050 (GED, 2015). It will continue to adversely apply pressure on all-natural resources especially land and water, and so special attention needs to be given to this challenge; and

j) Gender discrimination is an obstacle towards females attaining education. In higher education, just 40% of the enrolled students are female (GED, 2015). This inequality in enrolment and attainment can be traced to social norms and practices.

5.8 Conclusion

To summarize it can be stated that the government acknowledges that under changing socio-economic and environmental conditions, a sustainable development agenda is imperative for ensuring the quality of life of its citizens. Bangladesh is expected to grow considerably in the years to come, and with increased industrialization, the state of the environment will be further jeopardized without a sustainable development approach. As the global community sets development goals for the next 15 years, issues such as the environment, climate change, and resilience have rightfully taken precedence. However, sustainable use of resources for production and consumption pattern has been considered along with measures to ensure further efficiency. For ensuring environmental sustainability and disaster management, the climate change

adaptation into the core component of sustainable development, and increase the resilience of communities, and encouraging regional and global cooperation for disaster forecasting and managing post-disaster situation. For strengthening international cooperation and partnership for sustainable development, the opportunities for promoting collaboration among government, participation of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic entities have been included as objectives.

5.9 Reference

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CHAPTER SIX

6. DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

6.1   Introduction

Data have been analyzed and described in this chapter. A total of 100 respondents have been selected from 26 different government and no-government organizations, departments and ministries for collecting primary data. Data have been transformed into information and a brief description has been provided after the graphs and figure. The survey questionnaire has been divided into five sections namely demographic profile, the UN policies implementation status, utilization of the UN conventions, the UN conventions and developing countries, and policy options for further development. At the last part, information from focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant information (KII) have been incorporated. At the end of this chapter, a brief summary has been provided for summarizing the discussion.

6.2   Demographic Profile

The demographic information of the respondents is provided in the following pages with a number of graphs and figures and a brief description has also been presented for straightforward understanding.
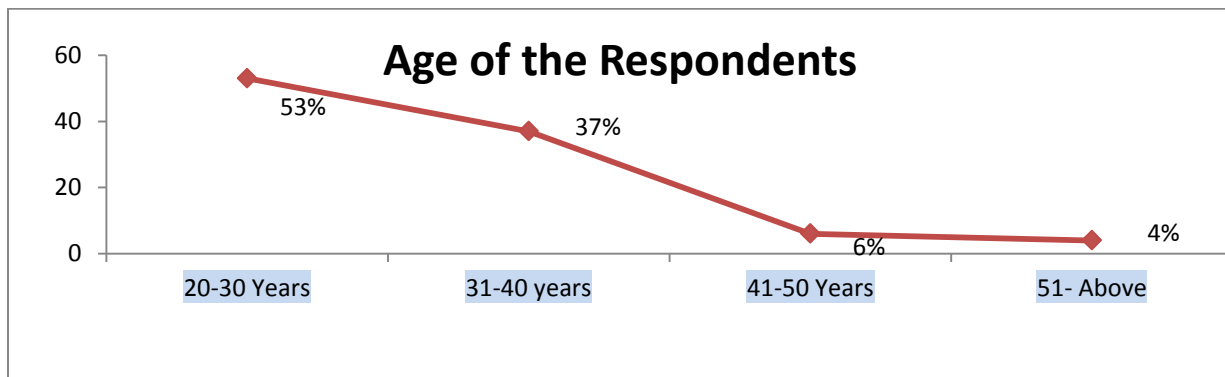

Figure 3: Age of the Respondents

The line graph depicts that most of the respondents belong to age group 20-30 which is about above fifty percent whereas the least (about 4%) group belong to age group 51-above. The rests of the two groups belong to age group 31-40 and 41-50; those are 37% and 6% respectively.
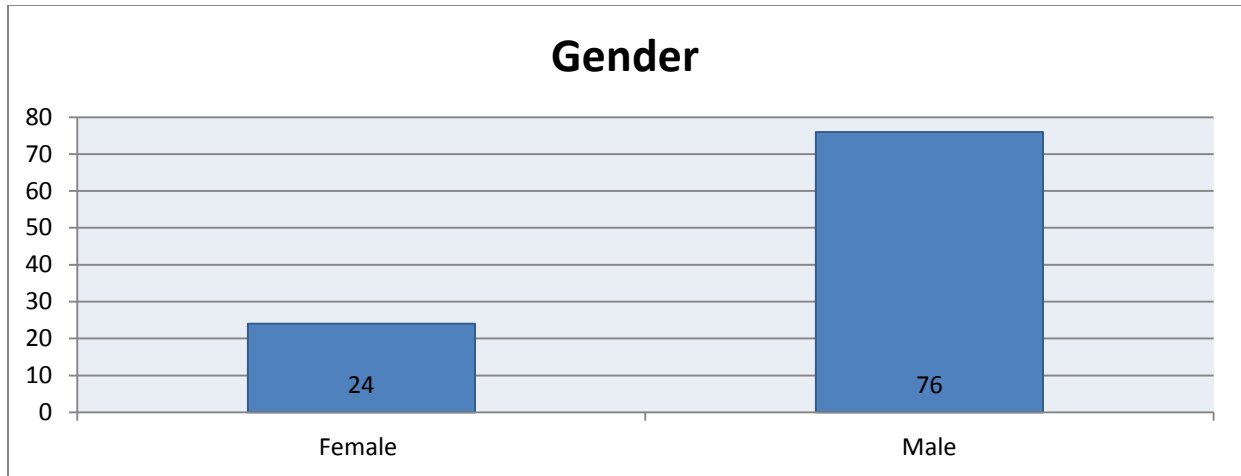
Gender

Figure 4: Gender of the Respondents

The graph illustrates that 76% of respondents are male on the other hand 24% of respondents are female.
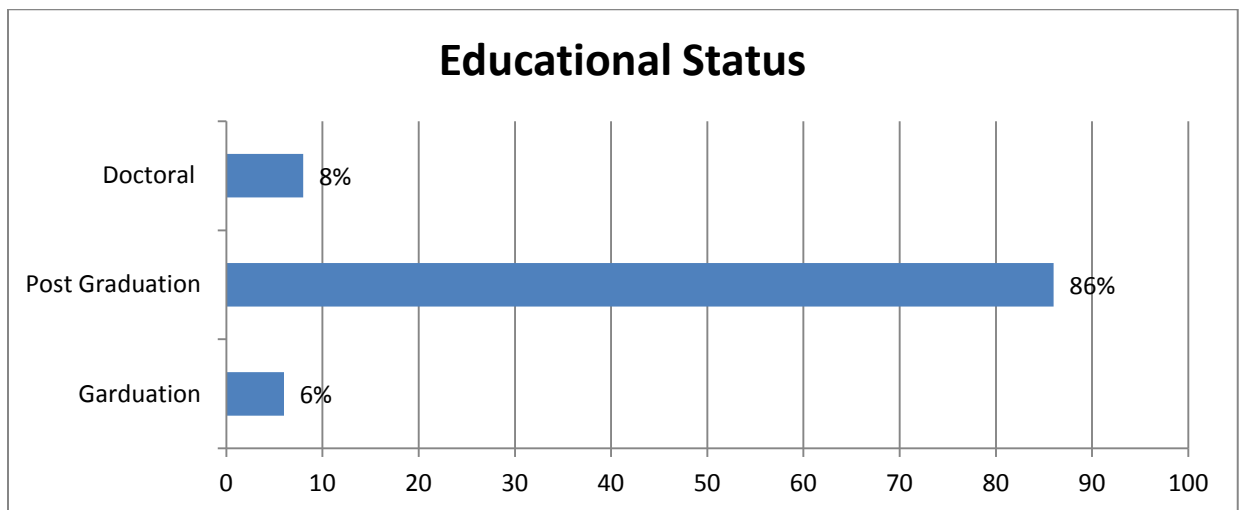
Educational Status

Figure 5: Educational Qualification of the Respondents

The bar diagram shows that most of the respondents are postgraduates which is about eighty-sixed percent whereas 6 % of respondents are graduates and 8% are doctoral (such as M. Phil and PhD). It partially represents that the respondents has the knowledge about the development issue and understanding about global development agenda. As most of the respondents are working at different organizations so that they well oriented with the development activities of the government.
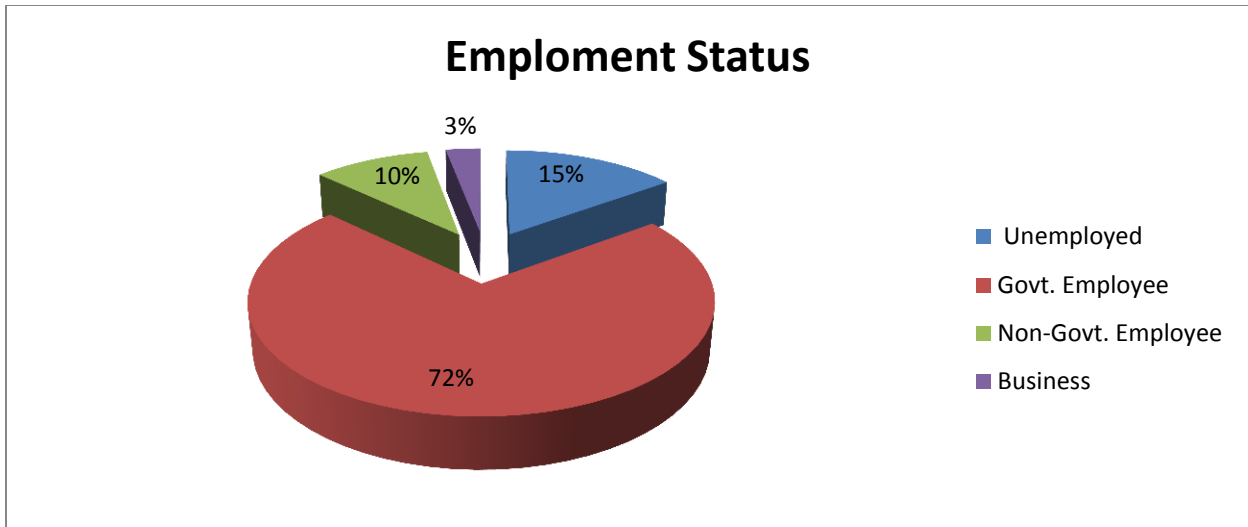
Figure 6: Employment History of the Respondents

The pie chart demonstrates that the significant portions, nearly 72%, of the respondents are a government employee. However, 13% of respondents belong to business and non-government community and the rest of the 15% are in between jobs, mostly completed under graduation from the university.
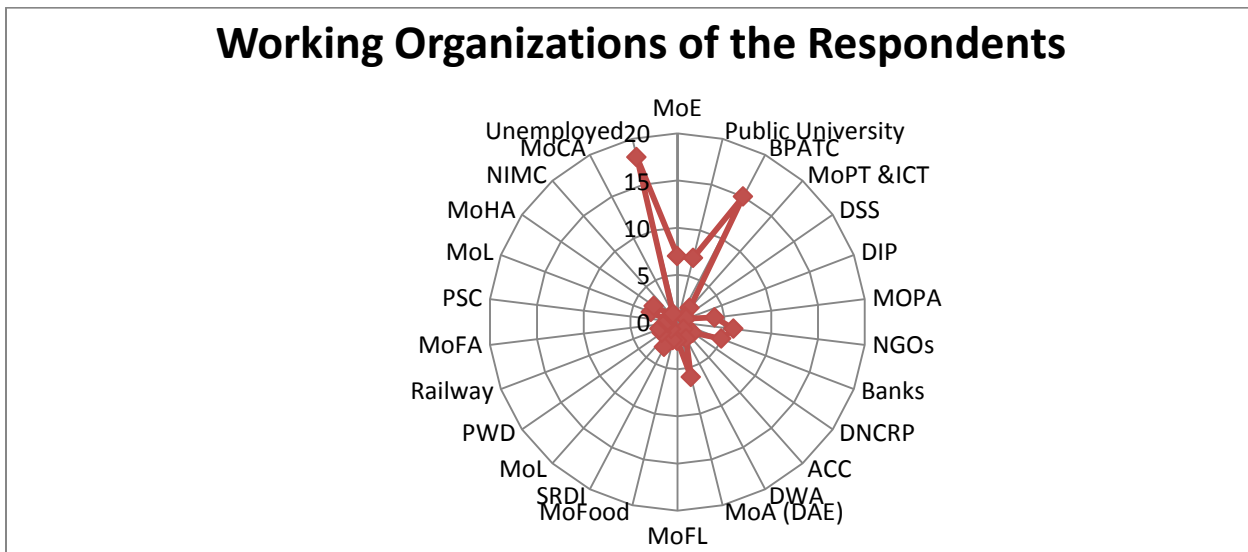
Figure 7: Working Organizations of the Respondents

The radar represents the working organizations, departments, and ministries of the respondents of this research. This graph shows that data is collected from the 26 categories of respondents. The significant portions of the respondents are from BPATC, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs and banks. However, other groups like the Anti Corruption Commission, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Home Affairs, and

departments (such as Social Service, Consumer Right Protection, Women Affairs, Immigration, and Passport) are also included in this data collection process. These categories of respondents have the experience of different field of development procedure aligning with government and development goals, targets and strategic plans.

6.3   UN Policies Implementation Status

The following graphs and diagrams have been illustrated the scenario of accomplishment of the overall UN policies on sustainable development. This platform has also exposed implementation policies, plans and limitations in Bangladesh.
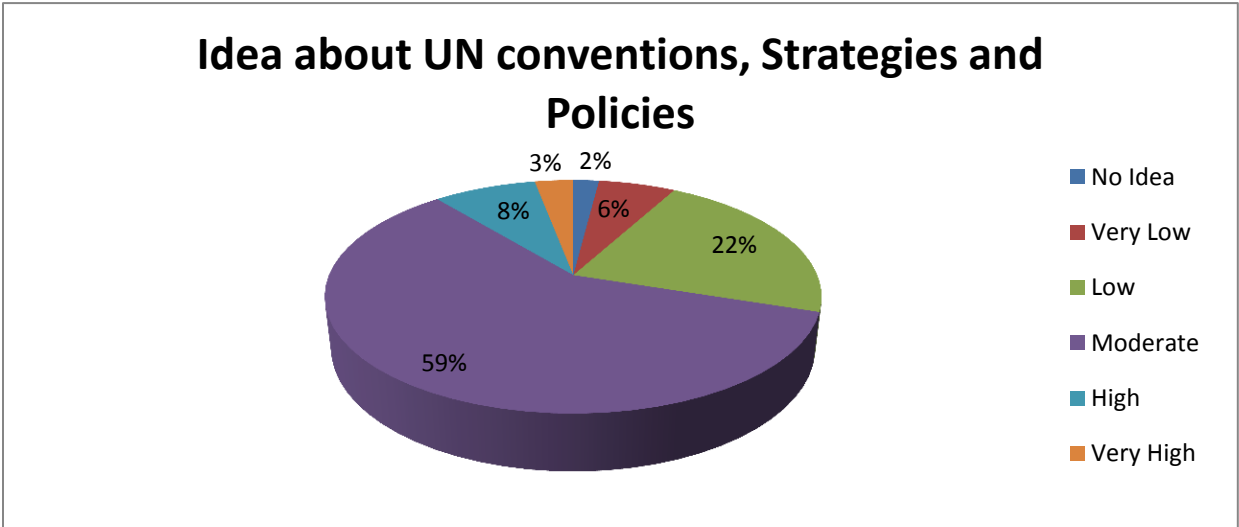

Figure 8: Idea of the Respondent about the UN Conventions

The pie chat represents that the significant portion of the respondents, about 59%, have a moderate idea about the UN conventions on sustainable development. The chart also illustrates that the respondents who have low and very low ideas about the statement their ration is about 22% and 6% respectively. In contrast, 8% and 3% of respondents have high and very high thought correspondingly whereas 2 % of the respondents do not have the basic idea about the UN conventions, strategies, and policies.
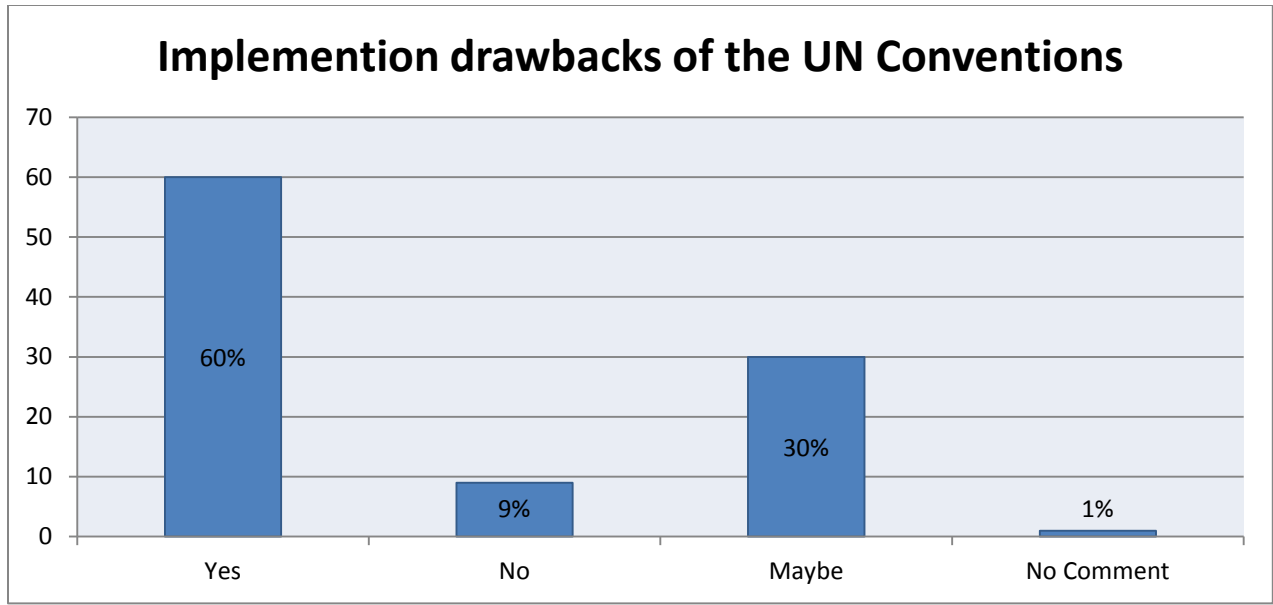
Figure 9: Implementation Setbacks of the UN Conventions

The bar chart represents the significant percentage of respondents (about 60%) who believe that there are setbacks in implementation procedures of UN conventions. One-third of the respondents have expressed doubt about pitfalls in the implementing process. Whereas nine percent has denied having setbacks in implementation and a single portion remains not to comment. So, it can be agreed that the implementation procedure of the United Nations conventions has faced a number of challenges.
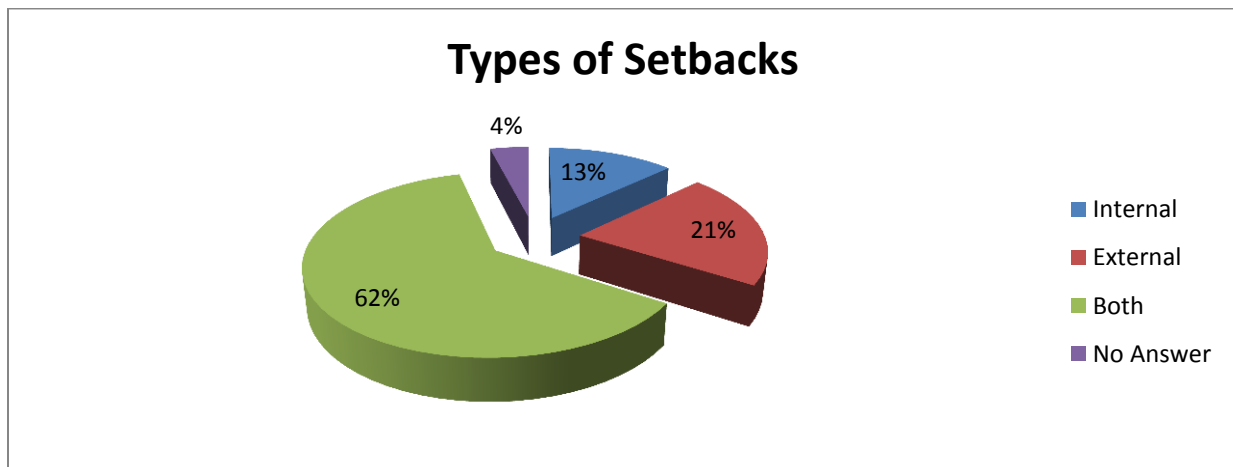

Figure 10: Typology of Implementing Setbacks

The pie chart shows that the significant (about 62 percent) parts of the respondents have expressed that there are problems both in internal and external factors for implementing UN

conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh. However, around 20 percent of the respondents said that these limitations are external and about 13 percent said these drawbacks are internal. Again, the rest of the 4% remain neutral periphery.
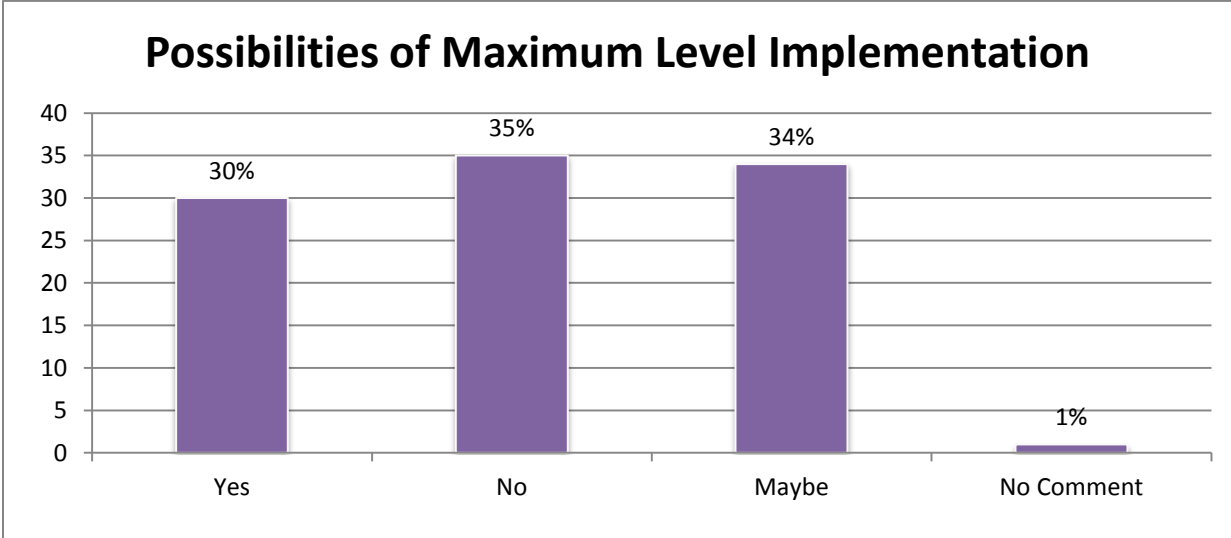
Figure 11: Probability of Maximum Level Implementation of Conventions

The bar graph illustrates that there are three apparatus in the respondents towards answering the mentioned question. Where, 30 percent of the respondents said that the maximum level of implementation of the UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh is possible. Whether, 35 percent said that there is no possibility of maximum implementation. Again, 34 percent of the respondents said that maximum level implementation is maybe possible and express doubt.

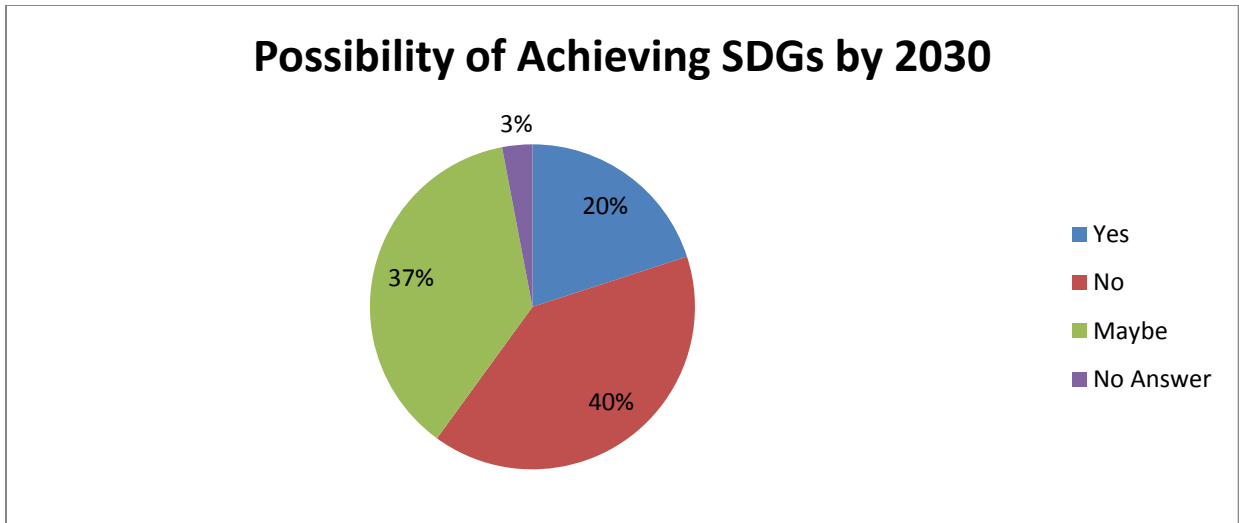Figure 12: Possibility of Achieving SDGs by 2030

The pie chart depicts that the important part of the respondents said the global goal (SDGs) will not be attained by 2030 and their number is about 40 percent. However, more than one-third of the respondents (about 37%) are in a dilemma whether SDGs will be achievable within 2030 or not. Moreover, 20% of the respondents show their optimistic views in attaining SDGs in 2030.
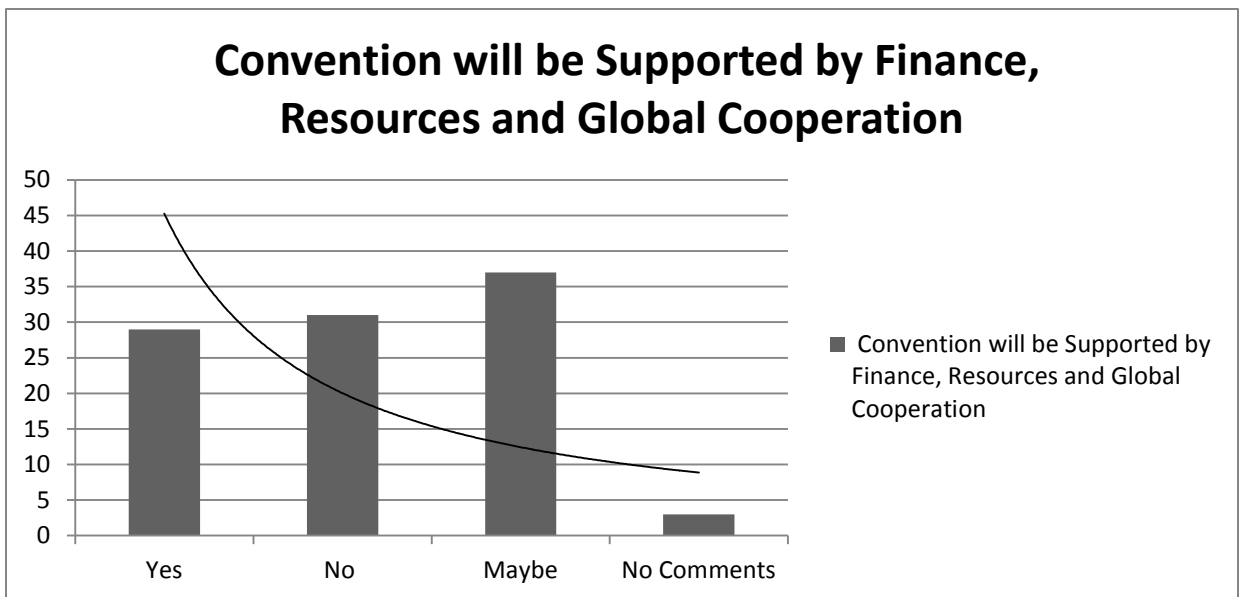

Figure 13: Possibilities of Supporting UN Convention by Finance, Resources and Global Cooperation

The bar diagram represents whether the UN conventions on sustainable development will be understood and supported by finance, resources, and global cooperation at the national level or not. At this point, above one-third of the respondents expressed their doubt and said it perhaps

understood and supported. However, around 30% of the respondents said that the possibility of finance, recourses, and global cooperation is zero. On the other hand, less than thirty percent of the respondents reflected their affirmative statement.

Table 1: Factors are responsible for insufficient implementation of the UN policies in Bangladesh

Factors	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	No need	No Answer	Weight (Mean)
Institutional complexity	43.0	43.0	9.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	4.24
Political turmoil	54.0	29.0	11.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	4.27
Binding donor agencies	54.0	29.0	15.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.35
Limited logistics	27.0	52.0	17.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	4.00
Need of technology	40.0	46.0	10.0	3.0	1.0	0.0	4.20
Lack of capacity	21.0	41.0	29.0	6.0	3.0	0.0	3.71
Top down approach	16.0	43.0	29.0	10.0	2.0	0.0	3.59
Obscure agenda	11.0	42.0	34.0	9.0	4.0	0.0	3.47

The table shows that the above mention factors are playing negative roles and become impediments for the satisfactory implementation of the UN conventions in Bangladesh. It is revealed that among the eight given factors most of the respondents said about the bindings of donor agencies which has secured mean 4.35. The table also represents that the political turmoil (mean 4.27) and institutional complexity (mean 4.24) along with the need for technology (mean 4.20) and limitation logistics (mean 4.00) are also significant factors of improper implementation of the UN conventions. On the other hand, lack of capacity, top-down approach and obscure agenda are also responsible and those also obtained the weight of mean 3.71, 3.59 and 3.47 respectively.
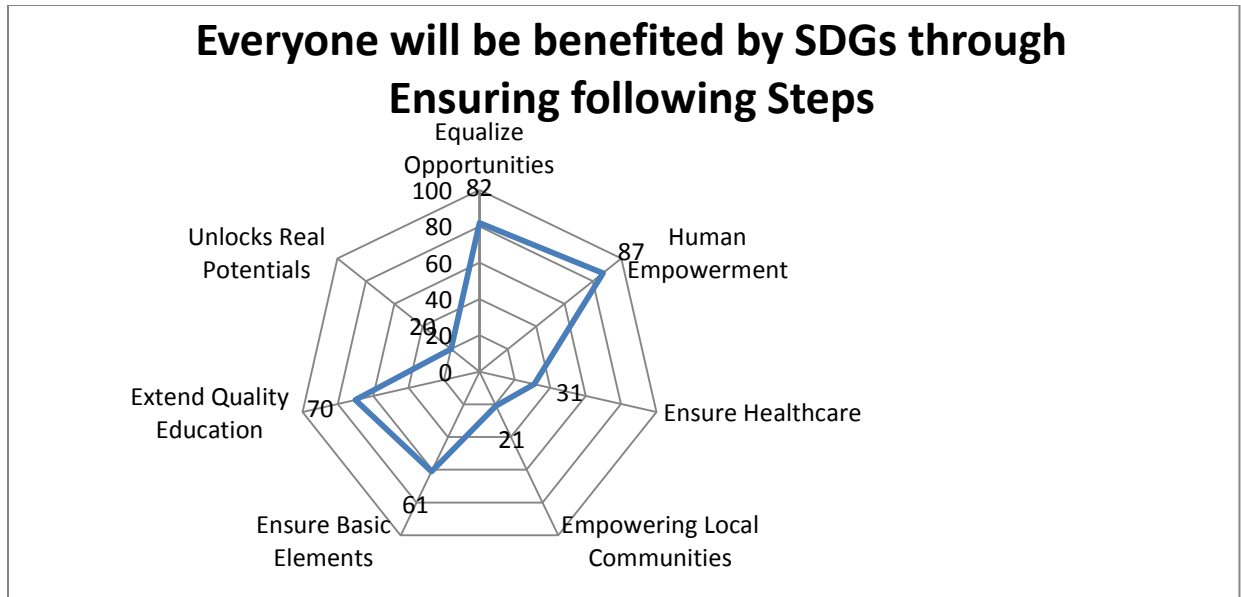
Figure 14: Everyone will be benefited by SDGs through Ensuring following Steps

The figure demonstrates that the above-mentioned issues need to be taken for mutual benefits from the SDGs with the intention that everyone can engage in society. The significant number of respondents, about 87% believes that human empower is the most important factor as SDGs are centered on the development of people. The second largest group who are nearly 82 percent said for equal opportunities. Then, a group of respondents said for extended quality education and ensure basic needs for the people and their ration is 70% and 61% respectively. However, the diagram also discloses that the rest of the group of respondents said for ensuring healthcare, empowering local communities and unlocking real potentials and their percentage denote 31, 21, and 20 correspondingly.

6.4   Utilization of UN's Conventions

The following chart and figures have been exposed to understanding the utilization of UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh.
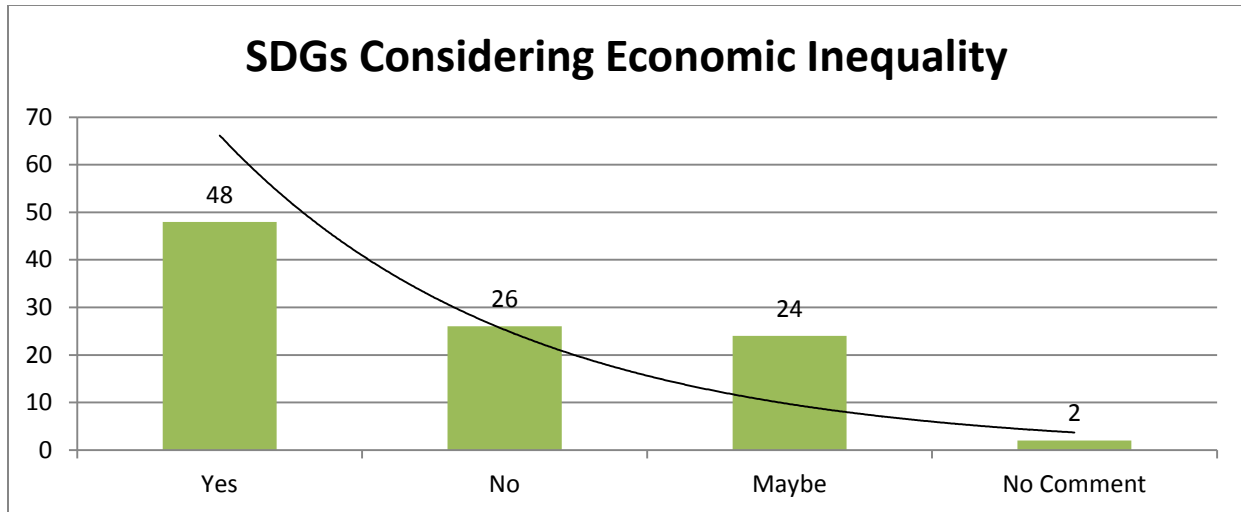
Figure 15: Consideration of Economic Inequality by SDGs

The graph represents a significant portion of the respondents said that SDGs has taken economic inequality seriously and they are about nearly 50%. However, another half of the respondents have said that SDGs have not taken economic inequality seriously and SDGs may be taken economic inequality acutely who are 26% and 24% respectively. Again, the rest of the two percent did not answer the question and stay in a neutral position.

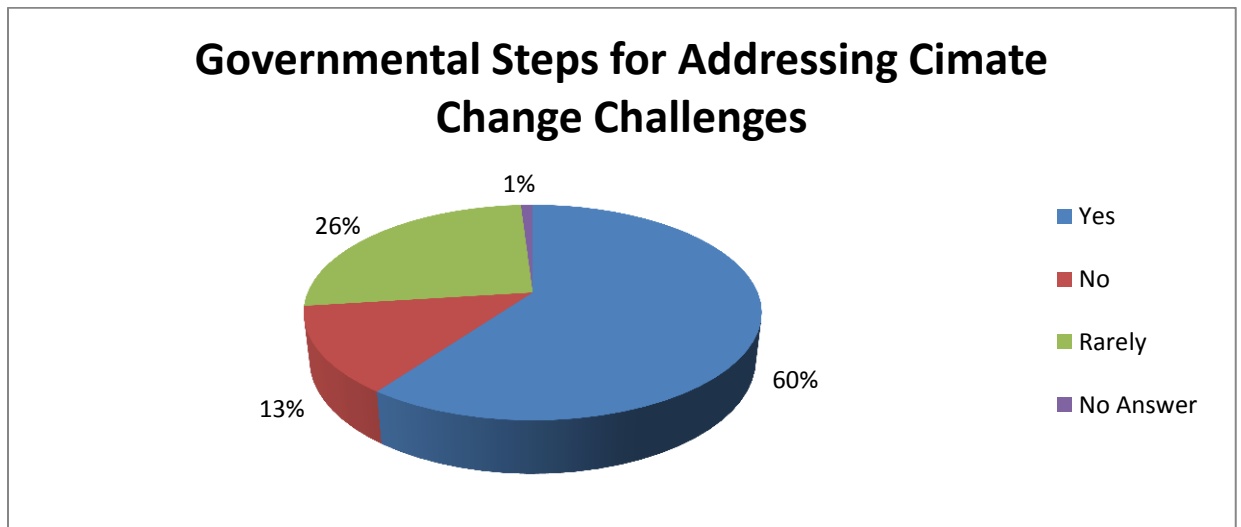**Figure 16: The Government to Address Climate Change Challenges**

The pie chart shows that a significant portion of the respondents (about 60%) said that the government has taken steps for addressing climate change challenges. However, one-fourth of the respondents (26 percent) said that the government has rarely taken steps for mitigating climatic issues. On the other hand, about 13% of the respondents denied the statement.
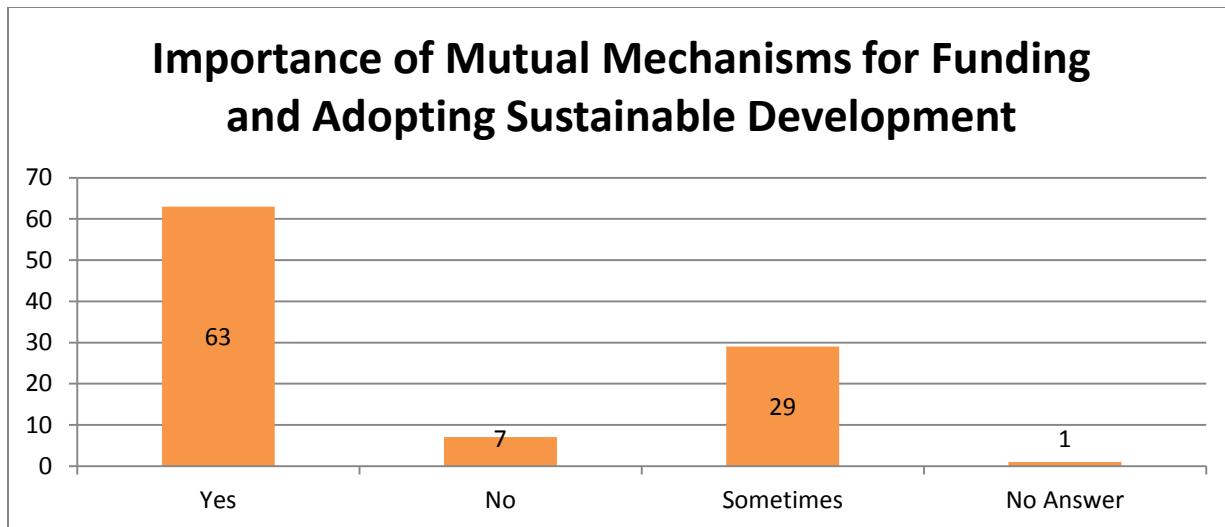
Figure 17: Importance of Mutual Mechanisms for Funding and Adopting Sustainable Development

The chart depicts that 63% of the respondents agreed on the mutual mechanism to speed up national and international actions in terms of funding and adopting sustainable development. However, 29 percent of the respondents said that sometimes this mechanism is needed whether 7% of the respondent said that there is no need for a national and international mechanism for the funds and adaptation.
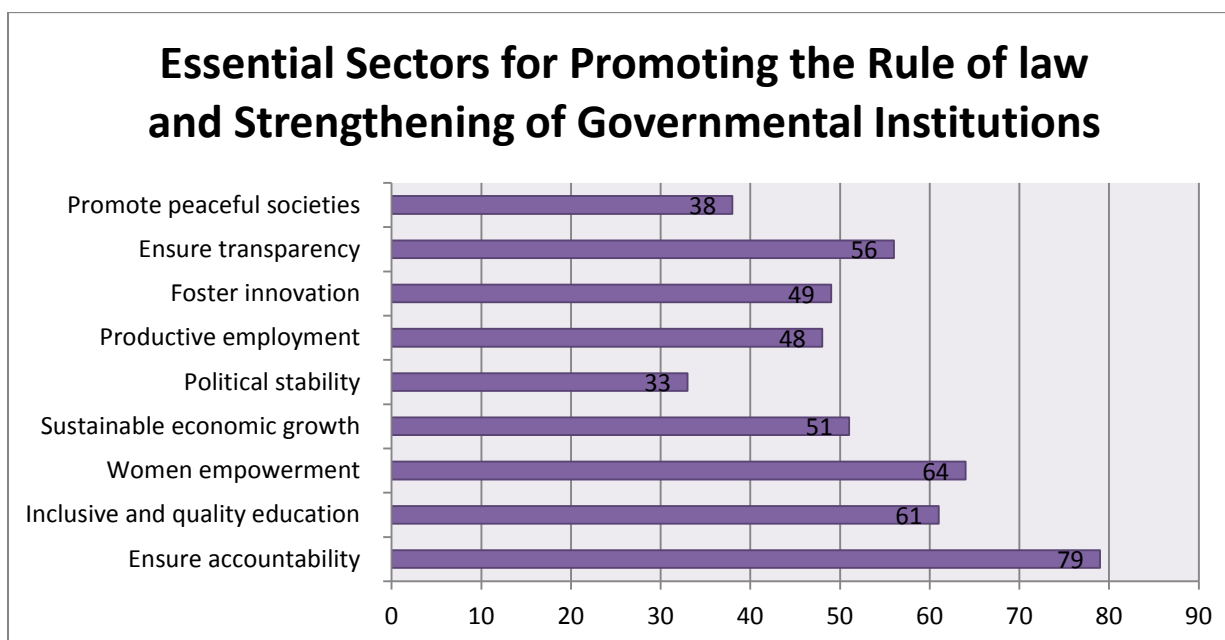
Figure 18: Essential Sectors for Promoting the Rule of law and Strengthening of Governmental Institutions

The bar diagram illustrates the significant portion (about 78%) of the respondents said for ensuring accountability for strengthening governmental institutions. Then, it also reveals that a

larger number of respondents said for inclusive and quality education, women empowerment, and transparency to promote rule of law and to empower government institutions and their ration is about 61%, 64%, and 56% respectively. Again, this diagram also depicts that the last group of the respondents also said for ensuring sustainable economic growth, foster innovation, productive employment, promote the peaceful society, and political stability and their responses are 51%, 49%, 48%, 38%, and 33% respectively.
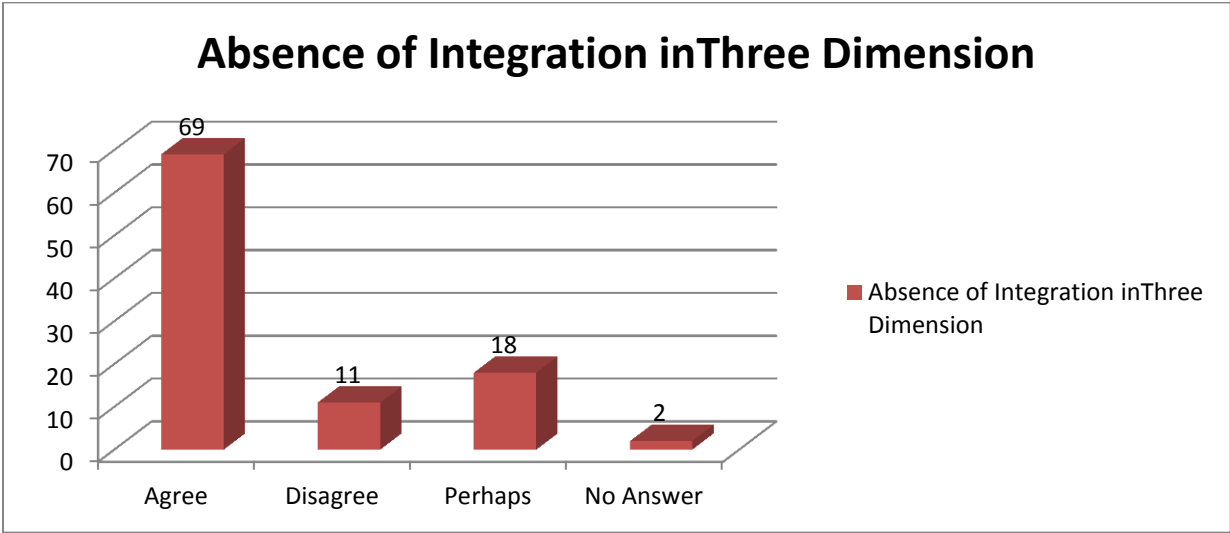
Figure 19: Absence of Integration among Social, Economic and Environmental Dimension in Bangladesh

The bar diagram shows that the significant percentage of respondents, 69%, said that a balance integration among the three dimensions (such as social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development is absent. However, 18 % have expressed their dilemma and 11 % of the total respondents have disagreed with the statement. Again, the least portion, about 2%, didn't answer the question.

Figure 20: Importance of Coherence, Coordination, and Monitoring for SDGs

The pie chart demonstrates that the significant part of the respondents, nearly 72%, have said for strengthening coherence, coordination, and monitoring to implement SDGs in Bangladesh. But, 12 percent of the respondents said that there is no need for coherence, coordination, and monitoring in implementing SDGs. However, 15% of respondents said that sometimes strengthening coherence, coordination and monitoring make a smooth implementation path.

6.5   UN Conventions and Developing Countries

The following graphs and figures have been presented the circumstances of UN convention and developing country nexus for the accomplishment of the UN policies on sustainable development in Bangladesh.
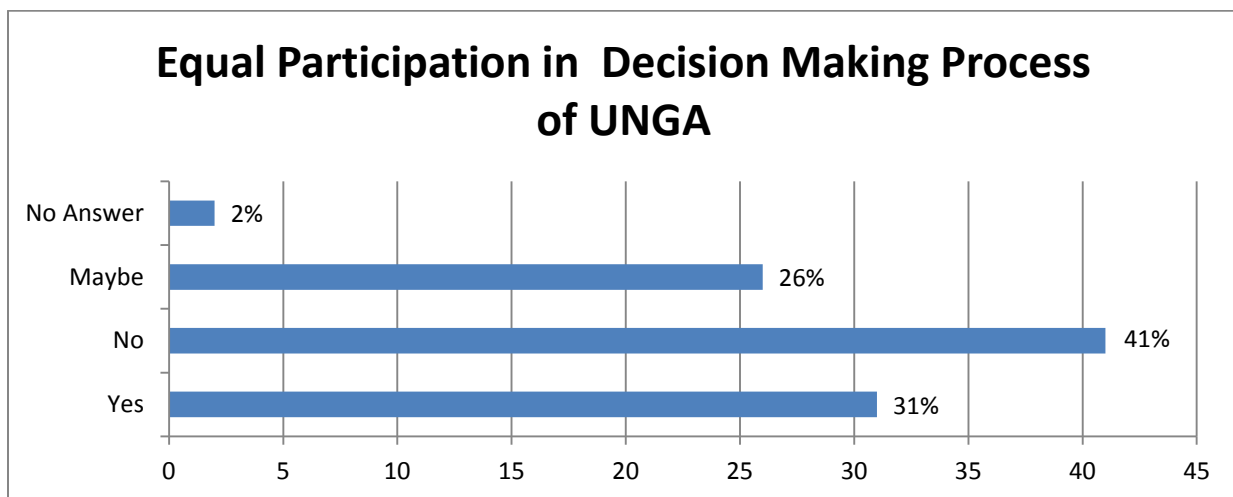
Figure 21: Equal Participation in Decision Making Process of the UN General Assembly

The graph illustrates that the largest portion (about 41%) of the respondents said that the UN the General Assembly could not ensure equal participation in the decision-making process. However, around 26 percent of the respondents said that UNGA may be able to ensure equal participation. Nevertheless, there are some people (nearly 31%) who believe that UNGA can ensure equal participation in the decision-making process for the whole members of the United Nations. And, 2% of the total respondents remain neutral here.
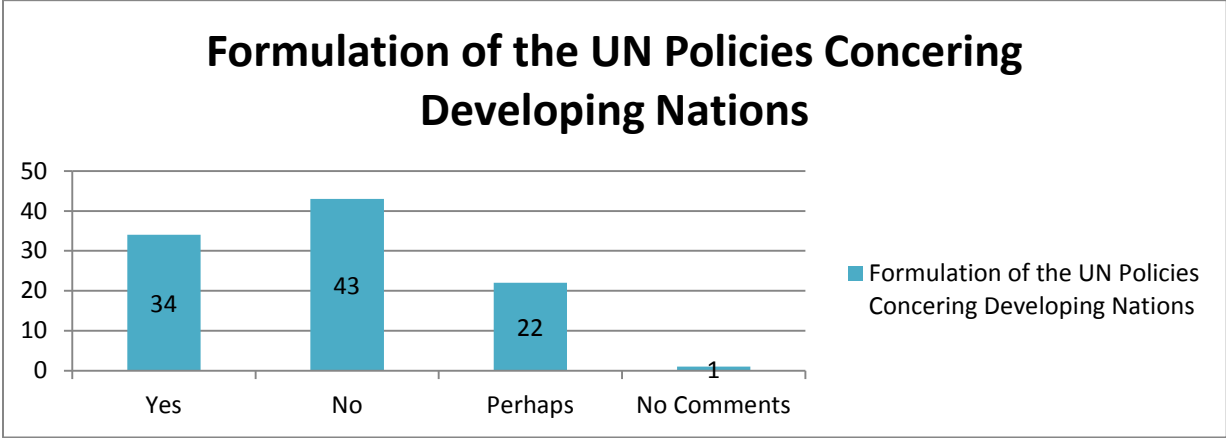
Figure 22: Formulation of the UN Policies Concerning Developing Nations

The bar diagram reveals that most of the respondents about 43% denied that the UN policies are formulated based on the concern of developing and under-developing countries. Again, twenty-two percent of the respondents said that the UN perhaps establishes their policies concerning developing and least developing countries. However, the optimistic groups, who are about 34%, believe the UN policies are formulated with the concern of third world countries.
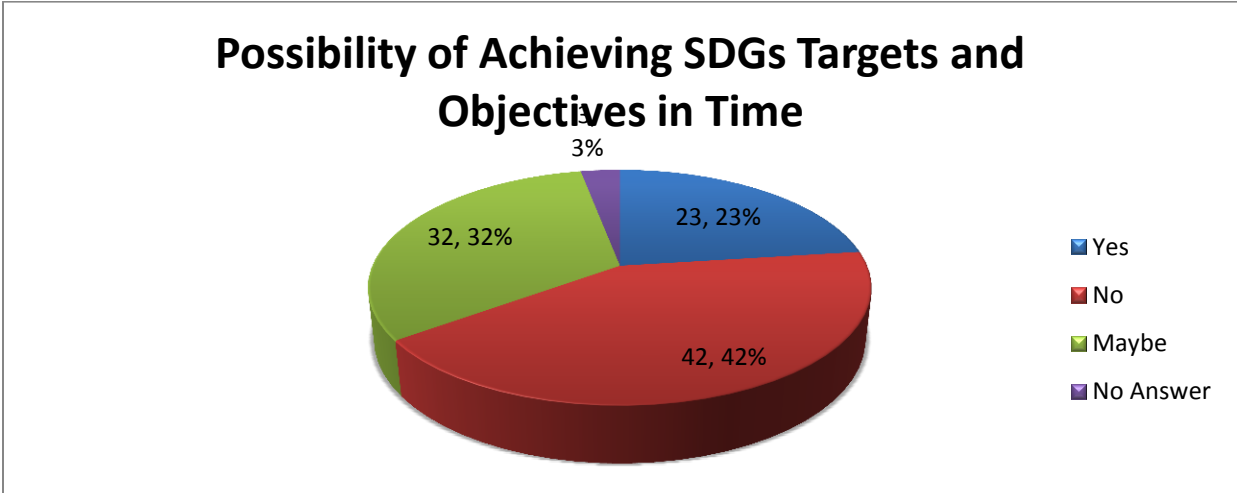
Figure 23: Possibility of Achieving SDGs Targets and Objectives in Time

The pie chart exposes that one of the least portion of the respondents; nearly 23% believe that each target and objectives of global goal 2030 will be achieved in time. Again, 32% of the respondents consider that each target and objective may be achieved without any delay. But, the considerable portion believes that each targets and objectives will not be attained by 2030 whereas 3 % of the respondents did not make any comment.
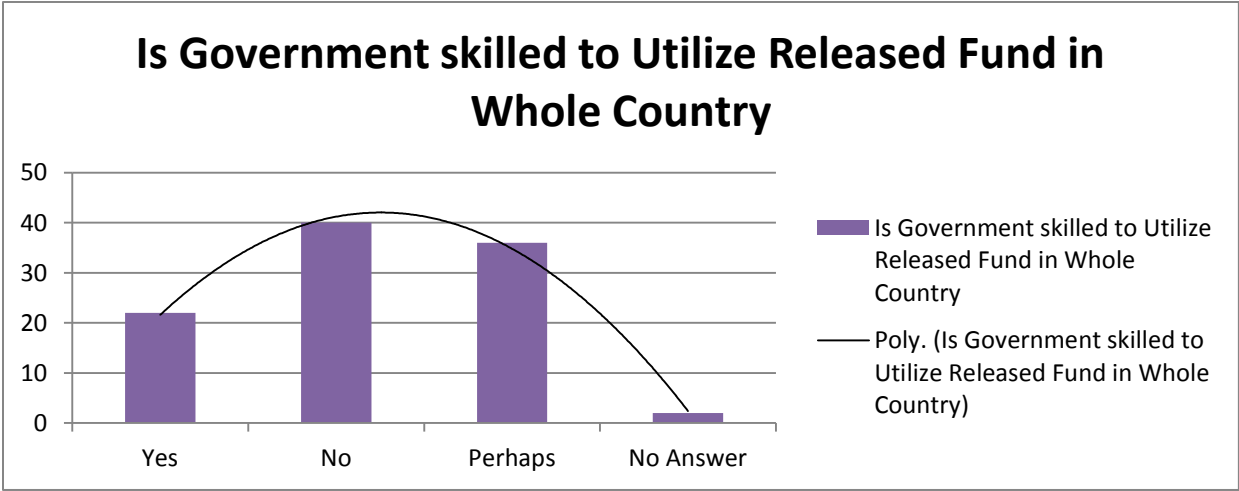
The figure exposes that nearly 40%, the significant percentage of the total respondents believe that the government is not skilled enough to utilize released funds for ensuring sustainable development in Bangladesh. On the other hand, 22% of the respondents think that the government is skilled to utilize released funds for sustainable development. However, the second largest group who are about 36% said that the government may be efficient to make use of released money whereas 2% of the respondents did not disclose anything.
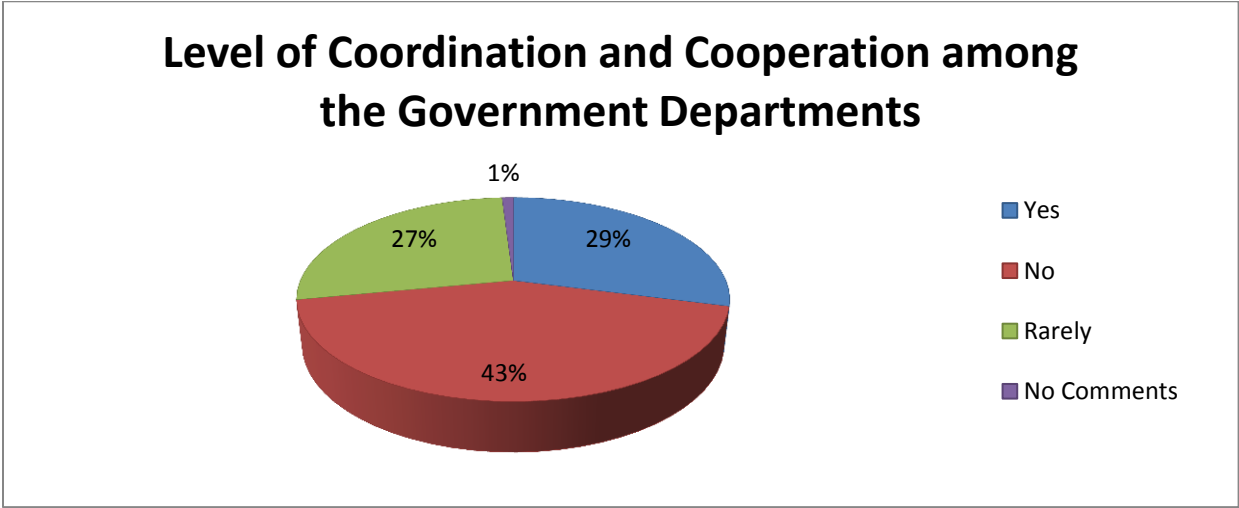
Figure 25: Coordination and Cooperation among the Government Departments for Implementing Policy

The pie chart illustrates that coordination and cooperation among the departments of government are important for implementing policies, but most of the respondents (just about 43%) said that there is an absence of coordination and cooperation among the government departments. Whereas, 29% of the respondents believe the government can rarely coordinate and cooperate among various departments. But, 27% of the respondents consider that the government can make synchronization among different departments.
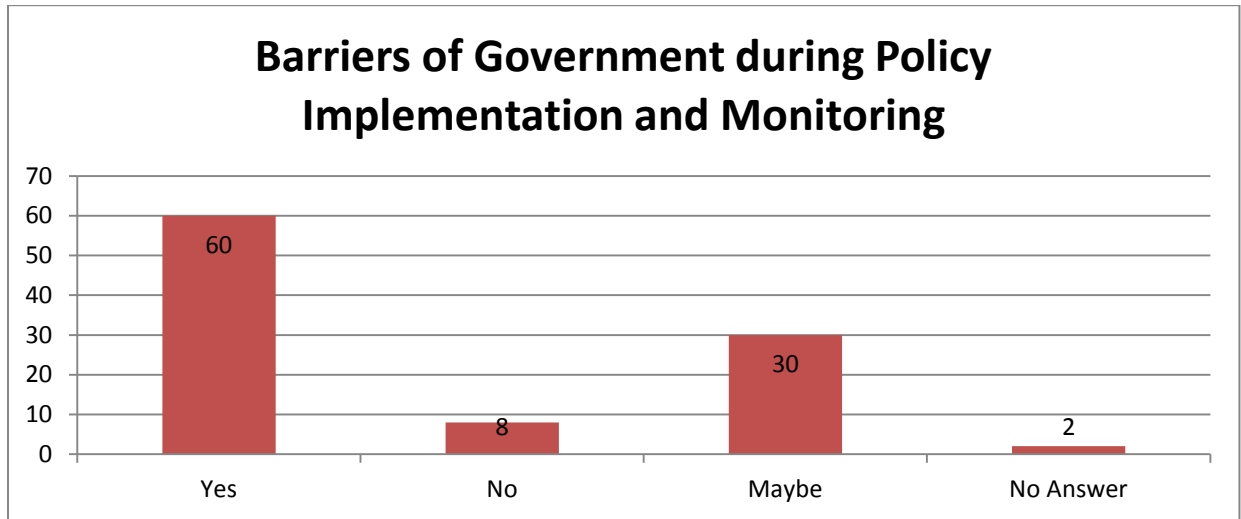
Figure 26: Barriers of Government during Policy Implementation and Monitoring

The pie chart depicts the largest ration of the respondents, about 60%, believe that the government faces challenges during policy implementation and monitoring while 8% said no. however, 30% of the respondents think that the government might face barriers during implementation and monitoring. Again, 2 percent remain neutral.
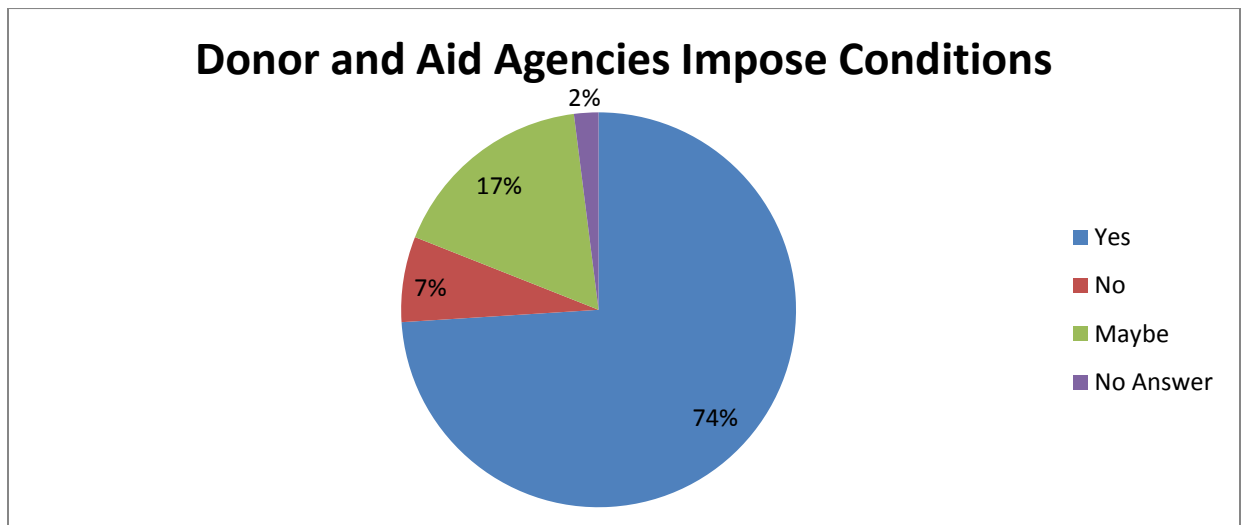
Figure 27: Donor and Aid Agencies Imposes Conditions

The pie chart discloses that the most considerable part (about 74%) of the respondents believe that the international donor and aid agencies impose during funding in developing countries. Whereas, only 7 % of the respondents think that the donor agencies do not impose any binding. However, 17 % of the respondents consider that the aid organization may oblige terms and conditions during financing in developing countries. And, the rest of the 2% did not reply to the question.
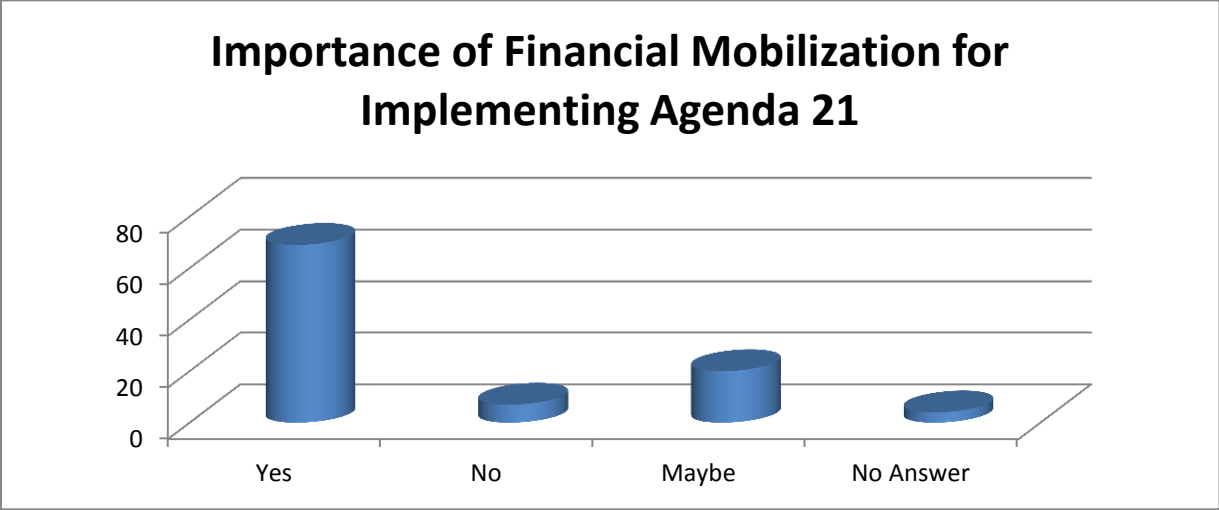
Figure 28: Importance of Financial Mobilization for Implementing

  The bar diagram represents that the noteworthy part of the respondents, about 69 percent, said that the mobilization of financial and technological resources are globally important for Agenda 21. While only 7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 4% of the respondents remain neutral. However, 20% of the respondents are in a dilemma whether the mobilization of financial and technological resources is important or not for implementing Agenda 21.

6.6   Policy Option

The following table and description have been exposed to the policy option for strengthening promise to sustainable development in third world countries especially Bangladesh.

Table 2 Factors for strengthening promise to Sustainable Development

Factors	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Less Important	No Need	No Answer	Weight (Mean)
Human Centric Approach	33.7	49.0	13.3	4.1	0.0	0.0	4.12
Efficient and Accountable Institutions	54.1	34.7	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.43
Promote Sustainable Agriculture	42.9	34.7	19.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	4.17
Public Private Cooperation	265	55.1	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.08
Skilled Financial Management	54.1	39.8	5.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	4.47
Skilled Staff Management	41.8	42.9	15.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.27
Decrease Gender Gap	38.8	34.7	22.4	3.1	1.0	0.0	4.07
Scale up Waste Water Treatment	24.5	45.9	23.5	4.1	2.0	0.0	3.87
Energy Access Issue	32.7	41.8	21.4	2.0	2.0	0.0	4.01
Decent Working Environment	51.0	32.7	14.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.33
Promote Digitalization	48.0	37.8	11.2	3.1	0.0	0.0	4.31
Transparent Governance	63.3	22.4	11.2	2.0	1.0	0.0	4.45
Low Carbon Innovation	24.5	45.9	25.5	3.1	1.0	0.0	3.90
Ecosystem Management	24.5	49.0	18.4	7.1	1.0	0.0	3.88
Ensure Global Partnership	62.2	29.6	7.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	4.53

The table has exposed that the mentioned sectors need to be prioritized and strengthen for achieving sustainable development through implementing the UN conventions in Bangladesh. The factor which has got a significant portion of response by the respondents is to ensure global partnership and it is about 4.53 (mean value) among the 15 (fifteen) indicators that are mostly connected with SDGs. Then, skilled financial management, transparent governance system, and efficient and accountable institutions have secured 4.47, 4.45 and 4.43 mean value respectively. However, decent working environment, promoting digitalization, skilled staff management, promoting sustainable agriculture, human-centric approach, public-private partnership, decreasing gender gap, and sustainable energy have got the priorities by achieving mean value 4.33, 4.32, 4.27, 4.17, 4.12, 4.08, 4.07, and 4.01 respectively. In contrast, low carbon innovation,

ecosystem management, and scaling up wastewater management have obtained 3.90, 3.88 and 3.87 mean value correspondingly among the fifteen areas to ensure successful implementation of sustainable development.
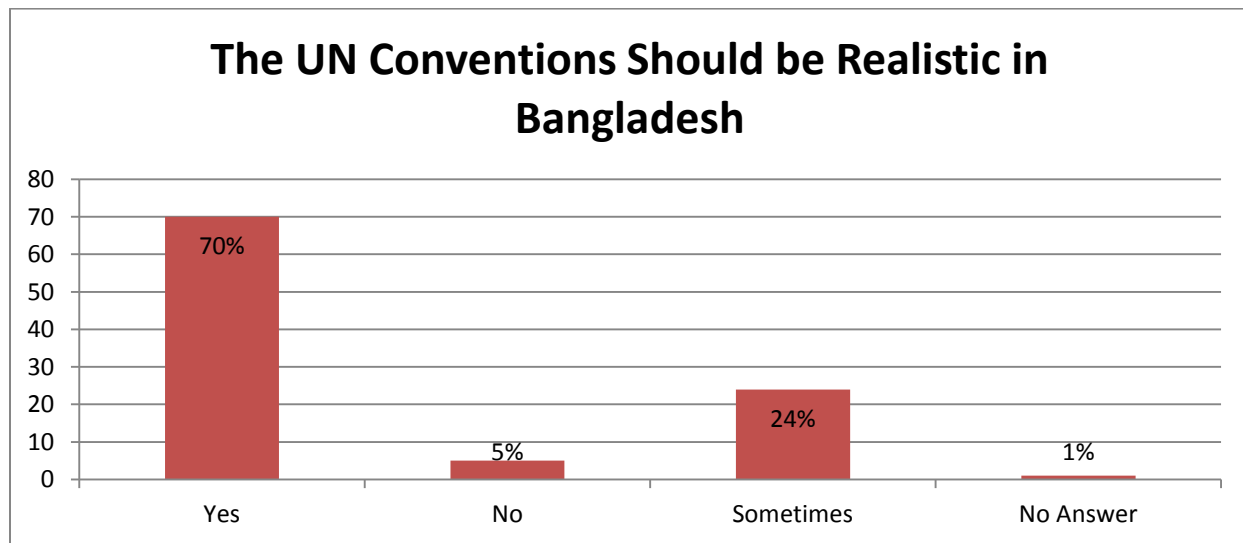
Figure 29: The UN Conventions Should be Realistic in Bangladesh

The bar diagram illustrates that about 70% of the respondents said that the United Nations Conventions should be realistic in Bangladesh for ensuring sustainable development. Whereas, only 5 % of respondents said no and 1 % stay impartial. However, 24 percent of the respondents believe that sometimes, the UN convention should be practical in Bangladesh.

Finally, when the respondents have given space to incorporate their suggestion to improve the implementation process of sustainable development in Bangladesh they said that the following sectors should be improved and emphasized such as political instability, accountability, international coordination, human resource management, neutral recruitment, transparency, and corruption-free organization.

6.7   *Focus Group Discussion (FGD)*

For collecting qualitative data and for obtaining in-depth information about the implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh, it has been conducted four focus group discussion (FGD) sessions at Regional Public Administration Training Centre (RPATC), Rajshahi. The RPATC, Rajshahi provides training facilities to the officials of government, semi-government and autonomous organizations of two divisions such

as Rajshahi[5] and Rangpur[6]. Among the participants, 32 participants have been selected from the four different for FGD in the FY2018-19. These participants are a significant factor for the implementation of government policies at the field level. The atmosphere of the FGD sessions was incredibly spontaneous and the participants (8 in each FGD) express their opinion freely.

Firstly, the participants of the first session of FGD at RPATC, Rajshahi said that the problems of implementing UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh are a technological limitation, financial constraints, and vague conventions. As policy implementers, they are devoted but they are not appraised properly for their performance. Rather, in many cases, the institutional gaps become the major defects of implementation procedures. Furthermore, they have said that the maximum level implementation of United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh is not possible. Here, the mood funding and adopting is important. Again, the UN General Assembly is not capable to ensure equal participation in the policy-making process due to the veto power of permanent members. During the FGD session, the participants have expressed that skilled manpower is important to utilize released funds through cooperating and coordinating different departments. However, sometime donor agencies impose various terms and conditions which are also impediments to the implementation process. They have also said that the government of Bangladesh should take strategic action by analysis the need for ministries, departments, and organizations for implementation of UN documents on sustainable development.

Secondly, the participants of the second session of FGD at RPATC, Rajshahi said that the core setbacks of implementing sustainable development in Bangladesh are political turmoil, institutional complexity, logistics limitation, and unskilled human resource. They have mentioned that the institutional pitfalls are significant for execution progression. Moreover, they have also raised their doubtfulness that the 100% implementation of UN conventions in Bangladesh is not achievable as the fund is an important issue. In addition, the developing and least developed countries are not able to make sure identical participation in the conventions making period at the United Nations. Over again, in the FGD, the participants have uttered that

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[5] Rajshahi division has 8 district, these are Bogura, Chapanawabganj, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Rajshahi, and Sirajganj.

[6] Rangpur division has 8 district, these are Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibanda, and Dinajpur.

there is an absence of cooperation and coordination among the governments' organizations, even human resource needs more training for being skilled officials. Since the development partners oblige lots of binding during financing, the government should get considered and planned activities for the implementation of UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh.

Lastly, in the third and fourth FGD sessions respondents said that the hub retards of implementing sustainable development are a political disorder, institutional gaps, lack of financial and non-financial resource, implementation approach, lack of harmonization and inexpert human resource. However, respondents have said that these above-mentioned problems hinder the maximum level implementation process in Bangladesh. Furthermore, the developed nations show off their extreme power in the decision-making process at the United Nations. All over again, the participants have spoken that funding agencies bindings, lack of cooperation in the central and filed level administration, absence of tech-friendly employees are playing a negative role in the implementation procedure. Thus, the government should have taken the necessary steps in accordance with a private organization to implement UN conventions on sustainable development everywhere in Bangladesh.

6.8 Key Informant Interview (KII)

For collecting information 5 respondents from different backgrounds have been interviewed. The following questions have been asked in the in-depth interview from January 2019 to February 2019. The answers of the key informants are presented as R1[7], R2[8], R3[9], R4[10], and R5[11] in the following pages.

Interviewer: Please make us know about the United Nations conventions on sustainable development.

R1: *"We know that the United Nations is an international organization of 193 independent countries. The conventions of The United Nations are mostly, documents, treaties, agreements, summits and decades for ensuring endurable development for all."*

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[7] Associate Professor, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh
[8] Deputy Director, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh
[9] Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh
[10] Regional Election Officer, Bangladesh Election Commission, Bangladesh
[11] Additional Superintendent of Police, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh

R2: *"The UN conventions on sustainable development are the collection of treaties regarding sustainable development."*

R3: *"The United Nations conventions on is a kind of convention which wants to ensure basic needs without minimizing the needs of the future generation."*

R4: *"The UN conventions are basically treaties or documents to be implemented globally."*

R5: *"The United Nations conventions are international documents agreed by the member countries of the United Nations."*

Interviewer: How do you think that the United Nations conventions are inclusive and universal?

R1: *"I think that the United Nations conventions are inclusive and universal. But, sometimes, it has been observed that the developed countries bypass these documents or ignores for their personal gains."*

R2: **"***I don't think that the United Nations treaties and conventions are capable to be universal due to the negligence of developed countries worldwide."*

R3: *"I think that the UN conventions are inclusive and integrated whereas the developing countries are not competent to implement all these conventions even developed countries also indifferent."*

R4: *"Yes, I think UN conventions are inclusive and universal as the global leader can participate in the policy-making system."*

R5: *"The conventions of the UN are inclusive and universal as these are implemented worldwide."*

Interviewer: Why the implementation status of UN policies is low in developing countries?

R1: *"Okay. The UN policies are undertaken in accordance with the line of developed countries. Consequently, it does not match in many cases in developing countries."*

R2: *"Certainly, the implementation statuses of UN policies in developing countries are not praiseworthy because these policies are not suitable for developing nations and funding is another issue."*

R3: *"I don't think that the implementation status is very low but we can say that we can't reach the complete implementation of UN conventions on sustainable development due to financial limitation."*

R4: *"I guess, the only cause of this phenomenon is the limitation of logistics in developing countries like Bangladesh."*

R5: *"I think the lack of recourse is the major problem."*

Interviewer: How can we ensure proper utilization of United Nations conventions?

R1: *"It is very difficult to ensure proper utilization of UN conventions. It needs technology to improve our technical facilities. It needs training and for so it needs funds. Finally, we can say it needs strong political will."*

R2: *"It is not so easy to ensure 100% utilization of UN conventions in Bangladesh as it requires skill manpower, capital, technology, and a smooth governance system."*

R3: *"The proper utilization or implementation of UN conventions depends on the financial and nonfinancial resource, coordination among various departments, data monitoring, accountability, and transparency."*

R4: *"By ensuring appropriate technology with funds and ensuring monitoring we can implement UN conventions successfully."*

R5: *"For the overall implementation of UN conventions, the global partnership is significant in case of funding, sharing technology, and providing consultancy."*

Interviewer: Do you think that the UN conventions are formulated by the concern of developing countries?

R1: *"I don't think so. Because, the permanent members (China, France, Russia, USA, and the UK) use their super veto power in times of decision making for their own benefits and influences."*

R2: *"I am not sure. But among the UN bodies, the Security Council plays a very vital role in policy formulation procedures."*

R3: *"Naturally, superpower wants to control less powerful countries and the international politics deal with own interest. Thus, it is also applicable to the regional and global organization."*

R4: *"Not exactly."*

R5: *"The developing countries do not get the extended floor to speak for their own interest and it reflects in the conventions."*

Interviewer: Do you think that the development partners impose bindings in the time of financing?

R1: *"Yes. Most of the development partners like WB, IMF, ADB, IDB, JAIKA, KOIKA, and DANIDA impose numerous bindings during financing in a developing country."*

R2: *"Of course, they do. For instance, during the implementation period of the Padma Bridge, the World Bank has raised a question for misuse of public fund and they deny allocating further funding on that project without thinking the public interest."*

R3: *"Sometimes development partners impose terms and conditions for allocating finance, spending funds, and utilizing equipment with their own consultancy."*

R4: *"Yes, the enforce bindings at some stage in funding."*

R5: *"Surely they do."*

Interviewer: What it is the bottleneck to utilize released fund in Bangladesh?

R1: *"It's a tough question. I think the politicization and bureaucratization of governance services are the primary setbacks of insufficient utilization of released funds in Bangladesh."*

R2: *"I think that the utilization of released funds depends on the competence of human resources, and financial managerial knowledge plays significant roles."*

R3: *"The basic problems of utilization of released funds in Bangladesh are nepotism and political unrest."*

R4: *"Corruption, nepotism, politicization are some cause of bottleneck to utilize released funds in Bangladesh."*

R5: *"Unskilled human resource and political turmoil may affect on it."*

Interviewer: Is there a lack of co-ordination and co-operation among departments in Bangladesh to implement international documents?

R1: *"Yes. It has been noticed that the government departments do not maintain well-organized coordination for implementing international documents."*

R2: *"It's a challenge for Bangladesh to ensure proper coordination and cooperation among various ministries, departments, and organizations."*

R3: *"If I say then, yes. But the government is trying to speed up the coordination and cooperation among various departments in Bangladesh."*

R4: *"Yes, we have some sort of lethargic condition of serving people through coordinating several departments."*

R5: *"I think it has some kinds of coordination among government departments but needs more emphasis on the coordinating process."*

It is revealed that the conventions of the United Nations are inclusive and universal although the developed countries bypass these documents or ignore their personal gains. The implementation statuses of UN policies in developing countries are not commendable for the reason is that they are not suitable for developing nations where funding becomes another challenge. However, the technological facilities and recourse mobilization are essential for proper implementation of UN development plans. In some cases, the UN policies are not formulated by considering the circumstances of developing and underdeveloped nations. Another important point is that sometimes development partners impose terms and conditions for allocating finance and developing countries become unable to utilize released funds due to politicization and bureaucratization of governance. Overall, to ensure proper coordination and cooperation among various ministries, departments, and organizations have become another point to consider.

6.9   Summary

In conclusion, it can be summarized by describing that this chapter is holding the significant value of research as primary data has been presented and described here. There are three types of data collection techniques have been applied for collecting respondents believes and views. Firstly, primary data which is collected through conducting a survey questionnaire is presented in different graphs and charts. Then, these figures are simply explained. Secondly, in-depth information from focus group discussion has been presented in some paragraphs. Thirdly, this study has also conducted the Key Informant Interview (KII) for collecting expert-level views about problems and prospects of executing of the UN conventions in sustainable development in Bangladesh. The information of KII has been incorporated in this chapter as it is given by the key informants. Lastly, it can be mentioned that based on this chapter major finding and critical evaluation has been demonstrated in the next chapter.

CHAPTER SEVEN

7. MAJOR FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

7.1 Introduction

Chapter seven is the most important and vibrant section for this research as it has been incorporated the actual study findings and analysis. Based on this chapter it has also recommended some suggestions for ensuring successful implementation procedures of UN conventions on sustainable development in developing countries especially Bangladesh. Firstly, it has included key findings from chapter five, where data presentation and discussion have been illustrated profoundly. Secondly, this chapter has tried to make a correlation with the projected outcomes of the research and identified the noteworthy points. Lastly, it has critically analyzed these findings by making a linkage with scholarly writings.

7.2 Major Findings

The study has disclosed that major findings (challenges and setbacks) of implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh. It is found that the organizational limitations, implementing approaches, bindings of donor agencies, financial constraints, shortage of skilled manpower, lack of cooperation and coordination in national and international level, inadequate technical knowledge, lack of logistics supports, lack capacity to utilize budget, and so on are the primary challenges for implanting UN conventions in developing countries like Bangladesh. However, most of the findings have been taken from the analysis of the survey questionnaire, FGDs, KII, and content analysis.

As the United Nations conventions on sustainable development are inclusive and universal so that it needs to be localized through making general consciousness about development documents of the United Nations. But, it has seen that (Fig-8) most of the people are not well aware of UN conventions where only a few of them have sufficient understanding.

Fig-9 and Fig-10 have disclosed that there are both internal and external setbacks for implementing the UN Conventions. It has revealed that the absence of integration among social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development (Fig-19), and the

imposition of terms and conditions of donor and aid agencies (Fig-27) have been slowed down the implementation procedures in Bangladesh. Fig-17 has found that the mutual mechanisms for funding and adopting sustainable development very important, as the sustainable documents are international and integrated policies for enduring development. The Fig-20 has also exposed that the coherence, mutual coordination, and monitoring are important for SDGs. In contrast, these mutual mechanism and mutual cooperation are not tremendously coordinated among governmental organizations (Fig-25) and within the countries.

Fig-13 has presented that the UN conventions on sustainable development may not be understood and supported by finance, resources, and global cooperation at the national level. Fig-15 has disclosed that half of the respondents thought sustainable development has not economic inequality seriously. Fig-11 has revealed that there are limited opportunities for maximum level implementation of UN conventions and Fig-12 has also demonstrated that the entire SDGs will not be achievable by 2030. FGDs have found that insufficient logistic, a huge shortage of skilled manpower and funds will be the major problem.

Fig-16 reveals that the government has taken numerous steps for addressing the challenge of climate change but this is a global issue where international coordination is mandatory. It is also disclosed that the UN General Assembly is unable to guarantee equal participation in the decision-making process (Fig-21) as a permanent member of the United Nations can imply veto power. Thus, UN policies are not formulated concerning the attention of developing and under-developing countries.

Fig-24 discloses that the government is not an expert to utilize released funds properly in the implementation process of documents on sustainable development. In contrast, the government faces barriers at some point in policy implementation and monitoring. Fig-17 has revealed that financial mobilization is very important for implementing agenda 22 and the UN conventions need to be pragmatic (Fig-29) in the context of Bangladesh.

Fig-14 has revealed that human empowerment, equal opportunities, quality education, and basic needs are not satisfactorily seen in the society, thus, these issues need to be addressed for achieving mutual benefits from the SDGs. However, ensuring healthcare, empowering local

communities and unlocking real potentials are also important factors connected to sustainable development.

The Fig-18 discloses that accountability, transparency, inclusive quality education and women empowerment are the significant matters for ensuring the rule of law and strengthening governmental institutions. It has also revealed that sustainable economic growth, innovation, productive employment, peaceful society, and political stability can make powerful governmental organization and increase performance.

The tab-1 discloses the factors like bindings of donor agencies, political turmoil, institutional complexity, technology insufficiency, and limitation logistics are playing negative roles and become impediments for the satisfactory implementation of the UN conventions in Bangladesh. However, it has also exposed that lack capacity, top-down implementing the approach and obscure agenda on sustainable development are slightly responsible for insufficient implementation.

The table-2 has exposed that the global partnership, skilled financial management, transparent governance system, efficient and accountable institutions, decent working environment, digitalization, skilled staff management, sustainable agriculture, human-centric approach, public-private partnership, gender empowerment, sustainable energy , low carbon innovation, and ecosystem management to ensure successful implementation of sustainable development sectors need to be prioritized and strengthen for achieving sustainable development through implementing the UN conventions in Bangladesh.

7.3   *Critical Analysis*

To analyze critically, it can be reiterated that the implementation of the UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh requests a number of strategic planning, as major challenges have revealed from the research. It is believed that the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in developing countries needs global assistance for more capacity building and transfer of technology and funds (Mimura, 2014). The present world is experiencing numerous challenges in all three dimensions (DESA, 2013, p-V) of sustainable development such as economic, social and environmental whereas Bangladesh is not out of these proved circumstances.

The previous study discovered that a point of conflict has arisen between some developing and developed countries (Stofleth, 2015) as an outcome of the differences in influence and responsibility. It had seen that "the need appraisal for Bangladesh mentioned about $ 7.5 billion per year during MDG implementation, but as ODA (Official Development Assistance) received only $ 1-1.5 billion" (Coast, 2017, p-12). It has also revealed that for implementing SDGs policies in third world countries like Bangladesh, it requires plenty of economy, expert human resource, sound political atmosphere and strategies associated with their own setting (Mérorès, 2008). Moreover, Bangladesh needs an additional $66 billion dollars annually (GED, 2017) to implement SDGs.

However, the issues of sustainable development have been criticizing for a number of matters as Lippert has been rightly pointed out the following issues for criticizing sustainable development such as: "a) modernity is reproduced through sustainability; b) how to deal with future needs; c) rationality, technology, and management as eco-solutions; d) resources to implement not addressed enough; and e) political context required for implementation" (Lippert, 2004).

Again, another scholar, Lélé has made the following criticism towards sustainable development (M.Lélé, 1991)

a. The dilemma between the urge to take strong stands on fundamental concerns and gain wide political acceptance and support.

b. Endeavor to consider economic growth as poverty removal;

c. Inconsistencies and inadequacies in theory and practice between neoclassic economics when it relates to environmental and distributional issues;

d. Need to consider structural, technological and cultural causes of both poverty and technological degradation;

e. Understand the multiple dimensions of sustainability and develop measures, criteria, and principles; and

f. We need to explore patterns and levels of resource demand and use and different notions of equity and social justice.

Over again, Pogge and Sengupta (Pogge & Sengupta, 2016) have made an outstanding explanation of sustainable development goals. They have put the following comments, for instance: "a) a statement of aspirations; b) human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated; c) fail to reflect the root causes of the poverty-related human rights and ignore the

structural reforms needed at the national and supranational institutional level; d) fail to envision an independent monitoring organization; e) goals language need to give a clear idea about the steps needed to achieve the goals; and f) tepid commitment to tackling discrimination and inequality" (Pogge & Sengupta, 2016).

All over again, Hickel (Hickel, 2015) was more pragmatic in his logic. He has said that SDGs itself is a narrow document through commenting on the following grounds, for example, i) unfeasibly expensive at \$2-3 trillion per year; ii) cover too much ground; iii) profoundly contradictory; iv) expecting to have 7% GDP growth from LDCs; v) GDP growth is all that ultimately matters; vi) capitalism depends on ever-increasing production and consumption; vii) SDGs want to reduce inequality by ratcheting the poor up; viii) calls for more trade liberalization and more power to WTO; ix) need to consider \$5 per day instead of \$1.25; x) blue washing; xi) inadequate and dangerous as it is needed to deep structural changes; and xii) need to address more fairness, equality, well-being, sharing to the benefit of the vast majority of humanity (Hickel, 2015).

7.4   Summary

To summarize this chapter it can be noted that the concept of sustainable development has been familiarized worldwide. Each and every nation is well alert for implementing sustainable development documents. However, the study has found the key challenges and setbacks of implementing procedures of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in developing countries especially Bangladesh. It has revealed by the study finding that the organizational limitations, implementing approaches, bindings of donor agencies, financial constraints, shortage of skilled manpower, lack of cooperation and coordination in national and international level, inadequate technical knowledge, lack of logistics support, and lack capacity are the main challenges of implementation of UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh. It has also believed that mutual mechanisms for funding and adopting mutual coordination and monitoring extremely important for the implementation of sustainable development. Furthermore, the localization of SDGs documents by minimizing language barriers can ensure the triumph of sustainable development. But, sustainable development is not fully understood and supported by finance, resources, and global cooperation at the national level. Again, the poor countries are in the situation of insufficient logistic and massive scarcity of

skilled manpower for implementing UN conventions. The steps for addressing the challenge of climate change need global consent, Bangladesh as a single country could not settle this issue. Here, the UN General Assembly is unable to ensure equal participation in policy-making procedures. Consequently, for the improvement of the social, economic, and environmental dimension of sustainable development, Bangladesh is facing the barriers of human empowerment, equal opportunities, basic needs, empowering local communities, accountability, transparency, sustainable economic growth, innovation, productive employment, political stability, institutional complexity, and technology insufficiency.

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CHAPTER EIGHT

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

8.1   *Introduction*

The last chapter of the research is going to make an overall evaluation of the study and finally, it has put some suggestions based on the study findings. In the first chapter, it has discussed the background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, hypotheses, and rationale of the study. In chapter two, it has incorporated a literature review including sustainable development concept, theoretical framework, and institutional retards. In the third chapter, it has explained the methodology of the study containing sampling, data collection tools, data presentation, and analysis. In chapter four, it has described the United Nations conventions, documents, treaties on sustainable development including implementation strategies and challenges. In chapter five, data has presented into numerous figures, charts and table with a brief discussion about the demographic profile, UN convention implementation status, utilization of UN conventions, UN conventions, and developing countries, and proposed strategies. All the information from the survey question, FGDs, and KII has been integrated into this section. In chapter seven, study has critically analyzed the major findings from the research and compared the finding with the criticism of international scholars. Finally, in this chapter, it has documented the overall evaluation and suggested some recommendations so that the further implementation process may benefit from the outcome of the research.

8.2   *Evaluation*

Firstly, sustainable development has become the topmost priorities all over the globe. Since the Second World War, global leaders are dreaming of making this planet a sound place of living together. The world leaders attended in the international conferences, signed treaties and convections, and promised to implement a number of sustainable documents like as United Nations Environment Program, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Declaration on the Right to Development, World Commission on Environment and Development, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, International Conference on Population

and Development, World Summit for Social Development, Millennium Declaration, World Summit on Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and Sustainable development Goals. They have also dreamt of keeping no one left behind. But the critics found that the global leaders are doing complex deeds. The world is seeking for ensuring endurable progress but at the same time the massive problem for this earth, for instance: civil war and terrorism in the Middle East, hunger in Africa, and refugees in Latin America, Europe including South Asia.

Secondly, in the context of Bangladesh, The National Sustainable Development Strategy (DoE, 2008) (NSDS) identifies five strategic priorities: (1) Sustained Economic Growth, (2) Development of Priority Sectors, (3) Urban Environment, (4) Social Security and Protection, and Environment, and (5) Natural Resource and Disaster Management. Bangladesh has been fighting against poverty since its independence in 1971 (DoE, 2008). Economic growth performance and engagement of poor people to get the benefit of economic growth suggested that growth in all sectors of the economy, especially the sectors generating productive employment for the poor creates more benefits for the poor (DoE, 2008). But the statistics show that one in ten of the country's 44 million-strong youth population faces unemployment (Pritu, 2018) in Bangladesh which is an impediment for ensuring sustainable development. It is also revealed that $3-5 trillion annually throughout the world and in Bangladesh, $928 Billion additional funding required implementing agenda 2030 (GED, 2017).

Thirdly, the age of MDGs ended in 2015 with the campaigning of the new-fangled slogan transforming our world to sustainable development by 2030 (UN, 2015). There are actions spotlighting on the implementation challenges of different goals and targets of SDGs in the perspective of Bangladesh. The document under the heading Institutional and Foundations of Stability and Prosperity: Towards Fast-track Governance denotes '…the public sector will have to reform the existing regulations in the service delivery system of ministries and departments, and the agencies…to facilitate citizens' access to government services (GoB, 2012, pp:15-18)'.

Fourthly, to attain the SDGs, the government of Bangladesh has also tried to find out the data gap which is incredibly significant to meet the targets. The government document reveals that it

has no available data to meet the targets of SDGs, especially to 'develop effective, accountable and transparent institution at all levels and to ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision making at all levels' (GoB, 2016, p-40). Another report (Rahman M. K., 2015, p-34) published by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CDP) also stressed the availability of data for implementing sustainable development policies.

Fifthly, Haque discusses and compares the implementation challenges between MDGs and SDGs in the context of Bangladesh (Haque, From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: Implementation Challenges for Bangladesh, 2016). The article has seemed a general discussion about MDGs and SDGs. As per the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2018), Bangladesh scored a rank of 111 out of 156 countries in the SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018. Bangladesh has a `red' threshold on 8 out of 17 SDGs, including SDG 16 (Shil & Chowdhury, 2018). It also indicates that there are challenges to meet the targets.

Sixthly, a country study (Bhattacharya, Rezbana, & Khatun, 2018) identified five key challenges in the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. These are overall challenges for Bangladesh to meet the targets of SDGs. These include: (i) management, coordination and leadership, (ii) aligning SDG implementation with national planning and policy process, (iii) partnership and stakeholder participation including institutional arrangements, (iv) data-related issues and capacity of the national statistical agencies, and (v) financing and other means of implementation including systemic issues. However, this research explores the challenges in delivering public service to meet the SDG 16 in Bangladesh.

Finally, it can be mentioned that the findings of the study have got a number of challenges for implementing UN conventions of sustainable development in Bangladesh. These findings also match with the hypotheses of the research including a) financial crisis and bindings of development partners; b) UN policies are not often formulated based on the concern of developing countries; c) government is not capable to utilize released fund; d) Lack of coordination and cooperation among government departments; and e) Lack of global supervision and monitoring. Consequently, the findings of this research will provide guiding principles for the implementation mechanism.

8.3   Recommendations

The research, moreover, sets a number of proposals for achieving the implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh. Although the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (PGS, 2012) presented numerous recommendations for Sustainable Development such as a) conserve resources and promotes renewable energies; b) innovation; c) empowering people; d) education and skills for sustainable development; e) strengthening institutional governance; and f) integration of goals. It is significant, based on findings, to take measures for ensuring efficient and effective implementation of the UN convention on sustainable development. These suggestions are demonstrated below:

i.   To make certain about sustainable development which needs to be understood and supported by the finance, resources and global cooperation at national level;

ii.   To ensure mutual mechanisms to speed up national and international actions for funding and adopting sustainable development;

iii.   To make sure coherence, mutual coordination and monitoring sustainable development;

iv.   To make easy mutual integration and cooperation among the government institutions;

v.   To facilitate with donor and aid agencies for funding without or with soft terms and conditions;

vi.   To localize UN conventions on sustainable development for ensuring consciousness and understanding documents;

vii.   To provide sufficient logistics, efficient human resource and required funds for establishing endurable development;

viii. To speed up a global commitment to addressing the challenge of climate change with international coordination;

ix.   To ensure pragmatic and equal participation for all member countries in the decision-making process of the UN General Assembly;

x.   To build a professional body for utilizing released funds properly in the implementation process with skilled financial management;

xi.   To ensure human empowerment, equal opportunities, and basic needs for making sustainable development reliable;

xii. To establish accountability, transparency, inclusive responsibility in the governance system for strengthening efficient and accountable governmental institutions;

xiii. To build sustainable economic growth, innovation, productive employment, peaceful society, and political stability for increasing national level performance; and

xiv. To establish a human-centric implementation approach, global partnership, and technology transfer (digitalization) for implementing UN conventions on sustainable development.

In addition, the study has suggested for ensuring decent working environment through skilled staff management, sustainable agriculture, public-private partnership, gender empowerment, sustainable energy, and sustainable ecosystem management to guarantee a successful implementation of sustainable development documents in Bangladesh.

8.4 Sum up

To sum up this chapter I believe that the findings of the research will add some information which possibly cooperative to meet the strategies and targets of sustainable development in Bangladesh. It has been observed that the international cooperation for sustainable development has not delivered as much as necessary to achieve all the international commitments made at the Earth Summit and afterward. Thus, the current framework for international cooperation is constantly evolving and suffering from significant shortcomings. The government has taken a number of steps for implementing sustainable development goals like mapping up ministries, assessing financial need, data gap analyzing, localizing SDGs and making action plan. If the limitations of sustainable development are overcome appropriately then speeding up national and international action in terms of funding and adopting sustainable development mechanisms, integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and strengthening of governmental institutions will assist in achieving implementation of UN conventions on sustainable development in developing nations especially Bangladesh. Overall, the finding and recommendations of this research may assist in the implementation procedure of the development agenda in Bangladesh.

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APPENDICS

10. APPENDICS

10.1 Survey Questionnaire

<div align="center">

Department of Political Science
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</div>

Title: Implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Institutional and Procedural setbacks.

[N.B: All the information provided here will be kept conceal and will be used research purpose only]

Identification: Questionnaire ID: ☐

Name of the respondent (Optional): ☐

Section A: Demographic Profile

1. Age of the respondent (AGE) (Please mention): ☐
2. Gender: ☐ Male   ☐ Female
3. Education status (Please tick):
    ☐ Bachelor   ☐ Masters   ☐ M. Phil   ☐ PhD   ☐ Others
4. Employment Status (Please tick):
    ☐ Unemployed ☐ Govt. Employee ☐ Non-Govt. Employee ☐ Business
    ☐ Civil Society ☐ Others
5. Ministry/Department/Organization/Agency you work for (Please mention):
    ☐

SECTION B: UN POLICIES IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

6. Do you have an idea about the United Nations conventions, strategies, and policies?

    Please, <u>tick</u> mark.

No Idea (0)	Very Low (1)	Low (2)	Moderately (3)	High (4)	Very High (5)

7. Are there any setbacks in the implementation of the United Nations conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh?

      Yes ☐   No ☐   Maybe ☐   No Comment ☐

8. What types of setbacks are significant?

      Internal ☐   External ☐   Both ☐   No Comment ☐

9. Do you think that the maximum level implementation of the United Nations Convention on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh is possible?

      Yes ☐   No ☐   Maybe ☐   No Comment ☐

10. Are the SDGs attainable by 2030 properly?

      Yes ☐   No ☐   Maybe ☐   No Comment ☐

11. Will the conventions on sustainable development be understood and supported by finance, resources, and global cooperation at the national level?

      Yes ☐   No ☐   Maybe ☐   No Comment ☐

12. What factors are responsible for the insufficient implementation of the UN policies in Bangladesh?

Factors	Very important (5)	Important (4)	Moderately important (3)	Less important (2)	No need (1)	No answer (0)
Institutional Complexity						
Political Turmoil						
Binding of Donor Agencies						
Limited Logistics						
Need of Technology						
Lack of Capacity						
Top down approach						
Obscure Agenda						

13. Steps have to be taken for assuring that everyone will be benefited by SDGs are:

(Multiple answers tick only)

Equalize Opportunities		Ensure Basic Elements	
Humans Empowerment		Extend Quality Education	
Ensure Healthcare		Unlocks Real potentials	
Empowering Local Communities		Other......................................	

SECTION C: UTILIZATION OF UN'S CONVENTIONS

14. Will the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) take economic inequality seriously?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

15. Does the government take fundamental steps to address climate change and other environmental challenges?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

16. Do you think that mutual mechanisms to speed up national and international action in terms of funding and adopting sustainable development are important?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes ☐ No Comment ☐

17. What essential tools for Promoting the rule of law and strengthening of governmental institutions for establishing sustainable development are needed? (Multiple tick only)

Ensure Accountability		Productive employment	
Inclusive and quality education		Foster innovation	
Women empowerment		Ensure Transparency	
Sustainable economic growth		Promote peaceful societies	
Political stability		Other......................................	

18. A balanced Integration among the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development is absent in developing countries like Bangladesh. Do you agree?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

19. Do you think that Strengthening coherence, coordination and monitoring are obligatory for SDGs?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

SECTION D: UN CONVENTIONS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

20. Do you think that the UN General Assembly can ensure equal participation in the policymaking process?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

21. Are the UN policies formulated based on the concern of developing and under-developing countries?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

22. Each SDG is supported by a set of *Targets* and specific objectives with the purpose of that Goal. Will that targets and objectives be achieved in time without any delay?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

23. Is the government skilled to utilize released funds to ensure sustainable development in the whole country?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Rarely ☐ No Comment ☐

24. To implement a policy, coordination and cooperation among departments are very burning issue. Do you think that there are proper coordination and cooperation among the government departments?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Rarely ☐ No Comment ☐

25. Does the government face any barriers during policy implementation and monitoring?

Yes ☐ No ☐ May be ☐ No Comment ☐

26. Do the international donor and aid agencies impose any conditions?

Frequently ☐ No ☐ Rarely ☐ No Comment ☐

27. The implementations of **Agenda 21** through the mobilization of financial and technological resources are globally important. Do you agree?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

SECTION E: POLICY OPTION

28. For strengthening promise to Sustainable Development, please rate on the following areas:

Thematic areas	Very Import (5)	Important (4)	Moderately important (3)	Less import (2)	No need (1)	No answer (0)
Human-Centric Approach						
Efficient and Accountable Institutions						
Promote Sustainable Agriculture						
Public-Private Cooperation						
Skilled Financial Management						
Skilled Staff Management						
Decrease Gender Gap						
Scale-up Wastewater Treatment						
Energy Access Issue						
Decent Working Environment						
Promote Digitalization						
Transparent Governance						
Low Carbon Innovations						
Ecosystem Management						
Ensure global partnership						

29. Do you agree that the United Nations Conventions should be realistic in Bangladesh for ensuring sustainable development?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Maybe ☐ No Comment ☐

30. What is your suggestion to improve the implementation status of United Nations conventions in Bangladesh? (Give your suggestion in the following 2 sentences)

a)………………………………………………………………………………………

b)……………………………………………………………………………………..

10.2 Focus Group Discussion

FGD CHECKLIST

Four FGD at Regional Public Administration Training Centre, Rajshahi; Each FGD contains 6-8 members; The respondents have listed based on the selected governments' departments; The time duration of each FGD was 60-70 minutes, and the following questions have been asked for group discussion to obtain data.

a. What are the problems of implementing UN conventions on sustainable development in Bangladesh?

b. How do you will define the institutional gaps for implementing UN conventions on sustainable development?

c. How do you will analyze the possibility of maximum level implementation of United Nations Conventions on Sustainable Development in Bangladesh?

d. Are mutual mechanisms to speed up national and international action in terms of funding and adopting sustainable development important?

e. Do you think that the UN General Assembly can ensure equal participation in the policy-making process? Discuss.

f. How do the government can be skilled to utilize released funds to ensure sustainable development in the whole country?

g. What can be done for ensuring coordination and cooperation among the government departments to implement a policy?

h. How do you will evaluate the conditions imposed by the international donor and aid agencies?

i. What is your suggestion to improve the implementation status of United Nations conventions in Bangladesh?

j. Do you want to include something important more?

10.3   Key Informant Interview (KII)

<u>In-depth interview Questions</u>

(i) Please make us know about the United Nations conventions on sustainable development.

(ii) How do you think that the United Nations conventions are inclusive and universal?

(iii)Why the implementation status of UN policies is low in developing countries?

(iv)How can we ensure proper utilization of United Nations conventions?

(v) Do you think that UN conventions are formulated by the concern of developing countries?

(vi)Do you think that the development partners impose bindings in the time of financing?

(vii)   What it is the bottleneck to utilize released fund in Bangladesh?

(viii) Is there a lack of co-ordination and co-operation among departments in Bangladesh to implement international documents?

THE END