

# Bangladesh And Global Studies

Class Seven



NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOK BOARD, BANGLADESH

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# **Bangladesh and Global Studies**

## **Class Seven**

### **Written by**

Prof. Mamtazuddin Patwari  
Prof. Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain  
Prof. Dr. Abu Md. Delwar Hossain  
Prof. Dr. A K M Shahnawaz  
Dr. Selina Akhter  
Fahmida Haq  
Dr. Uttam Kumar Das  
Anwarul Hoque  
Syeda Sangeeta Imam

### **Edited by**

Prof. Dr. Muntassir Mamoon  
Prof. Shafiul Alam  
Abul Momen  
Prof. Dr. Mahboob Sadiq  
Prof. Dr. Morshed Shafiul Hasan  
Prof. Dr. Syed Azizul Huq  
Syed Mahfooz Ali

### **Translated by**

Prof. Shaheen M. Kabir  
Surajit Roy Mazumder  
Md. Abdus Salam  
Md. Abu Sulayman

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## Preface

The aim of secondary education is to make the learners fit for entry into higher education by flourishing their latent talents and prospects with a view to building the nation with the spirit of the Language Movement and the Liberation War. To make the learners skilled and competent citizens of the country based on the economic, social, cultural and environmental settings is also an important issue of secondary education.

The textbooks of secondary level have been written and compiled according to the revised curriculum 2012 in accordance with the aims and objectives of National Education Policy-2010. Contents and presentations of the textbooks have been selected according to the moral and humanistic values of Bengali tradition and culture and the spirit of Liberation War 1971 ensuring equal dignity for all irrespective of caste and creed of different religions and sex.

The present government is committed to ensure the successful implementation of Vision 2021. Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina expressed her firm determination to make the country free from illiteracy and instructed the concerned authority to give free textbooks to every student of the country. National Curriculum and Textbook Board started to distribute textbooks free of cost since 2010 according to her instruction.

The following subjects namely, sociology, history, civics, economics, geography and populations has been presented in a combined way rather than in an individual manner to prepare the book entitled **Bangladesh and Global Studies**. As a result, the students will gain complete knowledge of the society and environment, history-heritage, culture, socio-economic-political condition and global issues of Bangladesh. It is expected that the students will be turned in to citizens with complete civic values by practicing these issues following the cherished tradition of Bangladesh. They will get an opportunity to develop themselves as conscious citizens. They will be able to enrich their world of knowledge comparing to global issues. They will be expected to possess the life-skills with a view to dealing with different issues of the society.

I thank sincerely all for their intellectual labor who were involved in the process of revision, writing, editing, art and design of the textbook.

**Prof. Narayan Chandra Saha**

Chairman

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
One	Liberation Movement of Bangladesh	1-16
Two	Culture and Cultural Diversity of Bangladesh	17-28
Three	Growth of Child in a Family	29-34
Four	Economy of Bangladesh	35-45
Five	Bangladesh and Citizen of Bangladesh	46-53
Six	Election System of Bangladesh	54-62
Seven	Climate of Bangladesh	63-73
Eight	Introduction to Population of Bangladesh	74-86
Nine	Rights of Senior Citizens and Women in Bangladesh	87-96
Ten	Social Problems in Bangladesh	97-103
Eleven	Some Countries in Asia	104-110
Twelve	Bangladesh and International Cooperation	111-120
Thirteen	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)	121-128

## Chapter One

# Liberation Movement of Bangladesh

The birth of independent Bangladesh is the most important event in the history of the Bangalee nation. The Bangalees continued to protest and battle against the exploitation, suppression and discrimination of the Pakistani regimes since the movements against the British rule. The Language Movement of 1952, East Pakistan Provincial Assembly election, the movement against martial law, different student movements, etc. are mentionable among them. Besides, the six-point movement, historic case of Agartala, movement for cultural rights, the mass uprising of 1969 and the general election of 1970 contributed to the national renaissance of the Bangalees. These incidents and events accelerated the anti-Pakistan spirit and motivated the people towards Bangalee nationalism. As a result, the mass people whole heartedly took part in the war of independence as it broke out in 1971. Bangladesh achieved independence through this blood-letting war. This chapter highlights the significant phases of movements and struggle of liberation against Pakistan.

**By the end of the lesson, we will be able to-**

1. describe the causes of the Language Movement ;
2. describe the events of the Language Movement ;
3. analyse the significance of the Language Movement ;
4. describe the achievements of the United Front government ;
5. discuss the Six Point Movement ;
6. explain the historic Agartala Case ;
7. discuss the events and importance of Mass Uprising of 1969 ;
8. describe the landslide victory of Bangalees in the general election of 1970 ;
9. explain the ever present disparity between the East and West Pakistan .

## Lesson 1: The Language Movement

After the independence of Pakistan there is confusion about the policies and ideologies of state. The situation can be called a crisis of solidarity and unity. The main logic for the establishment of Pakistan was that, the Hindus and the Muslims were two different nations. Jinnah, initiator of the two-nation theory, declared in the National Assembly only after a few days of the



Central Shahid Minar

independence of Pakistan, "Forgetting identities like Muslim-Hindu-Buddhist-Christian or Panjabi-Bangalee-Sindhi-Pakhtun, everyone will now be Pakistani only." Although they spoke about united Pakistan, their means were always Islam, the religion, and Urdu, the language. Thus they stood against all other religions, languages and cultures. They even took a stand against the rich heritage of Bangla literature. The then Pakistani government took hostile position against the literary writers like Rabindranath, Michael and Bankim.

The linguist Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah along with many other intellectuals and litterateurs came forward with a view to protecting Bangla language, literature, culture and heritage. Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah in one of his speeches at this period said, "It is obvious that we are Hindus and Muslims, but it is more a truth that we are Bangalees. It is not an ideology, rather it is a fact. Nature in her own hands has awarded us with such resemblances as Bangalees. We have no scope to hide that with our garlands-tilak-tuff or cap-hungi-beard."

Soon after independence of Pakistan, the issue of its state language came up. The conscious and literate Bangalees of East Bengal raised their voice in favour of Bangla. But the then Pakistan government started conspiracy to make Urdu the state language.

In March of 1948, Father of Pakistan and first governor general Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared- Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan. When he gave this declaration in a meeting with teachers and students at Curzon Hall of Dhaka University, the students shouted out in protest "No, no, no." Educationalists, litterateurs, intellectuals and most of the political leaders of this country supported Bangla language in this issue. Dhirendranath Dutta, a member of the national assembly

and later a martyr of 1971, proposed Bangla as the state language of Pakistan. But the prime minister Liakot Ali Khan strongly encountered of this proposal. Sadly, many Bangalee members of Muslim League also stood against the proposition. But it was rational only for Bangla to get the status. The then population of Pakistan was 6 crore 90 lakh of which the Bangalees were 4 crore 40 lakh. Urdu was not even the mother tongue of the rest two and a half crore.

The Pakistani ruling group tried to impose the language of the minority on the majority Bangalees. The Bangalees did not demand Bangla as the only state language. They wanted the recognition of Bangla as a state language alongside Urdu.

Many initiatives were taken in East Bengal to ensure the right of Bangla, the mother tongue. By this time The All Party State Language Committee was formed by the progressive politicians and the students of Dhaka University. Kazi Golam Mahbub, Shawkat Ali, Gaziul Huq, Mohammad Toaha, Abdul Matin and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were active among the students and youth under its leadership.

A strike was called on 11 March 1948 to further press the rightful demand for Bangla.

Most of the leaders including Oli Ahad, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Kazi Golam Mahbub were arrested. Many students were wounded due to butality of the police force. This also did not stop movement for the language. Dhaka University and many other academic institutions went on strike in protest of this incident. The students continued with their movement. They decided to lay a siege at the Pakistan National Assembly during its winter session in 1952 in Dhaka and place a memorandum. The day was set on 21st February.



Shahid Salam



Shahid Safiur



Shahid Jabbar



Shahid Rafiq



Shahid Barkat

The Muslim League-led government under the chief minister of East Bengal Nurul Amin decided to resist the students. The provincial authority imposed section 144 in Dhaka University area. It prohibited more than four persons to get together and bring out procession. But the demonstrating students would not obey that. They were ready to take any courageous steps in order to uphold the dignity and right of their mother tongue. In a meeting held the previous night, the students decided to violate section 144 to perform the procession.



Armed Police pounced on the demonstrating students that day. First they charged batons and shot tear gas. That could not control the protesters. Then they opened fire on the procession led by Abdul Matin and Gaziul Huq. Rafik Uddin, Abdul Jabbar and Abul Barkat were spot dead at this, while numerous others were injured. They were admitted into Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Abdus Salam died under treatment. On 22 February, police again fired on a student-crowd rally and killed Shafiur Rahman and Oliullah, a 9-year-old boy. Besides, some anonymous people also died on 21 and 22 February. All of them are language martyrs.

On 23rd February, students of Dhaka Medical College built a mausoleum on the spot the students were killed on 21st February. This temporary mausoleum was replaced by a larger one in 1963. Today, it is known as the Central Shaheed Minar.

### **Significance of Language Movement**

The Bangalees poured their blood and established the dignity of mother tongue. The East Pakistan legislature decided in favour of Bangla as one of the state languages. In 1956, the first constitution of Pakistan also gave this recognition as it included Bangla as one of the state languages. Thus, the Language Movement met its successful ending. Finally the conquest of the Banglee nation was achieved. Both Bangla and Urdu were declared state languages and this brought victory for the Bangalees as a nation.

The success of the people's lawful movement for their mother tongue strengthened the nationalist spirit among the educated Bangalees. Besides the pride in Bangla language, Bangla literature and thousand years' heritage, the Bangalees also regained their confidence.

The whole world pays respect to this movement for language by the Bangalees. Our Language Movement received international recognition in 1999. On 17 November of that year, UNESCO declared 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. All nations around the world observe this day as a tribute to their respective mother tongues. They also recall the supreme sacrifice of the Banglees endured during the Language Movement.

Activity 1: Describe the language martyrs along with pictures.

### **Lesson 2: United Front**

Conspiracies of Pakistani rulers since its inception led the people of East Bengal to feel aggrieved. People of different opinions built unity on the issue of self protection and development. Muslim League, the ruling party, turned into a symbol of conspiracy and repression. Major political parties and their leaders wanted to defeat Muslim League in the election and thus establish rights of the Bangalees. They formed an alliance ahead of the election of East Bengal Provincial Assembly in 1954. This alliance is known as the United Front. The Awami Muslim League, Krishak Shramik Party, Nejam-e-Islami and Gontantri Party joined the United Front during this election. This front has a significant role in our movement towards liberation.

### Formation of the United Front and 21-Point Manifesto

The election of 1954 was not the national assembly election of the two parts of Pakistan. It was only provincial election of East Bengal.



Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haq Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani

This election is a milestone in the history of our struggle against the oppression of the West Pakistani rulers. More specifically, it wanted to put up resistance against the Muslim League's actions to undermine Bangalee nation, Bangla language and culture. Sixteen other parties including the ruling Muslim League contested the election. But the main contest took place between United Front and Muslim League. The United Front's election symbol was 'Boat'. The Front was led by three veteran leaders: *Sher-e-Bangla* A K Fazlul Haque, Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi. *Bangabandhu* Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took the spotlight among the youth with his growing popularity.

The United Front announced their 21 points in the manifesto to the public. It proposed the recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan, cancellation of Zaminder system, nationalisation of jute industry, introduction of cooperative farming, and compulsory free primary education for implementation. It also included

cancellation of all unjust laws violating human rights, construction of Shaheed Minar for the language martyrs, declaration of 21st February as a public holiday and autonomy to East Bengal. The establishment of Bangla Academy for the development of Bangla language and literature was also a point in it.



Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi



Father of the nation a  
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

### **Result of the Election**

The Muslims and other religious followers had separate seats allotted in 1954 election and voting was also held separately. The United Front achieved a landslide victory with 236 seats out of 309 in this election. With only 9 seats, the Muslim League had a disaster. Independent candidates and other parties won the rest of the seats. Newspapers and magazines at home and abroad termed this victory of United Front a "Ballot Revolution".

This election was the first-ever adult franchise of East Bengal. Bengali nationalism worked as a tonic for Bangalees to cast votes for the symbol 'Boat'. The crushing defeat of Muslim League proved that one could not deceive the people using religion for oppression. It also proved that no government could expect to continue ruling while being suppressive and oppressive against language and culture of a populace. This new nationalistic spirit has motivated the Bangalees in the later events. On the other hand, Muslim League came to be known as an anti-people party. Factionalism severely came into effect in the party by 1957 and they take-off from state power. In the election of 1970, the party failed to obtain any seat.

### **Reasons behind the Defeat of Muslim League and Victory of United Front**

The post independence role of Muslim League angered the Bangalees. Besides, the success of Language Movement inspired them towards a change in the political landscape of the country. The United Front presented diverse opinions and ideologies under one banner which had an effect on the voters. The election manifesto also sufficiently mirrored the hopes and aspirations of the population. Apart from recognition of Bangla language, and provincial autonomy, the manifesto reflected demands of all walks of people of our society. The 21-point programme is also a reason for the success. The United Front presented a unique mixture of old and young leaders and workers. The young workers worked vigorously for the front. On the contrary, the manifesto of Muslim League was obscure and full of loose ends. The party leaders, being alienated from the people could not stand a chance. Misrule, price-hike, oppression, factionalism, corruption, disparity between the two parts of Pakistan can be termed as some of the reasons for the crushing defeat of Muslim League.

Activity 1: Write the main features of 21-point manifesto of the United Front.

Activity 2: Make separate tables containing the reasons behind the Defeat of Muslim League and Victory of United Front

### **Achievements of Bangalees**

The Pakistani ruling class never refrained from hatching conspiracies since independence. Always the same trend continued. Using special powers, they dissolved the United Front government within two months. A civil government was

formed under the new constitution. However, President Iskandar Mirza declared martial law on 7 October 1958 on the pretext of deterioration of law and order situation in the country. Later, General Ayub Khan ousted Iskandar Mirza from the presidency and proclaimed himself as the new President. All activities of political parties were banned from 1958 to 1962. Many leaders were sent to jail. The Bangalee students came forward to fill up the vacuum. Ayub Khan presented a new constitution which shattered the democratic aspirations of Bangalees. The students of East Bengal took to the streets. The movement grew stronger with the declaration of national education policy. This education policy is known as Sharif Commission. The commission recommended Urdu as the sole medium of education in both parts of Pakistan, cancellation of free education and lessening opportunity to higher education. There was massive protest from the students on this part. The government was ultimately forced to cancel the Sharif Commission's education policy.

### **Lesson 3: The Six-Point Movement**

On 5 February 1966, a conference of the opposition parties was held in Lahore. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proposed the six-point programme there to regain all kinds of rights for the Bangalees of East Pakistan. Mainly these six points were the demand for autonomy of the province. The people of East Pakistan would have the full right to rule themselves while staying united with western part of Pakistan.



Bangabundhu Sheikh Mujib in a speech on six points

#### **The Six-Point Demand**

1. A new constitution has to be written according to the spirit of historical Lahore Declaration of 1940. The country should be based on parliamentary form of government. The parliament and legislatures should be formed with adult franchise. The legislatures should have the sovereignty.

2. The federal government (central) will have defence and foreign affairs of the country. All the rest affairs will be dealt by the state governments.
3. Two separate but freely convertible currencies for two wings have to be introduced. The responsibility of currency should be there in the hands of federal government. There should be two independent central banks for two wings. If this is not feasible, there should be one currency for both the wings. But that should be done ensuring stoppage of the flight of capital from East to West Pakistan.
4. The power of taxation and revenue collection should be vested on state governments. The federal government would get a fixed share of the collected revenue by the state government.
5. There has to be two separate accounts for the foreign exchange earnings of the two wings. Each state government should have full rights over the earned foreign exchange and should contribute to the federal government equally or in a ratio to be fixed. The constitution should empower the units to establish trade links with foreign countries.
6. East Pakistan should have a separate paramilitary force.

### **Reaction to Six-Point Demand**

General Ayub Khan, the martial law administrator, got afraid of the six-point demand. He realised that such autonomy for East Pakistan would end all their exploitations. They were also worried about independence of the wing some day. That would lessen the foreign exchange earning of Pakistan because the greatest source of foreign exchange of Pakistan was jute of the East. However, this earning was diverted to civil and military sectors of the West instead of the East Pakistan. Bangalees hardly had any higher position in job sector. This monopoly for the West Pakistanis would end with the autonomy of the East. Therefore, the conspiracies began again. Many cases were filed against Bangabandhu in various districts of the province. Leaders and workers of the Awami League were arrested. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tajuddin Ahmed and many other party leaders were subjected to this kind of harassment. But the movement could not be silenced because of the firm leadership of Bangabandhu and his widespread popularity.

Activity 1: Explain the beginning of anti-martial law movement.

Activity 2: Mention some of the reasons behind student movement of 1962.

## **Lesson 4: Historic Case of Agartala (State versus Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others)**

In 1968, the Ayub and Monayem brought about an allegation of subversive activities against some civil and military personnel of East Pakistan. It was actually aimed at stopping the six-point movement. The Pakistan government filed a case named Agartala Conspiracy Case. The case was filed against mentioned 35 people including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as accused. The case stated that the accused had been attempting to create an independent state in East Pakistan with Indian support. The ultimate goal of the government was to prove all 35 along with Bangabandhu as enemies of Pakistan and award them capital punishment. Thus they wanted to silence political agitations altogether. However, the military-led government finally had to retreat in the face of massive protests from students and general people. They were compelled to withdraw the case and free all prisoners.

### **11-Point Movement**

Students of Dhaka University took to the streets with 11-point alongside the six points. This started mass demonstration. The 11-point demands included introduction of direct adult poll and parliamentary democracy, complete autonomy for East Pakistan, nationalisation of banks, insurances and heavy industries, lessening of tax and revenue for farmers, freeing of all political prisoners and withdrawal of all their cases.

## **Lesson 5: The Mass Uprising of 1969**

In January 1969, Chhatra League, Chhatra Union and Jatiyo Chhatra Federation formed all party "Chhatra Songram Parishad" with a view to ousting General Ayub Khan. Students started agitation programmes in favour of their 11 points alongside the six points of Awami League. The government started using police atrocity to suppress the agitation. On 20 January 1969, when the police opened indiscriminate fire on agitating students in Dhaka, Asaduzzaman, a student of Dhaka University, was killed. This killing transformed the agitation into a mass uprising. On 15 February 1969, Sgt Zahurul Huq, an accused of the Agartala case, was shot dead in captivity condition at Kurmitola cantonment of Dhaka. Dr. Shamsuzzoha, a Rajshahi University teacher, was brutally killed by the Pakistan Army personnel on 16th February. At that moment, he was busy pacifying the agitated students. News of these killings lit the fire of discontent among the mass people. Failing to sustain the tides of the movement, the military-led government was compelled to withdraw the Agartala case and free all the accused unconditionally on 22 February 1969. Finding no other way, the frightened General Ayub Khan resigned from the presidency on 25 March. He handed over the presidency to General Yahiya Khan. Thus the students and the people obtained another success in their movement.



Shahid Asad



Shahid Sgt. Zahurul Huq



Shahid Dr. Shamsuzzoha

## Lesson 6: General Election of 1970

President Ayub Khan resigned from the presidency handing over power to the army chief Yahya Khan. Soon after assuming power, Yahya Khan attempted to pacify Bangalees. He pledged to hold a general election in 1970.

The general election of Pakistan National Assembly was held on 7 December 1970. There were a total of 313 seats in parliament of which 169 were allocated to East Pakistan and the rest to West Pakistan. In the National Assembly, the main opponents were Awami League and Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Awami League won 167 seats in the National Assembly while PPP got 88. Mentionable that Awami League got the majority in East Pakistan, while PPP got the majority in the West.

Later, on 17 December of the same year, the provincial election was held. Awami League came out as the majority with 298 of 310 seats of the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan. The rest of the seats went to independent candidates and other political parties.

### Significance of the Election

The results of Election in 1970 increased the pace of our movement towards liberation. Two different majorities in two separate wings of Pakistan proved Bangalees as a separate nation. The overwhelming victory obtained by Awami League reflected the cherished desire for recognition of our race as a separate identity since 1947. The demand for autonomy was also validated in the mandate. The result altogether bade our farewell to the



Bengabandhi in 1970 Election Campaign

Pakistani rulers. At the same time, the Bangalees showed their acceptance of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib as their symbol of emancipation.

Activity 1: Describe the results of 1970 General Election.

## Lesson 7 & 8: Disparity between East and West Pakistan

Since the birth of Pakistan, the West Pakistani rulers could never think of the Bangalees as their own people. Instead of freedom and independence, the Bangalees got all the discrimination; a new foreign ruler in place of the British. The relation between the two wings was that of an exploiter and the exploited class. We became the exploited. The huge disparity and discrimination between the inhabitants of the two wings of Pakistan was visible in every strata of life like politics, administration, military, economy education, culture etc. This was deliberate attempt to keep the Bangalees dominated. But the Bangalees demonstrated their discontent about that through various ways. Finally, they created a new country Bangladesh through the War of Liberation.

### Political Disparity

The Bangalees were politically discriminated again in the newly created Pakistan right from the beginning. Although the Bangalees were majority, Karachi of West Pakistan was selected as the first capital instead of Dhaka. The West Pakistanis were automatic choice in all positions including Governor General, Prime Minister and members of cabinet to different administrative posts.

**সোনার বাংলা স্বাধীন কেন?**

বৈষম্য বিষয়	বাংলাদেশ	পশ্চিমপাকিস্তান
রাষ্ট্র ব্যাচ ব্যয়	১৫০০ কোটি টাকা	৫০০০ কোটি টাকা
উন্নয়ন খাতে ন্যূন	২০০০ কোটি টাকা	৬০০০ কোটি টাকা
বৈদেশিক সাহায্য	শতকরা ২৫ ভাগ	শতকরা ৮০ ভাগ
বৈদেশিক দ্রব্য আমদানি	শতকরা ২৫ ভাগ	শতকরা ৭৫ ভাগ
কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের দায়িত্ব	শতকরা ১৫ জন	শতকরা ৮৫ জন
প্রাদেশিক বিভাগে দায়িত্ব	শতকরা ২০ জন	শতকরা ৮০ জন
চাঁদুর মণ্ড প্রতি	৫০ টাকা	২৫ টাকা
আটা মণ্ড প্রতি	৩০ টাকা	১৫ টাকা
সরিষার তৈল সের প্রতি	৫ টাকা	২'৫০ পয়সা
স্বর্ণ প্রতি ভরি	১৭০ টাকা	১৩৫ টাকা

১৯৭০ সালের নির্বাচনে ঐতিহাসিক পোস্টার। তৎকালীন আওয়ামী লীগের পক্ষে পোস্টারটি তৈরি করেন জনাব নূরুন্না ইসলাম এবং একেছিলেন শিল্পী হাশেম খান

Poster of discrimination between East Pakistan & West Pakistan

Among the 211 ministers in the central cabinet during the period of 1947-71, only 95 of them were Bangalees. Among the 62 ministers during Ayub regime only 22 were Bangalees. Again these Bangalee ministers were never allotted important portfolios.

The Ayub regime ((1958-69) regularly awarded imprisonment and financial penalties with a view to disqualifying in election by means of martial law orders and ordinances. This was done in order to suppress Bangalee politicians. They even went up to the extent of conspiring to hang Bangabandhu along with 35 others filing the historic Agartala case.



Although the Awami League won the election of 1970, they were never invited to form the government. This transformed the demand for autonomy in united Pakistan into the demand for complete freedom of Bengal.

### **Disparity in Administration**

Most of the qualified people in a new and developing country generally want to join the government service as a profession. If the country puts some kind of obstacle to that or creates some discrimination, that is a violation of fundamental human rights. Constitutions also award this right to choose one's own profession. Despite having qualifications, Bangalees were always deprived of joining appropriate higher administrative posts. The West Pakistanis used to appoint their own people in key positions and in larger numbers so that they could control Pakistan. Majorities in the government service hailed from West Pakistan although Bangalees had a larger population. The top level appointments in key ministries like defence and foreign affairs were traditionally out of reach for East Pakistanis. Bangalees constituted only 23% of class 1 job holders. The same discrimination was also ever present in appointments to banks, railways, corporations and other government controlled offices.

### **Disparity in Defence Forces**

Discrimination was ever present phenomena in army, navy and air force too. The three headquarters of Pakistan defence forces and ordnance factory were situated in West Pakistan. Only 5% of the officers in defence forces were Bangalees. Again, only 4% personnel of the army were Bangalees. Though the navy and air force saw apparently higher recruitment the number was still scanty. 60% of total budget of Pakistan was allotted to defence, maximum portion of it was expended in West Pakistan. Promotion was discriminatory. That is why, the six points proposed by Awami League considered the defence affairs with due seriousness. Because of the negligent attitude of the central government, the border of the East Pakistan laid unprotected. This insecurity was the best reflected in India-Pakistan war of 1965.

### **Disparity in Economy**

The central government was the supreme authority of powers in Pakistan. Head offices of all banks including the central bank, insurances, commercial and industrial enterprises were situated in West Pakistan. Though the lion's share of earned foreign exchange of Pakistan was to the credit of the East Pakistan, she never got more than 21 % of its share. 34% of foreign aid was allotted to East Pakistan. However, Bangalees were forced to carry the burden of foreign loans. Only 31 % of whatever was imported from abroad was allocated to East Pakistan.

It experienced insignificant progress due to this negligence in allocation of resources. On the contrary, West Pakistan was developed by means of our money. Besides, significant amount of resources were smuggled out of East Pakistan to West Pakistan.



A symbolic poster of Economic disparity

2000 million dollars of the export oriented income from the east were transferred to West Pakistan. A symbolic poster of that time is presented above to portray the disparity. A cow is grazing in East Pakistan (Bangladesh at present) while a person from West Pakistan is milking that cow. It means production takes place in East Pakistan, while the profit is enjoyed by West Pakistan.

### **Cultural Discrimination**

There had been deliberate attempts by the Pakistani rulers to suppress Bangla language, literature and culture right from the birth of Pakistan. In 1948, they wanted to impose Urdu as the only state language. The Bangalees had to sacrifice some valuable lives to establish the right of our mother tongue in 1952. Though the constitution of 1956 recognised Bangla as the second state language, the conspiracies never came to a stop. They changed the name of East Bengal into East Pakistan at that period. There were attempts to write Bangla in Urdu alphabet. There were endless restrictions over movies, plays, and newspaper and book publication. Broadcasting Rabindra Sangeet on radio and television and observance of Bangla New Year were forbidden. Thus numerous means were used to hurt the cultural strata of Bangalees.

### **Reactions against Discrimination**

The Bangalees are fighters. They protested against injustice during the Mughal and British period. Silence towards the discriminations of the Pakistani rulers was never in their mind. The Language Movement was the initiation of anti-Pakistan agitation. Although for a brief period, the Bangalees had their first taste of power when they formed government defeating Muslim League in 1954. The student agitations against the Sharif Commission began the movement against martial law government of Ayub Khan. Literary conferences and cultural movements in the 60's were the staging ground for anti-Ayub agitations. A cultural renaissance occurred all over the country including Dhaka and Chittagong during the celebration of Biswa Kabi Rabindranath Thakur's

birth centenary in 1961. The cultural movements were further stimulated with the birth of "Chhayanata" in the same year. This cultural outfit regularly organised various cultural events and celebration of different festivals. This trend towards cultural autonomy continued throughout the 60's. In 1966 the six points' proposal was a plan to get rid of all discriminations and attempt to run their own country. When the government rejected the rightful demand of The Bangalees, they started 6 point and 11-point movements.

The mass uprising forced the government to withdraw historic Agartala case (State versus Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others) and Ayub Khan to resign from his precedency. The Awami League, under the leadership of Bangabandhu, won absolute majority in the general election of 1970. This victory was indeed a huge step towards the goal of our independence. But the Pakistani rulers started hatching conspiracies to delay the transfer of power to the Bangalees and playing different games. On 25 March



Bangabandhu in captivity of Pakistan occupation force mid night at March 25, 1971

1970, at midnight, the Pakistani military occupation forces launched a sudden attack on the unarmed Bangalees and started genocide. They attacked Rajarbagh Police Line. News of the attack was telecast from police lines fax. Bangabandhu was arrested on the same night. Before the arrest of Bangabandhu, on March 25, the first hour of March 26, he declared the independence of Bangladesh. The Liberation War started. Finally, with the victory on 16 December 1971 Bangalees gave their answer to 24 years of exploitation and discrimination by the Pakistani rulers. As a result, Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country in the world in exchange of the blood of 30 lakh martyrs.

**Activity 1:** Make a list of areas of discrimination against the then East Pakistan by the West Pakistani rulers.

**Activity 2:** Present a comparative picture of discriminations and disparities in defence and economy that the West Pakistani rulers adopted against East Pakistan.

**Activity 3:** Identify the areas of political and cultural discrimination between the East and West Pakistan.

**Activity 4:** Discuss what happened as a result of discrimination by the West Pakistanis.

**EXERCISE****Multiple Choice Questions**

**1. Who raised the proposal for state language in favour of Bangla in the National Assembly of Pakistan?**

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi | b. Dhirendranath Dutta |
| c. A K Fazlul Haque          | d. Monoronjon Dhar     |

**2. The reason why unity was not established even after the birth of Pakistan was-**

- i. No equal distribution of wealth.
- ii. Negligence to the demand of autonomy.
- iii. Ignoring the language of the majority.

**Which is correct?**

- |      |       |             |                  |
|------|-------|-------------|------------------|
| a. i | b. ii | c. i and ii | d. i, ii and iii |
|------|-------|-------------|------------------|

**Read the following stem and answer the questions 3 and 4:**

Rimi was watching a programme on TV with attention. A leader was speaking in an assembly of students and teachers. In a strong voice he declared to implement political decisions. The students protested with "No, no, no."

**3. Which movement do we recall from the speech of the leader?**

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. The Language Movement     | b. Mass Uprising               |
| c. War of Liberation of 1971 | d. Movement of non-cooperation |

**4. The important outcome of that movement was-**

- i. The rise of nationalism
- ii. Constitutional recognition of language
- iii. Achievement of dignity of a separate nation

**Which is correct?**

- |      |       |             |                  |
|------|-------|-------------|------------------|
| a. i | b. ii | c. i and ii | d. i, ii and iii |
|------|-------|-------------|------------------|

### Creative Questions

1. The people of Bahrapur started a movement being agitated with the long autocratic attitude and activities of their chairman. He never cared for anyone but some people around him. Other people made movement to establish their rights. The chairman employed all kinds of power in his hands and resorted to bloodshed. The strong unity, resistance against injustice and self-sacrifice of the people gradually weakened his power. At one stage, the chairman was forced to resign.

- a. Who declared martial law in Pakistan in 1958?
- b. Why was the Muslim League defeated in the elections of 1954? Explain.
- c. Which movement of the people of East Pakistan is reflected in the movement of Bahrapur? Explain your answer.
- d. "The end of Chairman of Bahrapur reflects the end of President Ayub Khan"- evaluate the statement.

2. **Event 1:** Various languages were spoken among the people of a country X. But the rulers were interested to make one language as their state language. So the inhabitants speaking other languages organised a movement. At one stage, the rulers were forced to recognise all languages.

**Event-2:** Grandfather told his grandson Touhidul that his father Mr. Ansari was a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. Although his party was highly popular and won absolute majority in the election, the then rulers were not interested to hand over the power to them.

- a. How many people were accused in the Agartola case (State versus Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others)?
- b. Why is the Six-Point called the manifesto of freedom for the inhabitants of East Bengal?
- c. Which event of the then East Pakistan is reflected in event-1? Explain.
- d. "The event-2 portrays the election of 1970 and its aftermaths."-Discuss the statement.

## Chapter 2

# Culture and Cultural Diversity of Bangladesh

The mixture of different ethnic inhabitants has contributed to the forming variety of size, look and appearances of the people of Bengal. Similarly, the varied mixture of linguistically different people has made their culture diversified. However, in this rural, agro-based country, the rural culture enjoys prominence. Besides, the whimsical rivers and seasonal diversity contribute to enrich the minds of Bangalees. Understanding the Bangalee culture requires an understanding ground of this diversity.

**By the end of the lesson, we will be able to-**

1. explain Bangladeshi culture in relation to various languages, religions and communities;
2. describe the diversity present among different communities;
3. describe both rural and urban cultures of Bangladesh;
4. describe the folk culture of Bangladesh and its elements;
5. describe cultures of various ethnic groups of Bangladesh.

### Lesson 1: Introduction to Cultural Diversity in Bangladesh

#### Cultural Diversity According to Religion

Religion plays a vital role in individual's life as well as social life. Once upon a time, most people of this country were worshippers of nature. Besides worshipping the mighty forces of nature like sky, wind, sun and moon, they also used to worship living elements of nature, such as rivers, seas, trees, etc. With the advent of Brahmana religion, some old gods-goddesses remained, while some new were added.

The local devotional songs, *mantras*

(spells), *tantras*, lyrics and folk stories persisted. The Vedic book of religion and



Muslim Eid Festival



Hindu's Religious Festival

*Vedanta* hymns written in Sanskrit were new additions. Arts and crafts practices such as making and decorating idols, ornamentation, and *pata* painting prevailed, while prayer hymns, sacrificial rites also were prevalent. The Hindu religion also includes dance as one of its prayer rituals.

However, the hard and fast caste rules of Hinduism led the lower castes to be attracted to the message of fraternity of Islam. In this country, Islam was mainly preached by Sufis. The Muslim community also got enriched by the fortune-seekers from Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan during the middle ages.

Over the centuries, a huge Muslim community has risen in this country. The Muslims have two religious festivals the Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha. However, sticking to the tradition of their agro-based rural ancestors, the Hindus and the Muslims of this country have been living in harmony. People from both communities contributed to the flourishing of our folk culture in elements like Baul songs, Nakshi Katha, etc. with themes based on their respective religions. There are differences between Hindus and Muslims of our country on the basis of religion. But this difference is also there between an Arab Muslim and a Bangalee Muslim under the influence of different weather and languages of the two regions.

There are Buddhist and Christian communities in Bangladesh. The Buddhists are the followers of Gautom Buddha. They arrange festive functions during the Buddha Purnima. The Christians also celebrate different religious functions.



Buddhist religious function

The Christmas is also a big celebration of the country where other communities participate. Different small ethnic groups and ethnic people also observe their own festivals throughout the year. Major festivities of these people include the New Year, spring and wedding ceremonies.

Crossing the boundaries of such external differences, people of all religions, languages, occupations, can live in perfect harmony if they are driven by humanitarian values. Indeed all religions fundamentally preach these values. And the inhabitants of Bangladesh have followed that same spirit from time immemorial.

### **Cultural Diversity According to Language**

Most people of Bangladesh are Bangalees. They speak Bangla language. Apart from that, there are also some inhabitants in Bangladesh whose language is not Bangla. The ethnic tribes belong to this group. The Chakmas, Marmas, Garos, Khasias, Monipuris, Santals -all have their own languages. Thus, language also brings about cultural diversity in Bangladesh. Although Bangla is the main language here, over the ages, many other languages have mixed in it. Over the thousand years, people of various nations have come to this land. Their languages have left influence on Bangla. That is why Bangla language contains evidence from many languages including Austric, Dravid, Aryan, Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit.

### **Cultural Diversity According to Ethnicity**

Apart from religion and language, ethnicity also contributes to the cultural diversity in Bangladesh. Each religious tribe of the country has different rites and festivals. They also differ in respect of their lifestyle. Each has some unique features in their food habit, clothing, marriage ceremonies and rules and rites. Thus, diverse cultural trends are created by ethnicity.

### **Diverse Cultural Mixture**

Different religious tribes of Bangladesh are unable to remain restricted to their separate cultural identity. One cannot limit culture within a particular tribe. When two cultures continue alongside, one influences the other. Thus the culture of a religious tribe is influenced by another. This mixing happens in language, food, clothing, observances and even religious rites. That is how culture of Bangladesh has mixed elements from various religious tribes. The culture created through this mixing of elements available in Bangladesh can be called "Bangladeshi culture".



- Activity 1: What kind of influence does religion have in our life and culture?
- Activity 2: Explain the influence of language over our culture.
- Activity 3: Describe diverse cultures based on ethnicity in Bangladesh.

## **Lesson 2 & 3: Rural and Urban Culture of Bangladesh**

There are both villages and towns in Bangladesh. Once, Bangladesh used to be a large village. Agriculture was the main source of our economy. Rural farmers used to harvest crops in their fields. At a stage, there grew up towns but the influence of villages was traceable in these towns. Later on, changes started to take place. Large cities and their inhabitants started to grow. It grew hard to depend only on agriculture. Therefore, people started setting up industries. Production of commodities began. Employment in these industries also led more people to become inhabitants of towns. Towns became the hubs of trade and commerce. Thus life of city people grew different from that of the rural areas. However, they did not get alienated from the culture of each other.

### **Rural Culture of Bangladesh**

The previous lesson states that whatever people do and think belong to their culture. Rural people are engaged in various professions. Their behavioral pattern, creativity, roles, etc. determine the rural culture. Some mentionable professionals and artisans of village areas are farmers, fishermen, blacksmiths, potters, boatmen, tailors, village doctors, snakecharmers, exorcists, teachers, businessmen, imams and other clergymen.

The rural culture of Bangladesh can be divided into two patterns:

- a. socioeconomic life based
- b. festivals and recreational patterns.

#### **a. Culture Oriented with Socioeconomic Life**

Rural life is chiefly oriented with agriculture. Some people have their own fields. They run their lives consuming their harvest and selling the surplus in the market. Those who do not own fields, earn their livelihood working in others' fields. Their lives are also agriculture-oriented. Earlier, people used to plough their lands with cows. Irrigation

used to be done manually. Nowadays, besides cow and plough there are tractors and power tillers to plough the lands. Shallow machines are there to irrigate lands. These developments are increasing communication with towns and cities and urban culture is gaining influence on rural culture.



Farmers cutting paddy

Even a few years back, the saying was, Bangalees are fond of fish and rice. Granaries were full with paddy. Laborers used to get their share from it in exchange of their labour. Rivers, streams, bogs and ponds used to abound in fish. A net was enough to catch and meet the daily demand for fish. Now, most of these rivers and streams have filled up. Residues of insecticides and chemical fertilisers from fields are getting mixed with water and killing small fries and spoiling eggs of fishes. As a result, fish is no more that available in villages. Yet villagers try to live on fish, rice, vegetables, pulses, etc. according to their ability. Homemade cakes and pies are prepared for consumption. Many villagers cultivate vegetables and meeting their own need, sell the surplus.

Once, villagers used to wear simple dresses. Males used to work in their fields with lungis only or at best vests or fotuas on top. Their clothes in festivals were pajama-panjabi or shirts.

Females generally used to wear cotton saris. Now, the urban influence has brought certain changes. Adolescent and young males wear pants and shirts besides shirt and *lungi*. Females use frocks and *shalwar-kamiz* besides saris.

In accordance with regional availability of raw materials, villagers earlier used to live in clay huts, or houses made of wood, bamboo with tall grass roofing. Now thatched tin roofing and brick buildings are also available.

Once the villagers used to move on foot for communication. In some areas, there were bullock carts. Boat was the communication means during the monsoon. Now that roads have been constructed, rickshaws and motor vehicles ply them. Boats now are modified with engines.

Majority of population in Bangladesh are Muslims. They are followed by the Hindus, Buddhists and Christians. In rural areas, they observe their respective religion and live in harmony.

### **b. Festivals and Recreation**

The village people of our country have been observing different kinds of festivals for ages. People of all religions participate in some of them and some are of a particular religion.

*Boisakhi Mela* (a fair in April), *Nobanno* (a festival after the late autumn harvest), *Haalkhata* (Opening of new accounts book) of business people, boat race, marriage ceremonies, etc. are participated by all people. Earlier, special arrangements for nightlong *jatra* (opera), *palagaan*, *kobigaan* (poetry with rhythm), etc. were made in rural areas as means of recreation. Although they are not lost yet, but they are not that frequent now.



Boat race

The Muslims observe Eid-ul Fit'r and Eid-ul-Azha as their main festivals. Besides, Shob-e-Barat, and Eid-e-Miladunnabi are added with some festive spirit.

The Hindus celebrate various pujas (worshipping) like *Durga Puja*, *Laxmi Puja*, *Kali Puja*, *Swaraswati Puja*, *Dol Purnima*, *Raash*, and *Roth Jatra* (charioting), etc. There are also many rituals among the Hindus.

The Buddhists celebrate various festivals including Buddha Purnima. Similarly, the Christians observe the Christmas alongside other customs of their religion.

## Urban Culture of Bangladesh

Urban culture of Bangladesh can also be divided into two patterns-

a. socioeconomic life based b. festivals and recreational based.

### a. Socioeconomic Life-based

In many respects, urban culture is different from rural culture. Rural people care about their neighbours. They get together in festivals and other programmes. That is why social bond



An Urban view

in villages is strong. Compared to this, social life in towns is limited. There may not be that much communication even among the dwellers of the same building. Urban children grow up in their respective homes or flats. It is very tough to find open field in towns. Children do not get opportunity or place to play or run about.

Urban people remain busy with their profession. Some mentionable professions of towns are service, teaching, medical, business, running industries, etc. At present, garments factories have been set up in big cities. Males and females of villages migrate to the cities taking jobs in these factories. Some of these rural people also become rickshaw pullers, van drivers or pushcart peddlers or coolies and day-laborers. Some

features of rural culture are accompanying them and influencing urban culture. Similarly, urban culture is also affecting rural culture. Although the urban people generally eat rice, fish, meat, etc. there are also some distinction. They visit fast food shops; they eat sandwich, burger, etc.

Dress pattern of the urban areas is spectacular. There are many diversity and glamour in urban peoples clothing.

#### **b. Festivals and Recreation-based**

Like the rural people, the urbanites also observe religious festivals. Apart from them, some festivals get different colour in urban areas. *Pohela Boisakh* (Bangla New Year) and *Pohela Falgun* (Opening of Spring) in the city areas has special colour and splendor. Nowadays, even the *Ekushe Boi Mela* (Book Fair of February) is observed like a festival. Witnessing stage play is also a popular recreation among the urbanites besides watching television and cinema.



The Mongal procession of Boisakh

Activity 1: Identify the socioeconomic life oriented cultures of rural areas.

Activity 2: Compare between the rural and urban cultures in respect of festivals and recreational patterns.

### **Lesson 4: Folk Culture of Bangladesh and its Different Elements**

The culture that has been followed and maintained by the common people through the ages is generally known as folk culture. There are many elements of folk culture. Following is a discussion on folk culture of Bangladesh and its elements.

#### **Concept of Folk Culture**

By the term folk culture, we understand culture of common people as well as their society or the culture of folk society. Folk culture has its origin in the mouth of people, in their thoughts and activities. This culture has transcended from generation to generation.

People have been maintaining folk culture from the ancient age. Since it is basically an oral tradition, it has undergone some changes in accordance with time. The culture started from the agrarian rural society. Various strains have originated in folk culture from various perspectives.

**Out of Fear:** Fear of ghosts is an old presence in folk life. Although there is no scientific base of ghosts, yet the fear of ghosts is deeply rooted in folk society. The

idea of ghosts is originated from the belief, "Though people die, their soul is immortal". People believe in it and they also believe that many souls roam about the earth even after the death of its mortal body. The wicked souls turn into ghosts and scare people. Thus people imagine different kinds of ghosts like *mamdo bhoot*, *pechapechi*, *shakchunni*, *petni* etc. Folk culture also imagines some remedial traditions to these ghosts like *jharfuk* (exorcising), *holud pora* (incense of turmeric), *Marich pora* (incense of pepper), etc.

**Gaye Holud (Saffron Ceremony):** Gaye holud is a mentionable part of our culture. Different kinds of functions are observed centering gaye holud. For example, everybody except the widows and barren ladies are permitted to smear turmeric to the bride-to-be in this programme. The reason behind this is these ladies may render the new bride to ill-fate.

**To Remedy Diseases:** Expecting to get rid of sufferings from diseases the Hindus visit *purohit* and the Muslims visit *peers or moulavis*. They take special pendants and lockets. They wear them on their arms, neck and waist.

**To be saved from a Bad Omen:** The folk belief is that a wrong eye can curse a person. This is generally called ominous eye. To be saved from this, it is customary to draw a tip (a small circle of kohl) on the side of forehead of a baby.

**To invite Rain:** Farmers become tensed during the time of a prolonged drought. They grow afraid that the situation will harm their crop. Rural females observe a rite at these times. They carry a kula house to house, singing or reciting odes to rain. The females of these houses pour water on the kula with the hope that rain will pour down from the sky.

### Elements of Folk Culture

Subjects that have touch of folk culture are known as elements of folk culture. Usually, these elements are of two kinds: materialistic elements and spiritual elements.

**a. Materialistic Elements:** The elements of folk culture that have shapes can be held or touched belong to this kind. For example:

Weaving, shell-craft, bell metal-craft, clay-craft, cane-craft, nokshikatha, etc.

Spinning wheel, plough, scythes, etc.

Boat, Palanquin, etc. Apart from these there are folk games, folk utensils, folk instruments, folk food, folk medicine, folk ornaments, etc.

**b. Non-materialistic Elements:** Cultural elements that cannot be held or touched are born in the minds of folk people and are maintained and spread orally, they belong to this kind. The main element of this group is literature. This kind of literature is not written down. People have endeared them in their hearts. This kind of literature is also known as folklore. Some examples of this kind are folk tales (*kissa*), folk songs, proverbs and sayings, lullabies, Khona's sayings, riddles, folk operas, etc.

Besides, there are folk festivals and spells belonging to this group.

Activity 1: Find out elements of folk culture in the elements used regularly in your family.  
Activity 2: Compare between material and non-material elements in culture.

## Lesson 5: Culture of Different Small Ethnic Groups of Bangladesh

The majority of the people of Bangladesh are Bangalees. But there are a number of ethnic minorities living in this country. Their rites and customs, food habit, dress, festivals differ to some extent from that of Bangalees.

### Habitats of Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh

A number of ethnic groups reside here in Bangladesh. Most of them live in Chittagong Hill Tracts. These groups include Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Bawm, Khumi and many others.

Garos and Hajongs live in greater Mymensingh. The Khasias and Monipuris live in Sylhet area. The Santals and Oraons are there in North Bengal, in the districts Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Dinajpur. The Rakhains hail from Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali.

### Cultures of Ethnic Groups

Each of these ethnic communities has its unique culture. Below is an introduction to these:

**Religion:** The ethnic minorities were once worshippers of nature. This devotion and dedication is still there among them to a large extent. They believe, man is subservient to nature, not the vice-versa. That is why, nature and the necessity to preserve it is ever present in all their rituals, customs, social rites and everyday life. But gradually, they came in touch with the colonists and grew habituated with the modern urban state. Religions, beliefs, customs and rituals education and culture of modern civilisation started to have impact upon their lives. Many groups have accepted new religions, e.g. *Chakmas, Marmas, Rakhains* and many others have resorted to Buddhism. The *Garos, Santals, Oraons* and others have accepted Christianity. Therefore, now nature has been substituted by the supernatural. But all these groups still continue to revere nature in

their spirit of life. For example, each clan in an ethnic minority bears a symbol of identity which is usually various elements like trees, animals and birds.

**Festivities:** A common major feature of festivities among ethnic minorities is prevalence of dance and songs. Dance tribute to Radha-Krishna is the most favourite among the Monipuris. They call it the Gopi Dance. They observe Holi during the spring with due splendour. Oraons new year starts in Falgun month. They observe Fagua to welcome the new year. The Santals observe Sohrai, Baha, and Paska Porob, etc. with festivities. All ethnic groups in the hill tracts observe Boisuk, Sangrai and Biju together at a stretch and they call it Boisabi. The Marmas and Rakhains celebrate Jal Uthsob (Water festival) with due glamour during the new year. It must be mentioned that most of the festivals of these ethnic people are still related to the harvesting season.

**Common Beliefs:** Very much like the other ethnic groups of the world, the small ethnic groups of our country also hold some collective beliefs among them. For example, a full moon and the dark phase have special significance among the Monipuri and other Buddhist groups. They celebrate the full moon with religious and cultural rites. These groups also conform to various prejudices. For example, the Oraons do not construct houses or do the roofing during the month of Poush. The Garos never sweep the house and throw trash away at night from the same belief. The Barmans tell to abstain from eating radish during the month of Magh. The Khyangs prescribe to warm their hands on fire a bit before touching a neo-natal; otherwise, they believe misfortune may come for the baby.

**Marriage:** Though most of the ethnic minorities give freedom to the aspirants to choose their own life partner, they also require them to be recognised by the family and society. Customarily most of them forbid marriage outside the clan. Besides difference in the rites of marriage, they also bear diverse beliefs and attitudes regarding marriage. Weddings as well as marriage proposals are forbidden in the month of July among the Pangkheyas for fear of misfortune. Mahatos abstain from marriage in the month of Agrahayon. The Garos and Khashias are maternal societies. As the youngest daughter is entitled to inherit all properties of her mother the husband of this daughter has to live compulsorily with his in laws' family.

**Dress and Ornaments:** Most of the ethnic minorities weave their own clothes. The Chakma males mainly wear shirt and lungi. The lower parts of their female dress are known as 'Pinon' which generally has prevalence of red and black colours. They wear a special kind of blouse as the top. The dress of Marma females is known as '*Thami*', Oraons wear dhoti and shirt. Many minorities adorn themselves with various ornaments. Chakma females use bangles, necklace and earrings. Santal and Oraons females put on ornaments in their hands, neck, ears and fingers of legs. From the ancient time, the

Oraons ornaments are *Kankhuli* (on ear lobes), *Tipar Pata* (on upper portion of ears), *Nolok* (on nose), *Nakchona* (flower motif on nose), *Hashuli* (on neck), etc. Garo females put on traditional costumes like *Dokmanda*, *Doksarees*, etc. and use ornaments like *Khokanil*, *Rikmachu*, and *Penota*, etc. Other minorities also have their special ornaments.

**Food and Drink :** Many ethnic minorities believe some animals as symbol of their clans. This belief is known as Totem. Generally, a totem is forbidden as a food to the particular tribe. The Monipuri group has traditional ban on meat and narcotic drinks. Their menu during religious festivals also forbids fish. Each ethnic group has its one or more favourite foods. The Garos are fond of '*Nakham*' (dried fish). Fondness for home made cakes and pies is so prominent among the Oraons that they observe special programmes on *Poush Sonkranti* and 13th of Bhadro only to eat cakes and pies. *Nappi or Sindol* (a special recipe with dried shrimp or small fries) is highly popular among the groups living in Chittagong hilly districts. A kind of drink prepared from fermented rice is also a regular feature among all the tribes.

Activity 1: Identify some of the cultural features of the ethnic minorities.

### EXERCISE

#### Multiple Choice Questions

1. When is the *Nabanna* festival observed?

- |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| a. Rainy season | b. Autumn |
| c. Late Autumn  | d. Winter |

2. The culture of Bangladesh is diverse, because-

- i. the Bangalee is a mixed race.
- ii. there is seasonal diversity.
- iii. there are multiple languages here.

Which is correct?

- |      |             |       |                  |
|------|-------------|-------|------------------|
| a. i | b. i and ii | c. ii | d. i, ii and iii |
|------|-------------|-------|------------------|

Read the following stem and answer the questions 3 and 4:

Standing on the bank of the river, Jhuma's grandfather was recalling his past. Their home was on the north to this river. There was a mosque beside their home. The cowshed was behind the home. Moti Mia, the boatman, used to sail on the river happily with his boat and he used to sing songs.



**3. What kind of natural disaster the stem indicates at?**

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. Tidal wave | b. River erosion |
| c. Drought    | d. Flood         |

**4. Even amidst the kind of natural disaster, the reason for happiness of people like Moti Mia of this country was-**

- i. the special effects of climate.
- ii. abundant resources from river.
- iii. cultural diversity of the country.

**Which is correct?**

- |             |              |               |                  |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| a. i and ii | b. i and iii | c. ii and iii | d. i, ii and iii |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|

**Creative Questions**

1. Today is the first day of first month of Bangla calendar. Fariba, Raisa, Rupanti and Priyoti decided to go to Ramna Batamul together. Everyone will wear a red and white sari. There, they will listen to the songs and poems of the festival. Every year a large number of men and women gather there. They put on masks, sing songs, some of them paint various motifs on their faces.

- a. What is the name of the first month of Bangla calendar?
- b. On which factor is agriculture of Bangladesh dependent? Discuss.
- c. Which fair of Bengal is indicated at in the stem? Discuss.
- d. What role does the fair of the stem play in patronising the cultural diversity of Bangladesh? Discuss.

2. Shanta belongs to a small indigenous family of Mymensingh. Antara went to Shanta's home along with her to pay a visit. She saw that Shanta's father lived in her mother's house. Shanta told her since she was the youngest daughter of their family, she would live in the house even after her marriage and inherit all properties. Once their community used to worship trees, sea, hills, etc. Now they watch television. Roads of their area have been developed. As members of their community are massively becoming educated, their food and clothing habits have changed.

- a. Which indigenous group does the Gopi Dance belong to?
- b. What is Boisabi?
- c. To which indigenous group does Shanta belong? Explain in the light of the stem.
- d. "All indigenous groups have changed like Shanta's" -Explain the statement.

## **Chapter Three**

# **Growth of Child in a Family**

Family is the first place for the growth of a child. The socialisation of the child starts from the family. Family has reached to what it is today through evolution over ages. Whatsoever the background was, the most vital institution of human society is family. It is the smallest unit of the society. This chapter describes nature of family, socialisation of children and other related matters.

**By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-**

1. explain the concept and nature of family;
2. compare the rural family with the urban family;
3. analyse the role of changing concept of family in the socialisation of a child;
4. describe the roles of different members of family and mutual relationship in the socialisation of a child;
5. inculcate human and social virtues and thus qualify to develop social relations and act in a disciplined manner.

### **Lesson 1: Concept and Nature of Family**

Family is a social institution. Human race has evolved from the family and with them, the society has also advanced. When some people are bound together by virtue of marriage, relationship, or parental descent and they live together, it is known as family, which constitutes a social institution.

Each member of a family has their own specific responsibilities. Members of a family are tied deep with each other. Affection, love and such kind of emotions are keys to this bond. Family plays its role as the primary institution of society. The most important among them are maintenance of the clan and socialisation.

All societies are constituted with families. But the nature of family is not the same in every society. The nature of family is also different in characteristics. A few major types of family have been given below: A nuclear family consists of husband, wife and unmarried children. When the children become adults, they start their own families. Then a new nuclear family starts. In urban Bangladesh, nuclear families are more in number. On the other hand, a number of families basing on blood relation together make a joint family. This kind of family is made with the parents of the bread earner of family, his brothers and sisters with their respective children or grandparents, paternal uncles and aunts. Such kinds of family are available in rural Bangladesh and India.

**Activity 1:** Describe different kinds of families according to their characteristic features.

## **Lesson 2: Rural and Urban Families of Bangladesh**

Various kinds of families are found in rural and urban societies in Bangladesh. There is difference between these families in accordance with villages and towns. Still most of our people live in villages and they are chiefly dependent on agriculture. A rural society has majority of joint families. Since agriculture is livelihood of the majority, the fields are inherited from the grandfather by the father and are handed over to the son. Generally, all rural families were combined families once. But recent changes in economic pattern, professional pattern and ceiling system of property, etc. have brought an end to that. Fathers are usually seen to hold reign inside rural families.

The urban family pattern is chiefly nuclear family due to limited income and housing problem. The control of family among the educated middle class and upper class in town areas does not lie with the husband only. Wives are given due importance in decision making by the urban husbands.

**Activity 1:** Write the differences between urban and rural families.

### **Lesson 3: Changing trends of Families and Socialisation of Children**

Changing family means families created due to change of nature of family pattern. For example, urban nuclear families are created as a result of evolution of rural joint families. There are many reasons behind this like huge population, family feud, divorce, employment of women, etc. Besides, roles of family members of both rural and urban families are also changing. A close look at our own families will confirm this. Once everybody including father-mother, uncle-aunt, grandfather, grandmother, and cousins used to live jointly. Now the changed nature has reached villages too. Satellite or small families never think about anything but their own happiness, ease and comfort. This is affecting socialisation of children.

The way children grow in a society is called their socialisation. A child takes birth and grows within a family. Whatever they learn from their parents and other members of the family during their growth is considered as their socialisation. It is a process that continues from cradle to the grave. The first influence in socialisation of children is from family. The family plays a vital role in their primary education. Actually, the parents lead a child to the world of learning. That is the reason family is called an important educational unit. In combined families, children used to be involved in family profession from their early years. Therefore, family used to be the center for education of children. But nowadays, this role of family has been taken over by other institutions. Children are being educated in general schools, technical schools, etc. This tells that family does not any more have the role it used to play previously. It is effecting the socialisation of children.

Family's role in giving religious education to the children is also important. The religious minded people of Bangladesh are well aware about providing religious education to children. Usually, it takes place within the family. The parents, grandparents or other family members used to teach religious values and morality to the children. With the changing time, that role has been weakened and has been affecting socialization of children. The recent trend is to teach religion to the children by means of cassette, video or employing a moulovi. This is obstructing the growth of true religious spirit among children. Religion is no more able to create the humanitarian and moral values which it is supposed to do.

So far, rearing children was regarded a unique responsibility of family. But society of present Bangladesh sees rise of various institutions in this respect. They take the responsibility of rearing children with care. They are more available in urban areas. For example, children of working parents are brought up in children's home or some other means.

The relationship between children and members of a joint family is based on inter-personal communication and behavior. These inter-personal exchanges acted as means of social education for children as the elders used to give them ideas of cooperation, patience, sympathy, sense of security, equal partnership, etc. through their actions. These used to build up the spirit of children.

Many responsibilities of family have been taken over by various social and government organizations. Responsibilities like education, recreation, economic production, etc. are not that much carried out by families anymore. Recreational activities like visiting parks, zoos, museums, etc. are not done by families. However, birthday celebrations, marriage ceremonies, visiting relatives, watching television, etc. are still done at family level.

Activity 1: Discuss the changes in the socialisation process of children.

#### **Lesson 4: Role of Family Members and Impact of their Mutual Relationships in Socialisation of Children**

Family is vital in socialisation. The good and bad habits of children are results of socialisation in family. Family gives rise to values like social values, citizen conscience, cooperation, fraternity, self-sacrifice and love in a child. We will learn about roles of family members in socialisation of children and impact of mutual relations in this lesson.

A relationship is built up through the attitude and behavior of family members toward a child. This leaves a mark on the mind of children.

The nearest human beings to a child are their parents. Again, among the parents, mother is privileged to be the nearer. As a result, socialisation of a child begins in the hands of the mother. A mother builds up the food habit of a child. The child starts to learn language through their mother. Whatever food the mother provides for the child and makes them eat will determine the food habit and attitude of that child. Mother lulls the child to sleep. Mother teaches the child letters, words, rhymes, etc. All of these affect the child's mind. Their behavior and attitude later will reflect all these.

The father earns the living for the family; mothers in some families also do so. They have to apply certain rules and regulations to run their family. This independent behavior and values affects the child's socialisation. You may follow the roles your parents and siblings play in your family. You will find that your elder brothers and sisters give you support, sympathy, love and care in various activities. You also learn sense of discipline, rules and regulations, etc. from them. Your behavior in life in future will reflect these. Attitudes and behaviours of grandparents, uncles-aunts and cousins also

influence the behavioral pattern of child. These altogether create and strengthen the perception about self in a child.

Proper socialisation of a child needs good family environment. The first and foremost need for a good family environment is a good relationship between father and mother. Besides, some other aspects such as avoidance of quarrels and tension in the family, having and showing mutual respect for each other, and sound relationship between the brothers and sisters are some influences on the child's mind.

Urban children of working parents have to depend on home-workers and relatives as well. Father and mother of such a family are unable to give necessary time for the children in taking their food, learning lessons, playing or other kinds of recreation. As a consequence, these children do not get proper socialisation.

Various causes create barrier to proper socialisation of children. Some of these are disorder in the family, divorce or separation between parents or accommodation at different places, death of one or both of the parents, etc. These children suffer a lot. They pick up loneliness, vengeance, escaping attitude, self-centeredness, lack of shyness, cleverness, etc. and these are expressed in their behavior. That is why we have to be careful so that our families are free from these problems. So, our role is vital in socialisation of children. In many cases, proper socialisation of a child is also hindered due to too much authoritarian attitude of father or too much affectionate attitude of the mother. Therefore, coordination of behavior of parents and other family members should be done to build up the behavior and attitude of children. This kind of coordination can ensure a proper control over a child's growth of behavioral pattern. As a result, the child will grow up as a self-conscious personality.

Activity 1: Coordination of roles of different family members is the best of means to the proper socialisation of children- Show logic in group discussion.

### EXERCISE

#### Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Which is the place of initial growth of children?**
  - a. Family
  - b. Religious institution
  - c. Educational institution
  - d. Playmates
  
2. **The children in a joint family grow the habit of-**
  - i. Accepting opinion of others
  - ii. Life in luxury
  - iii. Helping the others



## **Chapter Four**

# **Economy of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is an agricultural country. Most of the people of this country live in the villages and the main source of their livelihood is agriculture. But with urbanisation, the significance of industry and commerce is gradually increasing. None of the sectors like agriculture, industry and commerce is less important in a modern country. To develop our country we need to make our economy strong and dynamic in all respects. Therefore, we have to develop all sectors including agriculture, industry, trade and commerce. There is no alternative to this in the modern competitive world.

**By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-**

1. describe informal economic activities;
2. explain expansion of informal economic activities of rural areas;
3. illustrate informal economic activities of urban areas;
4. explain the role of informal economic activities in national economy;
5. describe types of industries of Bangladesh;
6. evaluate contribution of different industries;
7. understand the future of industries in the economy of Bangladesh;
8. describe major products of import and export of Bangladesh;
9. realise the roles of import and export;
10. explain processing industries;
11. describe the agro product processing of Bangladesh;
12. explain the problems of agro product processing and their solutions.



## Lesson 1: Informal Economic Activities of Towns and Villages of Bangladesh

Any work, service or transaction that has economic value is called economic activity. Economic activities of a country can be divided into two types- formal and informal. Activities which do not have fixed wages, are difficult to bring under taxation and are not regulated by the government are generally called informal economic activities. Some examples of such activities are work in one's own land, work in shops and business institutions, household works, and the works of hawkers and day labourers. In underdeveloped or developing countries, most of the economic activities belong to this category. As they have been happening from the ancient period, these activities are also called the traditional sector of economy.

### Informal Economic Activities of Rural Areas

Like any other developing country, informal economic activities constitute the main role of the economy of Bangladesh. A rural farmer and his family work in their field from dawn to dusk. They do not get or take wages as they work in their own field. But their work does not reap benefits for themselves or their family only; instead it benefits their society and state as well. The larger portion of the country's food demand is met by their production. Thus, our farmers are contributing to the national economy. The informal economic activities also include works of blacksmiths and potters, cottage industries, shops and other small business enterprises too. These activities play a significant role in keeping our economy dynamic. Although in recent times, use of modern technology is noticed in agriculture and other sectors of rural economy, the traditional or informal sector is still playing its main role. From the perspective of national economy, this sector is also playing an important role.



Agricultural activity



Hawker



Household work

### **Informal Economic Activities of Towns**

The urban population of Bangladesh is constituted with all classes of people, i.e. high, middle and low income as well as destitute ones. Many of the destitute are regarded as floating or temporary, meaning they do not have their own or permanent dwelling. They live in the slums, parks, footpaths and railway stations. The high and middle income people usually engage in formal economic activities like public or private jobs, trade and commerce. The lower income and destitute earn their livelihood through running or working small shops, hawking goods on the streets, selling goods in localities, pulling rickshaws or pushcarts, porters, technicians, helpers and house workers, etc. These are regarded as informal economic activities of towns.

### **Contribution of Informal Economic Activities to Economy**

Most of the people living in villages of Bangladesh harvest paddy, jute, vegetables and fruits, catch fish, rear cows, goats, ducks and poultry, maintain cottage industry, and sell products in the market. Thus they earn their livelihood and play a major role in running the country's economy. In the same way, many lower and middle or even high income people of cities and towns are also engaged in informal economic activities. Thus from the beginning, the economy of Bangladesh is largely dependent on informal economic activities. Even though the importance of formal economic activities is on the increase, the traditional sector did not lose its importance.

Activity 1: Describe one informal economic activity of your region. Discuss how it contributes to the national economy.

## **Lesson 2: Industry of Bangladesh**

Although Bangladesh is an agricultural country, some industries or mills and factories started to flourish here since the British reign. Jute, cotton and textile industries were the major among them. Adamji Jute Mills, the largest of jute mills of the world, was established in Narayanganj during the Pakistan period. During this period, this wing known as East Pakistan fell prey to discriminatory policies of West Pakistani rulers. After we became independent in 1971, new industries and mills and factories were being established in different parts of the country. Once jute was our largest industrial sector, other industries like tea, sugar, cement, fertiliser leather, rail and engineering industries were there. Presently, Bangladesh has achieved huge success with readymade garment and pharmaceutical industries. Industries can be divided into various kinds relating to their capital, size, production and number of workers, etc.



**Garment Factory**

### **Large Industries**

Jute, textile, cement, fertiliser, rail, engineering, electricity, etc. are large industries. These industries require huge capital, skilled labourer, engineers, experts and experienced managers. Their capacity of production is also very high.



**Engineering Industry**

Their produce meets the demand of the local market and a portion of that produce is exported abroad. The contribution of these large industries to our national economy is very significant/important. They serve as the backbone of our economy.

### **Medium Industries**

Industries having capital more than 1.5 crore are known as medium industries. Examples of this kind are light engineering, silk, ceramic, cold storage, etc. They play a significant role in national economy by meeting the demand of the people of our country and employing a large number of people.

### **Small Industries**

Industries that have a working capital less than 1.5 crore taka belong to the small industry group. Rice mill, small-scale shoe factory-plastic industry, food processing industry, etc. are this kind of industries.

### **Cottage Industries**

Usually, the owners or their family members take care of production and sales of the products in this kind of industry. Handloom industries, earthenwares, bamboo, cane and wood works, sari or sweet packets, incense sticks, etc. of our country are some of the examples of such industries. One advantage of this kind of industry is it creates opportunity of self reliance and employs a good number of people.



Cottage Industry

This industry is highly important in the national economy of Bangladesh which has a large population and is industrially backward.

### **Contribution of Industry to the Economy of Bangladesh and its Future**

Ever expanding urbanisation and increase in living standard have significantly increased the importance of industries all over the world. The same implies in Bangladesh too. Here, one can easily find ample supply of skilled and unskilled labourers at cheap wages. This interests the foreign entrepreneurs to invest and establish factories here. The readymade garment factories are one such example. Many foreign companies singularly or jointly with our local entrepreneurs have set up garments factories here. Foreigners are showing interest to invest in other sectors too. The government has established some export processing zones in order to attract foreign investment. Besides, the government is also working to increase the port and transportation facilities, upgrade gas and electricity supply systems, starting one-stop service as further incentives for foreign investors. These steps are creating possibilities of further expansion of various industries in future. Recently, the expatriate Bangladeshis are also showing their interest to invest in our industrial sector. These are brightening up the possibility of Bangladesh to become an industrially rich, middle-income country. It will not only lessen poverty and unemployment of the country but also raise the financial status of our people and strengthen our national economy.

Activity 1: Mention one of the names of small, medium, large or cottage industries of the country and discuss its importance in our national economy.

Activity 2: Discuss in brief the future prospects of industry in Bangladesh

### **Lesson 3: Exports and Imports of Bangladesh**

Generally, no country can produce all the things of its demands. It has to import some of the products from other countries. Similarly, it exports some of its produces, meeting the local demands. Usually, a country exports products that are produced in abundance. The foreign exchange earned through these exports serves to pay for the import of commodities from other countries as well as bear some developmental expenses. Importing foreign products and exporting products to other countries is called international trade. International trade is a very important part of a country's economy. The modern world order has facilitated international trade more. Now, no country considers producing every commodity of its demand on its own. Instead the consideration goes for easy availability and profitability of production or import. It is done under a certain plan and a set of principles govern that plan. Export-import or international trade is carried out under mutual contracts among different countries. There are some international and regional organisations dedicated to monitor, control and fix tariffs. World Trade Organization (WTO), South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), etc. are some of these. The country which has more exports than its imports in its international trade is called a developed country.

#### **Import Products of Bangladesh**

The products that Bangladesh imports from different countries on a regular basis are rice, wheat, pulses, oil seeds, cotton, crude petroleum and petroleum products, edible oil, fertiliser, agro and industrial machinery, yarn, etc. The countries they are imported from include China, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, United States of America, United Kingdom, France and Germany. Imports are conducted both in public and private sectors. According to the Bangladesh Economic Report, the country imported commodities and products worth 34,084 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2012-13. In 2013-14, the total amounted to 40,732 million US dollars. In 2014-15, The total amount of import was 40,704 million US dollars, in 2015-16 the amount was 42,921 million US dollars and 47,005 million US dollars in 2016-17 fiscal year. Maximum products were imported from China.

#### **Export Products of Bangladesh**

Once upon a time, jute and jute products were our main export goods. Bangladesh used to earn great amount of foreign currency, exporting jute, gunny bag, carpet, etc. For a certain time, these products lost their demand in the international market. Two things have contributed to the reawakening of the demand in jute products- invention of

'genome sequence' or life history of jute by Bangladeshi scientists and global awareness about environment. This increases the probability of Bangladesh being benefitted again with export. Besides, Bangladesh exports tea, leather and leather goods, readymade garments, frozen shrimp and other foodstuff, handicraft, vegetables, etc. These products and commodities are chiefly exported to USA, Germany, UK, France, Belgium, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, and Japan, etc. According to the Bangladesh Economic Report, the country exported commodities and products worth 27,027 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2012-13. In 2015-16, the total income amounted to 34,257 million US dollars. In 2016-17, the total export income was 34,656 million US dollars. Of this amount, readymade garments were the highest income generating export sector with a total 11,040 million US dollars in 2012-13 fiscal year. USA is the largest buyer of Bangladeshi products.

### **Importance of Export and Import**

Bangladesh mainly imports those products from foreign countries that serve the public demand of food and other necessities. Any failure to import these commodities in time will result in higher demand and price hike in the market. That would incite social and political unrest. No country in the world produces all its necessary commodities. It imports some of them at advantageous price from some other countries under a trade plan. Bangladesh is no exception. Bangladesh has some regular export products as well. They earn foreign currency for the country. This foreign exchange doesn't only keep the economy dynamic, it is also utilised to the expansion of industries and employment opportunities. We can become self-reliant if we can decrease imports and simultaneously increase our exports. The more we can engage the population to productive sector, the more we will be economically self-sufficient. We have to give due importance to international trade, specifically, export activities, if we want to become a middle-income country.

Activity 1: Make a list of export and import goods of Bangladesh.

Activity 2: Write some sentences about the importance of export and import.

## **Lesson 4: Agro Product Processing Industries**

### **a. Processing Industries:**

Transforming and preserving a product into another product using knowledge and technology is called Processing. The companies that do this work are known as processing industries.

Following other countries of the world, our country also has started to set up industries that transform agro-products into some other commodities. This lets people to meet their annual demands by multi-dimensional use of agro products. Baby food, milk

made products, processed fish, meat, sugarcane and vegetables, etc. help us to meet the demand of people for food.

### **b. Agro Product Processing Industries in Bangladesh**

From the ancient days people in our country used to process some food products like parched rice, stuffed rice, dried fish, cakes and pies, rice, curd, whey, etc. Technological advancement of these days has increased the food production as well as improved their processing in a healthier way.

#### **Problems of Traditional System of Processing**

- Product cannot be processed as per demand.
- Problems of storage
- No way to ensure that the food is healthy.

#### **Advantages of Modern System**

The establishment of agro-product processing industries has created an opportunity for an agricultural country like Bangladesh to make the most use of our total produce. Multi-dimensional use of jute has facilitated people with jutex, jute bag and jute crafts. This helps the farmers get more profit, the entrepreneur more profit and the workers more employment. The users also get better commodities. Partex processing from jute sticks is also earning the country benefit of a new industry. Similarly, nowadays, other industries processing agro-produces like rice, wheat, corn, tomato, potato, milk, fish, meat, sugarcane, hide, cotton, etc. are being set up. Cold storages are preserving tomatoes and people can enjoy tomato throughout the year. Fish nowadays is not only dried, it is also canned or tinned for preserving and later use. Seasonal fruits are preserved and various juicy food is invented with them so that people can meet their nutrition demand throughout the year. Mustard and other oil seeds are processed to make different kinds of oil. Milk processing gives us sweetmeats, curd, butter, cheese and baby food for a longer time. Bangladesh is an agricultural country. Processing the crops, animals, fruits, flowers and seeds, our country can easily reap the benefits and get enriched. Nowadays, there is worldwide attempt to process agro-products into medicines and other products closely associated with human beings. Our country can make sufficient advancement from its use.

#### **Problems in Processing Industries**

- Problem of capital
- Problem of sufficient knowledge and research
- Problem of skilled entrepreneurs and labourers
- Problematic transportation and communication system

- Lack of skilled managers
- Lack of storage facility for agro-produces.

### Ways to Overcome the Problems

- Enacting a specific plan and a set of principles for processing of agro-produces.
- Patronising higher education and research for multi-dimensional inventions.
- Creating opportunities for skilled entrepreneurs and labourers.
- Utilising the experience and expertise of developed world.
- Facilitating marketing of the products and venturing export.
- Creating mass-awareness about multi-dimensional use of agro-products and their benefits on human body.

Activity 1: Identify the agro-product procuring industries.

Activity 2: Identify the problems in agro-product procuring industries.

## EXERCISE

### Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following countries is the biggest buyer of garment and other products of Bangladesh?
  - France
  - Germany
  - United States of America
  - United Kingdom
- Bangladesh has industrial potential because-
  - Labour is cheap here.
  - Government has programmes to encourage investment.
  - Quality of produced goods is better than that of other countries.

Which is correct?

- a. i and ii      b. i and iii      c. ii and iii      d. i, ii and iii

- Fruit juice is a \_?

- Exportable product
- Baby food
- Milk type food
- Processed food





- c. What kind of economic activity is Tamizuddin's family engaged in? Explain.
- d. People like Tamizuddin are contributing heavily to the national economy. - Explain the statement in the light of the above stem.

2. Zarina Begum is a poor rural widow. One day, she purchased some bamboo and cane from the market. She along with her two daughters made baskets, flower vases and kulas. Her son Tamzid sells them in the market. The profit from these helps her run the family. Demands for their products increase day by day. Later on, Tamzid took a bank loan with the help from his father's friend. He set up a factory of cakes and biscuits. Processing and packaging the food stuff in his factory, he sells them and earns a good profit.

- a. What are the objectives behind establishing export processing zones?
- b. What is informal economic activity? Explain.
- c. What kind of industry does the factory of Tamzid belong to? Explain.
- d. Discuss the contribution made by Zarina Begum to the national economy of Bangladesh.

## Chapter Five

# Bangladesh and Citizen of Bangladesh

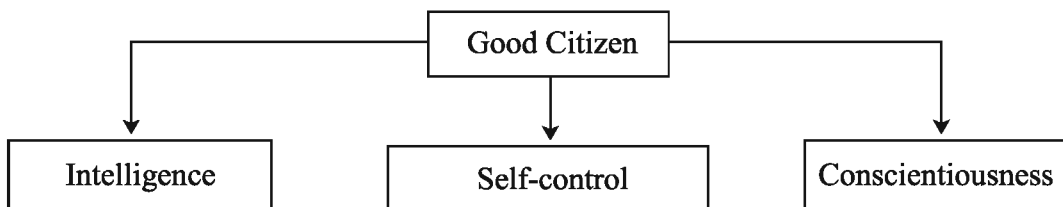
Development of a nation largely depends on the qualification and skills of its citizen. A good citizenry is a resource for a country. Anything but that will hamper national development. Advancement as well as failure of a state depends on honesty, skill, conformation to roles and responsibilities of citizens. That is why every citizen has to be good citizen. This chapter focuses on necessary qualities of a citizen, obstacles to them and their importance.

By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-

1. describe characteristics of a good citizen;
2. explain the obstacles on the way to become a good citizen in Bangladesh and their remedies;
3. explain the importance of good citizenry in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh;
4. describe ways to obtain rights of citizen and carrying out related responsibilities.

### Lesson 1: Characteristics of a Good Citizen

A country needs good citizen for its proper development. Nobody is a good citizen by birth, everyone achieves it. There are some attributes of a good citizen which a citizen grows up to become a good citizen. According to political scientists, a citizen has to qualify three attributes to become a good citizen. Following is a visual organiser of these attributes:



**Intelligence:** An intelligent citizen is a resource for any nation. To become intelligent, one needs to become educated and earn knowledge. Therefore, the citizen needs to be rightly educated with necessary education. An intelligent citizenry can play its role in important activities of a country such as electing suitable representative, administer the country with skill, and contribute to the development and success of the country. Parents should educate their children properly. The government is responsible to ensure the arrangements for proper education.

**Self-control:** A good citizen must have self-control. This attribute keeps them away from dishonest activities (e.g.: corruption, nepotism, selfishness, partiality, etc.). It is an inspiration to obey the rules and work for the society. So, it's not possible to become a good citizen without this attribute. A good citizen always abides by the rules, respects the opinions of others and considers the good of the country as their own. They abstain from injustice and partisanship and work for the betterment of the country. These help building a better state.

**Conscientiousness:** This characteristic means the sense of good and bad, and the sense of duty. A citizen with intelligence and self-control has to realise the merit of anything before doing that. If it is wrong, they must avoid it and if it is right, they will do it. Again, they have to employ their own conscience to get the correct decision when they are required to solve some social or national problem. Conscience is the ever-awake spirit of a good citizen. Therefore, a good citizen will bear this attribute and inspire others to bear it.

Apart from the above, a good citizen is also required to have some other attributes. They will be aware of their country and its administrative system, will have the mentality to protest any injustice, abide by laws, and will be confident and dedicated. They will always put the country ahead of everything.

So far we have learned the attributes of a good citizen who is a resource of a country. A tree cannot grow without proper fertiliser, soil and care. Similarly, a country cannot run properly when its citizens don't have these qualities. So, the future citizens must attain all these qualities. Then only, we can establish our favourite motherland as a developed and rich country in the world.

**Activity 1:** Write down the attributes of a good citizen and discuss them in groups in the classroom.

## Lesson 2.1: Barriers to Being a Good Citizen in Bangladesh

Becoming a good citizen is not that easy for the qualities of a good citizen are influenced by family, society as well as state. Our society has different socio-economic and political problems. These problems influence the growth of a good citizen as obstacles. Below is a discussion on some of these barriers:

**Indifference:** A general disinterestedness on the part of a populace is called indifference. It is an effect of various reasons like illiteracy, lack of proper education, idleness, poverty and negation to responsibility. It is commonly noticed in our citizens. A citizen grows uninterested to participate in social and political activities of the state due to this. Even, they do not abide by the duties and responsibilities of a citizen.

**Selfishness:** This is a great impediment on the way to becoming a good citizen. Under its influence, an individual prefers their own interest to the interest of the country. It easily leads the citizen to become involved in corruption, nepotism and partiality. That is why they put personal and party consideration above qualification when casting their votes. They appoint their own relatives in jobs avoiding the qualified candidates. They involve in nepotism and financial irregularities. All these are barriers to becoming good citizen. These harm the interest of the nation.

**Partisanship:** Democracy cannot do without political parties. As a result, democratic system generally affects a kind of partisanship. In most cases, this kind of attitude creates problem in becoming a good citizen. Partisan attitude forces him or her to criticise the good deeds of opponents and forsake them. This attitude is an impediment to becoming a good citizen.

**Ignorance and Illiteracy:** Ignorant and illiterate people do not know as well as understand many things. About one-third of our population is illiterate. Again, most of the literate have the minimum education. In consequence, they fail to take proper decision whenever that is necessary. They cannot fulfill the demands of the state over them. Therefore, if we are interested to grow a good citizenry in Bangladesh, we have to make them educated with proper education at first.

**Religious fanaticism:** The growth of good citizenship is obstructed by fanaticism. Such attitude forces an individual to hate other religions. This leads to discrimination and conflicts. This spoils the national integrity, development and advancement.

**Pompousness:** This is a negative character in a human being. Under its influence, one sees himself or herself above everybody. He/she does not consider opinion of others. He/she tries to impose own opinions over others. It is also a huge barrier to becoming a good citizen.

**Sectarianism:** Under the influence of sectarianism unease and conflict may arise among different sects in a country. This occurs in a multi-religious country where, one portion of the populace may become violent for certain reasons. This spoils the religious harmony among people and gives birth to sectarian attitude. All should grow a kind heart in order to become a good citizen.

**Economic Disadvantage:** Bangladesh is a developing nation. About 50% of our population lives below the poverty line. Due to poverty, about one-third population of our country cannot read or write. As a result, their intellect cannot bloom. Their conscience also is not that effective. It is a huge barrier to becoming a good citizen.

## **Lesson 2.2: Measures of Removing the Barriers to Becoming Good Citizens**

1. One has to be patriotic after getting proper education. One has to participate in development activities for the nation forgetting about all indifference and laziness.
2. One has to remember that country has preference to individual and forget about any self-interest.
3. One has to be universal instead of being partisan.
4. One has to treat everyone equally irrespective of religion, caste, clan, etc.
5. One has to avoid false pride and give due importance to welfare-oriented opinions. A good proposal of an individual should not be suppressed only with the excuse of majority.
6. Everyone has to be brought to equal status by removing economic disadvantage.

**Activity 1:** Think about the barriers to good citizenship and write them down on your khatas. Then write the list on a poster and hang it in classroom.

### **Lesson 3: Importance of Good Citizens in Respect of Socio-economic Development of Bangladesh**

As a developing nation, there are various kinds of socio-economic problems in our country. Some of the mentionable among them are illiteracy, poverty, poor economy, weak law and order situation, corruption, massive population, etc. We must get rid of these problems if we to establish our country as a developed country in this highly competitive world. But the government alone cannot solve these problems. Citizens have to play an active role in this respect. Our population has to grow up as a skilled good citizenry in order to ensure good governance. Good citizens alone can play the necessary role to remove all the barriers to socio-economic development. We know, a good citizen has three attributes: intelligence, self-restraint and conscience. Good citizens are apt and skilled to solve the problems of a state. They understand the socio-economic problems fast and can act accordingly using their intelligence, self-restraint and conscience. Thus they can lead up to the expectation of the country. So, a good citizen is a valuable resource of a country. A good citizenry can remove all barriers and problems from the society and keep the government on the right track. Thus, they can help establish a developed, self-reliant Bangladesh on the globe.

Activity 1: What kind of misdeeds will a good citizen abstain from doing?  
Work in groups and make a list for presentation in classroom.

### **Lesson 4: Achieving Rights of Citizen and Being Dutiful**

Citizens of all countries of the world enjoy different rights from their countries. In return, citizens also need to carry out certain duties and responsibilities to the state. We are citizens of Bangladesh. We have achieved this citizenship by birth. To live a sound life, we also get certain social, political and economic rights and certain privileges from our government.

#### **Rights of Citizens**

"The Constitution of Bangladesh" which is the directive charter for governments mentions certain rights for citizens. These are called basic rights of citizens. In brief, they are:

- |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Right to live           | 2. Right to property                  |
| 3. Right of movement       | 4. Right to follow religion           |
| 5. Right to sign contracts | 6. Right to think and use conscience  |
| 7. Freedom of press        | 8. Right to hold rallies and meetings |

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 9. Right to form family.   | 10. Right to language and culture              |
| 11. Right to employment    | 12. Right to health and education              |
| 13. Right to abide by laws | 14. Right to economic and social justice       |
| 15. Freedom of expression  | 16. Right to elect public representative, etc. |

### **Duties & Responsibilities of Citizens**

In exchange of sanctioning the above stated rights, the state also expects our citizens to carry out certain duties and responsibilities for it. The chief among them are:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Allegiance to the country                | 2. Abide by law and order   |
| 3. Use the right to vote                    | 4. Regular payment of taxes |
| 5. Carry out properly all government duties |                             |
| 6. Educate children                         |                             |

All rights, duties and responsibilities are applicable to all citizens. Citizens' mental growth is not possible without these rights. Therefore, it is expected that a citizen will enjoy these rights and will allow others to enjoy them as well. For example, citizens will educate themselves and participate and give support so that others become educated as well. Each citizen will follow own religion and will not obstruct others to follow their respective religions. A citizen is free to express own opinions. He/she will also let others to express their respective opinions and respect those opinions. Thus, a citizen is expected to enjoy their own rights and at the same time, cooperate so that others' rights are held high. One must be careful so that their rights do not violate rights of others by any means.

All citizens are expected to actively carry out their responsibilities to the country. At present, for the sake of development of the country, more emphasis is laid on duties and responsibilities of a citizen than their rights. Therefore, a citizen has to know and understand own duties and responsibilities well. For example, citizens will abide by law and order of the country. They will carry out their responsibilities properly in their workplaces. They will educate their children and cooperate and actively participate in all works that complement country's development. Advancement of a country is achieved only when its citizens do their parts properly.

**Activity 1:** Make and present a work-plan about how you are going to carry out your duties and responsibilities to the country.



**EXERCISE****Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **How many basic attributes does a citizen need to have?**

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| a. One   | b. Two  |
| c. Three | d. Four |

2. **To become an intelligent citizen, one must-**

- i. Educate himself or herself
- ii. Vote own people only
- iii. Work for the country

**Which is correct?**

- |      |              |             |                  |
|------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| a. i | b. i and iii | c. i and ii | d. i, ii and iii |
|------|--------------|-------------|------------------|

**Read the following stem and answer the questions 3 and 4:**

Topu was travelling by a rickshaw. Suddenly, he saw a car ran over a man on the street and it was trying to speed off. With the help of others, Topu caught the driver, handed him over to police and took the injured man to the hospital.

3. **Which basic quality is reflected in Topu's behaviour?**

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| a. Intelligence | b. Self-restraint  |
| c. Conscience   | d. Self-confidence |

4. **Learning about Topu's activities, we can decide that-**

- a. Topu is a good citizen
- b. He is a worthy resource of Bangladesh
- c. People like him will be able to build up a developed country

**Which is correct?**

- |      |               |             |                  |
|------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| a. i | b. ii and iii | c. i and ii | d. i, ii and iii |
|------|---------------|-------------|------------------|

**Creative Questions**

1. Conversation between two friends:

Samiha: Lazin, have you read the report on a rickshaw-puller in the newspaper some days ago?

Lazin: Yes, I have. He did not take the bag containing one lakh taka that was left in his rickshaw for himself. Rather he found out the address of the passenger and returned the money.

Samiha: Our country needs the kind of people like that rickshaw-puller. His conscience and self-restraint are indeed praise worthy.

- a. What is the position of Bangladesh in the world in terms of population?
- b. Sectarianism is a barrier to becoming a good citizen- Explain.
- c. What quality of the rickshaw-puller is clear in the stem? Discuss.
- d. That quality of the rickshaw-puller only is enough to become a good citizen – Do you agree? Give opinion in favour of your answer.

2. Mr. Sobhan and Mr. Shekhar are two friends. Mr. Sobhan is a high official of the government. He carried out his responsibilities properly during the election held some days ago. Mr. Shekhar is a renowned businessman. He got the best tax payee award. Both of them are highly conscious about educating their children. Mr. Sobhan invites Mr. Shekhar and his family in the eid and other festivals. Mr. Shekhar also invites Mr. Sobhan's family to his residence during the puja and other festivals. Both their families observe their religions independently.

- a. Who is the most valuable resource of the country?
- b. Indifference is a barrier to becoming a good citizen- Explain.
- c. Which right of the country is being enjoyed by both the families when they observe their religious rites freely? Discuss.
- d. Both Mr. Sobhan and Mr. Shekhar enjoy their own rights and at the same time carry out their duties and responsibilities- discuss the statement in the light of your textbook.

## Chapter Six

# Election System of Bangladesh

Election is one of the most important founding principles of democracy. In this system, the citizens get the option to elect their representative from more than one candidate. The election is held through secret ballot. The winners in the result of election form the local and national government, they participate in the legislation and administration of the country. In our country, elections are held for Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, Municipality, City Corporation, National Parliament and Presidency. Election creates the bridge between the government and citizens. A country can reap the real benefits of democracy only if the fittest people are elected through a free and fair election.

**By the end of the chapter, we shall be able to-**

1. explain the concept of election;
2. explain the importance of election;
3. describe systems of elections;
4. name the local and national level elections of Bangladesh;
5. describe the activities of Election Commission;
6. describe the electoral areas of our National Parliament;
7. discuss the code of conduct of election;
8. discuss the qualification of voters of Bangladesh and the voting system;
9. explain rules of contesting elections in Bangladesh.

## **Lesson 1: Concept of Election, its Necessity and System**

### **Concept of Election**

Generally speaking, election is a process or system through which the citizens with voting rights of a country can elect their representatives. In other words, election is a constitutional process. This process enables the voters of a country to choose their candidates or representatives to administer the country. This needs the active support of the government.

### **Necessity of Election**

Today, it is no more possible that all inhabitants of a town or country will participate directly in legislation and administration. For this, the people elect their representatives who conduct the state affairs on their behalf. This election of representatives is run through voting. Besides choosing their representatives, people also express their opinion about the kind of administrative system they want for themselves. From this point of view, there is no alternative to election in a modern state. Democracy is regarded as the most effective of systems prevailing in the world now and election is the foundation of democracy. According to democracy, every decision has to include the opinion of the citizen or population. Election is the main and legal way of expressing that opinion. Therefore, democracy cannot run without election.

### **Kinds of Election**

Elections are of two kinds. They are:

- a. Direct election
- b. Indirect election

### **Direct Election**

When the citizens elect their representatives directly through casting their votes, it is called direct election. Members of the national parliament are elected through direct election in our country. Besides, local administrators like chairman and members of Union Parishad, chairman and members of Upazila Parishad, mayor and councilors of Municipalities and City Corporations are elected through this kind of election.

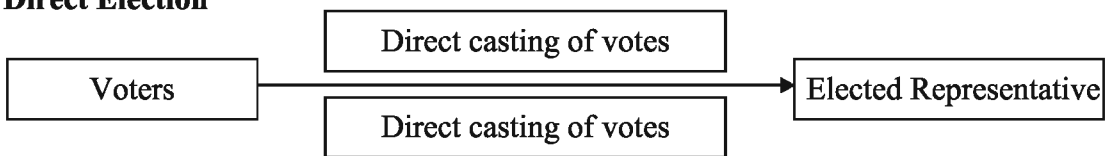
### **Indirect Election**

In this process, citizens do not elect their representatives through casting direct votes. Here, the process is done in two phases. First, citizens elect their members for an

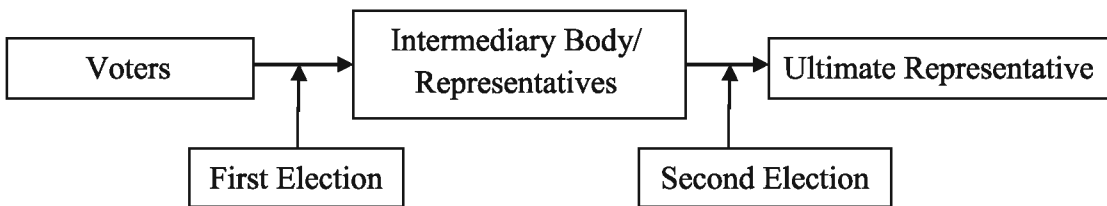
intermediary body through direct voting. Then, these members elect the ultimate representative through their votes. The President and Members of reserved seats for women of the national parliament of Bangladesh are elected through indirect election. The President of Bangladesh is not elected by direct vote of the citizens. They elect the members of Jatiya Sangsad during the national election. These members elect the President through their voting. Similarly, the members for reserved seats for women are not also elected directly by the citizens. The elected members of Jatiya Sangsad can cast their votes in electing these members.

The following diagram presents characteristic features of direct and indirect elections:

### Direct Election



### Indirect Election



Activity 1: Narrate an election you have witnessed.

Activity 2: Practice both direct and indirect elections of electing leaders in your classroom.

## Lesson 2: National and Local Elections Process in Bangladesh

The people of Bangladesh elect their representatives for national and local bodies through votes. These representatives form government in national and local level and administer development activities.

**a. National Elections:** Generally, there are three elections held at the national level in Bangladesh.

i. **Jatiya Sangsad Election:** The national legislature of Bangladesh is called Jatiya Sangsad. There are 350 seats in this parliament. 300 members of this parliament are elected through direct voting of country-wide adult franchise. Again, these elected members cast their votes in electing members for the rest 50 reserved seats for women.

Although elected for a particular locality, each of these 350 members is a representative of the country as a whole. They legislate and conduct policymaking for the country. The government of Bangladesh is formed on the basis of majority of members of Jatiya Sangsad. Considering all these, this is the most important election of our country.

ii. **Election of the President:** The election of the President is also a national level election although it is an indirect election. Members of Jatiya Sangsad are elected through adult franchise. These members on their part elect the President of Bangladesh for a five-year term through their votes.

iii. **Referendum:** Referendum is held for taking the opinion of the public or the validation of any important issue. Referendum has been scrapped through the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. But it is still in practice in other countries.

**b. Local Elections:** There are a number of local governments under the central government in order to conduct local administration as well as development activities in a proper way. These are Union and Upazila Parishads in the rural areas and Municipalities and City Corporations in towns and cities. Following is a discussion on these local elections.

i. **Union Parishad:** Union Parishads are village based. At present, there are 4,554 unions in the country. Each union has one Chairman, nine general Members and three reserved female Members. They are elected for a five-year term in direct votes of the inhabitants of concerned area.

ii. **Upazila Parishad:** At present, there are 492 upazilas in the country, meaning 490 Upazila Parishads. Each parishad is constituted with a Chairman and two Vice Chairmen. Out of the two Vice Chairmen, one is an elected as reserved for females. Upazila Chairman is elected through direct votes of the allocated area for five years.

iii. **Pouroshova (Municipal Corporation):** Pouroshova is an urban-based local government. There are 327 pouroshovas in the country. Each pouroshova has one Mayor, a number of Councillors and some reserved female councillors. All of them are elected through direct vote of the locals for five years.

iv. **City Corporation:** There are a total of 12 metropolitan cities in Bangladesh. These are Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal, Cumilla, Rangpur, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Sylhet and Mymensingh. City Corporation is headed by a Mayor. Each city corporation is divided into several Wards. Each Ward has one Councillor. Inhabitants of the city elect Mayor & Councillor for five years through direct votes.

v. **Zilla Parishad:** There is one Zilla Parishad in each of the 61 districts except the three hill districts. Each Parishad consists of one Chairman, 15 general Members and five female Members in reserved seats. All of them are elected through

indirect voting by Mayors and Councilors of pouroshovas and city corporations and Chairmen and Members of union and upazila parishads under the zilla. The term for each zilla parishad is five years.

vi. **Zilla Parishads of Hilly Districts:** There are three hill districts in Bangladesh. They are Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. There is a Hill District Zilla Parishad in each of them which is constituted with a Chairman, a definite number of ethnic minority and Bangali Members. They are directly elected by the inhabitants of the Hilly zilla for five years.

**By-election:** A fresh election is held for new member or representative when a seat falls vacant due to death of the elected representative for the seat, or his or her resignation or any other reason. This is called By-election. A by-election can be held for any seat belonging to local and national level government.

Activity 1: Review any local government election held recently in your locality and answer the followings:

- |    |                      |    |                  |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------|
| a. | Name of the election | b. | Name of the post |
| c. | Number of candidates | d. | Result           |

### Lesson 3: Election Commission, Constituency and Code of Conduct for Election

#### Election Commission

The institution that organises and arranges the elections is called the Election Commission. There is one such commission in Bangladesh too. It has one Chief Election Commissioner and several Commissioners appointed by the President. They serve the commission for five years from their date of joining.

The main responsibility of the commission is to conduct the elections of national and local levels. The election commission has to do many other related things to the effect of fair conduct of each election. The following chart focuses on some mentionable activities of the commission:

#### Duties and Responsibilities of Election Commission

1. Making and updating the voter-list;
2. Conducting all elections and by-elections;
3. Allocating the election symbols;
4. Demarcating the constituencies;
5. Setting up polling centres;
6. Preparing the code of conduct;
7. Printing the ballot paper;

8. Making Ballot boxes;
9. Smooth imposition of code of conduct;
10. Taking votes and declaring the result;
11. Dissolving the election feuds.

### **Constituencies**

The whole country is divided into specific areas for the sake of electing representatives. Each of these areas is called a constituency. Borders of such constituency vary from election to election, according to the nature of the election. For example, the country is divided into 300 constituencies for the election of Jatiya Sangsad. Similarly, constituencies for city corporation, upazila, pouroshova and union parishad elections are the specified respective local borders. The election commission specifies the area. A voter of an area cannot cast his or her vote in another area. Conduct of the election and declaration of the results are also done according to the election area.

### **Code of Conduct for Election**

One of the important tasks of the Election Commission is to prepare a code of conduct for election. It is done with a view to smooth conduct of election, for normal and peaceful environment is a prerequisite for free and fair election. With this aim in view, Election Commission prepares a list of principles of how the people of the constituency would behave. This is the Code of Conduct.

#### **The following list highlights some of these election codes of conduct:**

1. No procession or rally is permitted when submitting the nomination paper.
2. Writing on the wall or sticking posters on the wall is not allowed.
3. Meetings cannot be held on the streets and roads.
4. Posters can be hung on cords and placards can be used.
5. No gates and lightening for publicity are permitted.
6. Motorcycles or any other vehicle is not permitted to rally.
7. Voters cannot be gifted with anything and served with tea or drinks in the camps.

Activity 1: Make a list in groups, highlighting the codes of behavior for a smooth election.



## **Lesson 4: Vote and Casting Vote and Rules of Contest in Election**

The process of casting votes is a significant stage of election. Specifically, it is the most important political right of citizens in a modern democratic country. Following is a discussion on qualification of franchise, casting vote and rules for contesting elections.

### **Qualification of a Voter**

Any person has to have the following qualities in order to become a voter in any election in Bangladesh:

1. He/she must be a citizen of Bangladesh;
2. He/she must be 18 years of age or above;
3. He/she must be an inhabitant of the election area/constituency;
4. He/she must not be insane and was not declared bankrupt by any court.

Disqualification in any of the above standards means he/she will disqualify as a voter.

### **Process of Casting Vote**

There are two systems of voting- open vote and secret ballot process. In open voting, a representative is elected through raising hand or vocal support. This gives instant result. In secret ballot, one has to cast his or her vote, marking their favoured candidate on the ballot paper and dropping it in the box. The result is declared later when counting is complete. Many countries including ours follow this system.

### **Rules of Contesting Election**

Very much like right to vote, right to contest in an election is also a democratic right of any citizen. Citizens of Bangladesh can contest any local or general election if he/she fulfils the following conditions:

1. Any person can contest an election as a member of any party registered with the Election Commission or as an independent candidate;
2. The candidate must be a citizen of Bangladesh;
3. The willing candidate must be of a particular minimum age. He/she must be at least 25 years if he/she is to contest for membership in Jatiya Sangsad or Chairmanship or Membership for Upazila Parishad;
4. One cannot participate in an election if he/she is certified as insane or bankrupt by the state in Bangladesh;
5. He/she cannot contest an election while in government service.

All responsibilities of conducting all elections in Bangladesh lie on the Election Commission. The person willing to contest submits nomination paper to the Election Commission within a given time. The commission verifies the nomination papers. If they find the candidate fulfilling all conditions, they allocate election symbol to him/her and permission to contest. Finally, election is held on a given date. The person who gets the highest number of votes in the counting is officially declared by the commission as victorious.

Activity 1: Discuss in groups what the things are to consider when applying the right to vote and write them down as points.

Activity 2: Make a list of the code of conduct for election.

### **EXERCISE**

#### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **How many reserved seats for women are there in the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh?**  
a. 30      b. 40      c. 50      d. 60
2. **Election is important because-**
  - i. It's not possible to include all in order to conduct administration of the country
  - ii. Election is an opportunity to elect one with support
  - iii. It is a democratic process

#### **Which is correct?**

- a. i and ii      b. ii and iii      c. i and iii      d. i, ii and iii

#### **Read the following passage and answer questions 3 & 4**

Ms. Shahana Akter is an elected representative of a local government body. She discusses with 09 elected members under her in regards of constructing roads, bridges and culverts in her area. At this phase, other members from reserved seats also participate in the discussion.

3. **What is the name of the local government headed by Mrs. Shahana?**

a. Zilla Parishad	b. City Corporation
c. Pouroshova	d. Union Parishad
4. **The government relies upon the above stated local body for-**
  - a. Proper implementation of development programme
  - b. Proper application of rules and policies
  - c. Formation of popular support in favour
  - d. Budget formulation.

**Creative Questions**

1. Many students expressed their interest to become class the captain at the proposal of Mr. Amzad, the class teacher of class seven. The class teacher put a box in the class-room and instructed everybody to cast their favoured candidate. After counting the votes, when it was declared that Farida got the first position, followed by Sabbir and Nehal in second and third positions, all students cheered them up with claps. Then the contestants greeted each other.

- a. What is the basis of modern democracy?
- b. What system is followed in electing the President of Bangladesh? Explain
- c. Explain the election system followed by Mr. Amzad for his class.
- d. Greeting the winner class captain by the other contestants will strengthen the base of democracy- give your opinion in favour for the statement.

## Chapter Seven

# Climate of Bangladesh

Though the words 'Weather' and 'Climate' appear to be same, they have difference in their meanings. The natural condition of a particular area of a certain day or time of day that includes temperature, rainfall, wind, storm, etc. is called weather. It is determined by measuring temperature, air pressure and speed, humidity and amount of rain. Weather may change daily or hourly and it actually does so. On the other hand, the average weather of 30-40 years of a particular area is called climate. However, there are some extra elements beside the conditions of weather that count in determining climate of a place. The climate of an area includes latitude, longitude, distance from sea, height from sea-level, wind moment, ocean current, slope of land, soil structure and volume of forest, etc.

Changes in the lifestyle of inhabitants of the area, luxury or development effect in change of climate of that particular area. These factors are resulting in increased temperature all over the world. We have to fight greenhouse effect too due to these. Therefore, we need to learn the climate of Bangladesh, changes in climate, effects, reasons for the effects and tackling the new situations.

**By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-**

1. describe the climate of Bangladesh;
2. explain the causes of climate change in Bangladesh;
3. discuss disasters related to climate change like cyclone and tidal waves, floods, river erosion, drought, chill, tornado, norwester, etc;
4. describe our roles to mitigate disasters happening due to climate change;
5. describe the impacts of climate change to socio-economic condition of Bangladesh.

## Lesson 1: Climate of Bangladesh

As Bangladesh is situated in the tropical region, its climate is tropical monsoon climate. Being near to the sea and under the influence of monsoon, neither the winter nor the summer is severe here. The summer is warm and rainy and the winter is dry. The Himalayas, although situated at far north, saves us from the chill wind coming from the north during winter. Therefore, winter is not too long. Usual temperature in Bangladesh during winter is  $11^{\circ}$  - $29^{\circ}$  Celsius. But sometimes it comes down to  $4^{\circ}$ - $5^{\circ}$  Celsius in north and north-west region. Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Srimongal are the coldest places.

Summer starts from the month of Baisakh, which is mid-April in the English calendar. The average highest temperature of Bangladesh in summer is  $34^{\circ}$  C and the average lowest is  $21^{\circ}$  C. Again, sometimes temperature in the north and north-west rises up to  $40^{\circ}$  - $45^{\circ}$  C. The norwester occurs sometimes at the beginning of summer in various

places. The coastal areas experience cyclones and tsunamis too. In the rainy season, wind blows with vapour from the south and south-western part of the Bay of Bengal. This is called summer monsoon. This wind causes heavy rainfall in Bangladesh. But rainfall does not occur equally all over the country. Sylhet, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar experience heavy rain. On the contrary,



Rainy Season

Rajshahi, Pabna and Kushtia have comparative low rainfall. There is rain during the autumn too, though the amount is very low. River-erosion also increases during the rainy season. April-May and October-November are the high times for tornadoes and cyclones.

The climate of Bangladesh is moderate. It means effects of favourable and adverse weather is equal here. Being under favourable weather, Bangladesh is evergreen and ever fertile. On the other hand, disasters like storms, tidal wave, flood, drought norwester, tornado and excessive rainfall occur due to adverse effects and cause a lot of sufferings to people.

Activity 1: Discuss and present in groups, the general characteristics of climate of Bangladesh.

Activity 2: What kind of disasters occurs due to adverse weather in Bangladesh? Explain

## Lesson 2: Causes behind the Climate Change in Bangladesh

Many causes are responsible for visible changes in climate all over the world. It is also affecting Bangladesh. Weather change does not go accordingly with change of seasons. Amount of rainfall during monsoon is decreasing; winter is arriving late and leaving early; the number of natural disasters is increasing; severity of droughts, floods and tidal waves is on the rise; rivers and canals are drying up. Manmade causes are equally responsible with natural causes for these. The main cause behind climate change in Bangladesh as well as the world is global warming. The polar ice is melting abnormally due to warming. This water due to melting ice is raising the sea-level. As a result, the low-lying southern regions and many countries adjacent to sea are at risk of being submerged. The greenhouse gas is highly responsible for global warming. Gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons, etc. combined are known as greenhouse gas. The increased presence of these gases in atmosphere increases temperature of the earth. Human activities are causing this increase of greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide constitutes the largest portion of greenhouse gases. This gas is generated from electricity production, smoke from vehicles' fuel, brick kiln, etc. The percentage of greenhouse gases has drastically increased these days. From this, we can easily understand the danger of climatic change.

The causes for climatic change in Bangladesh are almost same as those around the world. However, developing countries like Bangladesh do not use the same amount of fuel as used by the developed countries. This considered, developed countries are more responsible for the changes in climate. But we are the ones to bear the maximum brunt of this.

The temperature of the earth is also rising due to continuous deforestation. Experts opine that a country needs forests that should amount to 25% of its size. But Bangladesh has only 17%. Moreover, the amount of forest is still decreasing due to indiscriminate cutting down of trees and destruction of hills.

Consequently, the amount of rain in Bangladesh has decreased recently.



Black Smoke

**Activity 1:** What is greenhouse gas? How these gases are contributing to the increase in temperature in Bangladesh? Explain.

**Activity 2:** What can man do to keep climate normal? Analyse.

### Lesson 3: Some Disasters Due to Climate Change

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country. Many natural disasters occur here. Some mentionable of them are cyclone and tidal waves, floods, river erosion, drought, chill, tornado, norwesters, etc. Besides, Bangladesh is at risk of earthquakes.

#### 3.1: Cyclone and Tidal Wave

When the air of earth surface of a particular place becomes too hot, it blows upwards.

As a result, air pressure of that place grows less. This is called depression. At this stage, air from the surrounding places rushes to that depression area with higher speed. This is called cyclone. Most of the cyclones in Bangladesh occur due to depression created in the Bay of Bengal. This kind of depression and storm in sea generate huge waves and the waves in their turn inundate the landmass of coastal areas with great speed.



Cyclone

This is called tidal wave. Cyclones and tidal waves have struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh several times. These have killed so many people and crops and cattle have been wiped away. Such a cyclone and tidal wave on 12 November 1970 in our coastal belt killed about a million people. Sid'r and Aila are two examples of cyclones of the recent past. About three million people in 28 districts were affected by Sid'r on 15 November 2007. Aila caused havoc on 25 May 2009 destroying people, birds and animals crops and houses. Generally, the meteorological office forecasts about these cyclones and issue warnings to the people. We can minimise losses if we follow the forecasts and take necessary precautions. We need to prepare for mitigating the impending disaster and take refuge in storm shelters at this time.

### 3.2: Flood

More or less, flood occurs in Bangladesh almost every year. Almost all rivers of Bangladesh including the three major rivers Padma, Meghna and Jamuna are originated in India. These rivers carry a great water flow from melted water of the Himalayas and huge rainfall in the highland through Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal. Water from rainfall and hills of Bangladesh is added to it and increase the water level of rivers and finally flood the adjacent areas. Floods cause a lot of damage to our people and



Flood

resources every year. On the other side, the rivers carries millions of tonnes of silt every year. A lot of silt is not carried to the Bay and stored is the riverbed. This reduces the rivers' capacity to carry water. So flood occurs on the river banks and adjoining areas. Crops are damaged severely and that leads to food crises. Many people become unemployed. The country experienced severe floods in 1988, 1998 and 2004. Now scientists say, flood cannot be controlled totally but damages due to floods may be controlled.

### 3.3: River Erosion

River erosion is a regular natural disaster in Bangladesh. Every year, especially during monsoon, river erosion occurs in the country. One of the reasons of this disaster is the nature of course of rivers. Most of the rivers of the country follow a frequently meandering course. As a result, strong current cannot flow straight and strikes the banks which start to erode. Besides, change of river courses, loose structure of river banks, river filling, unplanned embankments to control rivers, and absence of trees on river banks, etc.



River Erosion

contribute to the problem too. River erosion causes thousands of acres of cultivable



land, residences and different other constructions to go down to the rivers every year. As a consequence, thousands of people of the country become homeless and destitute losing their employment too. Awareness of the causes of river erosion may minimise the disaster and its resultant damages.

### 3.4: Drought

Drought is a natural disaster in Bangladesh. Lack of proper rainfall and slide in under-ground water level cause drought.

Almost every year, at the end of spring and advent of summer season, drought occurs in different regions of the country. The severity of drought is visible in the northern region. Irrigation is hampered and crops are damaged due to lack of water. Besides lack of rainfall, drought is also caused by construction of dams in the upstream of rivers and environmental pollution. There may not be any permanent remedy to this problem. But if we are aware of it and take necessary



Drought

steps in time, damages can be lessened. For this, we need to test the sub-surface water level and put a stoppage to further pumping if necessary. We should store water during the monsoon. Mass awareness about proper water management and use will also be of help.

### 3.5: Cold Wave

Although Bangladesh is not a cold country, mild and medium cold waves are noticed some years in December-January. Its intensity is noticeable specifically in the northern region. Many people die even due to severe cold wave. The regular life pattern suffers during these times. Ordinary people like day labourers and workers do not get any job. The cold wave damages crops severely. The poor people suffer most as they do not have houses and sufficient warm clothes. Proper and timely initiatives from the government and conscious people may lessen these sufferings to a great extent.

### 3.6: Tornado

Tornado is one of the most frequent natural disasters in Bangladesh. It is a kind of violent and speedy windstorm. It is created due to low pressure on land mass which occurs in the same place. Tornado is such a natural disaster that cannot be forecasted

or given early warning about. Clouds shaped like the funnel or elephant's trunk gather in the sky just before a tornado. Gradually, this funnel shaped cloud rushes toward the low pressure zone. This cloud moves from one place to another as a whirlwind. A lot spinning goes on inside the funnel. When this trunk-like tornado touches the landmass, it makes a mess of houses, trees, animals and birds and people of the area. Things are even carried away to different places. It can attack any place all on a sudden and can cause havoc within moments. It is usually of a very short duration- few seconds to few minutes. A very small region falls prey to it. Tornadoes generally occur from the end of Falgun to middle of Jyastho in Bangladesh.



Tornado

### 3.7: Nor'wester

If temperature of an area rises too high, the wind of that area becomes lighter and goes up. Cooler air from the adjacent areas rushes to fill up that vacuum and creates a storm. This is called the nor'wester. Nor'wester is a storm that is of a very short duration and is regionally originated. Generally it occurs in the month of Baisakh and hence it is known as Kalbaisakhi in Bangla. The storm appears from north-west. It occurs more or less every year.



Norwester

Although not so devastating like tornadoes, it causes damage to lives and properties. It blows away houses, uproots trees, and hampers riverine transportation. It is notorious to cause naval accidents. That is why we need to take extra caution during the season of nor'wester in regards of river transportation.

Activity 1: Make a list of disasters that occur in Bangladesh.

Activity 2: Write a report on the nature of various kinds of natural disasters and damages caused by them.

## **Lesson 4: Measures to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change**

One of the most discussed issues of the modern world is the effects of climate change. Each of people, society and state has specific roles to play in order to tackle the situation.

### **Measures in Cyclone, Tornado and Nor'wester Situation**

- a. Abiding by the forecast and warning reports of meteorological office;
- b. Planting trees around houses;
- c. Controlling greenhouse gas emission.

### **Measures in Flood Situation**

- a. Constructing embankments;
- b. Constructing houses on higher foundation;
- c. Dredging the rivers.

### **Measures in Drought Situation**

- a. Ensuring sufficient forestation;
- b. Putting a stop to pumping out sub-surface water after proper testing.

### **Measures in River Erosion Situation**

- a. Planting trees on river banks;
- b. Maintaining river banks;
- c. Dredging rivers on a regular basis.

Activity 1: What can you do in case of flood, river erosion and cyclone situation in your area?

## **Lesson 5: Effects of Climate change on Socio-economic Sector**

Bangladesh is considered in the risk zone of the adverse effects of climate change in agriculture, industry, health, social sectors. The socio-economic sectors where the adverse effects are noticeable are:

**Agriculture:** Climate change is responsible for immense damage to crops. High temperature and excessive rain stands on the way to get an expected harvest. Flash floods in some places can cause damage to even the paddy that can withstand a certain level of water. Land for aush paddy and jute is lessened due to floods.

**Fisheries:** Climate change affects the fisheries of Bangladesh from three dimensions: salinity, flood and tidal waves. Increase of salinity of water creates scarcity of fresh water fish. Habitats of fish are damaged when during floods, ponds and rivers overflow. Tidal wave contributes to the increase in salinity in inland water.

**Health:** Sewerage systems go out of order in the face of ever increasing floods. Consequently, epidemics break out.

**Industry:** Industries largely depend on raw materials. Climate change affects production of agro produces in different areas of the country. Industries suffer from shortage of raw materials due to this.

**Social:** Climate change has noticeably affected rainfall. Higher amount of rain in short period causes flashfloods and river erosion. Consequently, many people become climate refuge and that is a threat to social discipline

Activity 1: Make a chart to show the sectors facing damage due to climate change.

### **EXERCISE**

#### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **In which season does river erosion occur in Bangladesh?**
  - a. Summer
  - b. Monsoon
  - c. Winter
  - d. Spring
  
2. **Causes of river erosion in Bangladesh are-**
  - i. Course of rivers is not straight
  - ii. Weak structure of soil of river bank
  - iii. Various kinds of trees are on river banks.



2. Arik was witnessing a feature named "Natural Disasters in Bangladesh" on television. The report at its opening showed how the cultivable lands were drying up due to a natural disaster in a village of northern Bangladesh. The second part showed how natural disasters are causing damage to life and environment of coastal areas. The situational factor is one of the reasons of frequent natural disasters here.

- a. What is the name for a storm with a very high speed?
- b. What is Kalbaisakhi? Explain.
- c. What is the reason of disaster shown in the second part of report? Discuss.
- d. What measures can be taken to mitigate damages shown in first part of the report? Discuss.

## Chapter Eight

# Introduction to Population of Bangladesh

Population is a great resource for development of a country. The population of a country has to be proportionate to its size or area. This population has to be skilled human resource. The population transformed into a skilled human resource can become a factor in speedy development of a country. On the other hand, an unskilled population is a burden for the country. We will learn different aspects of population of Bangladesh.

**By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-**

1. compare population of Bangladesh and some regional countries;
2. explain the concept of changeability of population;
3. discuss the reasons behind internal and external migration of our population;
4. analyse reasons and effects of maternal and natal mortality rates in Bangladesh;
5. explain pressure of population against the natural resources of Bangladesh;
6. discuss reasons and effects of population increase;
7. explain steps necessary to mitigate population problem of Bangladesh.

### **Lesson 1: Comparison between Populations of Various Regional Countries**

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world situated in South Asia. The country is heading to become a middle income nation. Its area is 1,47,570 sq. km. According to the census 2011, the total population of Bangladesh is 14,97,72,364 (Fourteen crore ninety seven lakh seventy two thousand three hundred and sixty four). 1015 people live here per square kilometer. Presently,

the annual growth rate of population here is 1.37% which was 1.54% in 2001. Now we will compare the growth rates of various regional neighbours of Bangladesh.

South Asian Countries	Growth Rates of Population Every Five Years		
	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-15
Bangladesh	1.70	1.18	1.20
India	1.65	1.46	1.26
Nepal	1.44	1.05	1.18
Pakistan	2.07	2.07	2.11
Sri Lanka	0.78	0.68	0.50
Afghanistan	4.28	2.73	3.02
Bhutan	2.87	2.02	1.46
The Maldives	1.68	1.73	1.79

Source: United Nations, 2011

The above table shows the population growth rate of Bangladesh is too high compared to that of Sri Lanka. It is also high compared to that of India and Nepal but Pakistan is leading the chart among the regional countries. This rate of population growth depends on birth rate, mortality rate and some other reasons.

Comparison between the density of population of some regional countries and Bangladesh:

Name of Country	Density of Population (Per Square Kilometer)
Maldives	1,426
Singapore	8,032
Bangladesh	1,252
India	445
Sri Lanka	338
Japan	348

The above table shows density of population of Bangladesh is almost three time that of India, Sri Lanka and Japan. That means, it is a densely populated country.

**Activity 1:** Analyse the following table containing population growth rate of Bangladesh in a number of census of different years.



Year of Census	Population Growth Rate (%)
1974	2.62
1981	2.32
1991	2.01
2001	1.58
2011	1.34

## Lesson 2: Changing trend of Population

Population's ability to change is called the changeability of population. It is one major attribute of a population. The change depends chiefly on birth rate, mortality rate, migration and social dynamism. These determining factors of population change rely upon age, gender, marriage, social structure, religious values, education, profession, etc. Age structure of population of a country is divided into three stages- young, adult and old. Gross birth rate depends on the age of marriage of a boy or girl. Birth rate will be higher in a country where child marriage is rampant. Birth rate and mortality rate brings about change in the population structure of a country. So, it can be said, changeability of population means the change of structure of population. Some aspects are closely associated with the structural change of population. They are-geographical environment, climate, natural resources, fertility and elevation of land, developed communication system, education, advanced medical facility, health services, etc. The more a country is educated, the more developed it is. The influence of knowledge towards change tends to bring about change in values and beliefs of people. They are encouraged to form small families. Profession also makes a difference in the birth rate. Birthrate among farmers, labourers and fishermen is high, whereas it is low among doctors, teachers, engineers, etc.

Since there are hills and hillocks in the hilly districts of Bangladesh, population is sparse there. Consequently, the density of population is also less in this region. Since the 'chars' are situated away from mainland, population density in these places is also low. On the other hand, the elevated plain land yields high crops due to their fertility and population density is higher in these places. Industrially and mineral rich places also have higher population too. Sometimes, better probability of employment leads people to migrate from rural areas to urban areas. Political instability, war situation, civil war, natural disaster, etc. also influence the structure of population.

The average life span in Bangladesh is 71 years. Increase of this feature clearly shows that rate of mortality here has decreased. This decrease means an increase in older people who are known as dependent population. This dependent population creates pressure on our limited resources. Besides, use of modern birth control procedures also has a role in decreasing the population of Bangladesh. There are also multi-dimensional socio-economic development measures that contribute to the lessening of mortality rate. For example- massive registration of boys and girls in primary and secondary education, different programmes to ensure women rights and emancipation of them, mass awareness programmes in favour of small families, etc. are mentionable. Modern medical treatment has considerably lessened mortality of mother and child. It also affects change in population. However, we need to take certain measures of increasing awareness and related development programmes to keep the population balanced. The steps that deserve priority are increasing the minimum age for marriage for girls, programmes for alleviation of poverty, emphasise birth-control programmes, ensuring employment and emancipation of women, etc.

**Activity 1:** Identify the reasons behind change of population in your area.

**Activity 2:** Changes in population structure is seen due to marriage, religious beliefs and advanced medical facilities- Discuss in groups and find a solution to the issue.

### **Lesson 3: Reasons and Effects of Internal and External Migration of Population of Bangladesh**

When someone leaves their place to go to another place, it is called migration. It is also known as immigration. Migration may take place both in internal or international arenas. We have learned it in class six. In this lesson, we will learn the reasons and results of internal and international migration.

#### **3.1: Internal Migration**

When people move from one place to another inside the country, it is called internal migration. However, when we go to different places daily, we cannot be called immigrants. Internal immigration occurs in various ways. There is intra-regional migration, meaning movement from one place to another within a region. Besides, there is village to village, village to town, town to village, town to town, etc. kind of immigration. Economic cause is the sole responsible for internal immigration.

#### **Causes of Internal Migration**

Internal migration does not require any permission or law. It happens according to our necessity and will.

Population growth of Bangladesh is very high. Increased population is lessening the amount of land per head. Many people are becoming landless. Jobless and semi-jobless are increasing. This economic crisis is compelling people to leave villages in search of jobs towards cities. People from river erosion areas are rushing to the towns for their survival. Poverty, need, and many other reasons are also forcing a portion of rural people to the cities. Advanced state of education, health service and medical facilities of the towns are also causes of rural migration toward cities. Children of rich and able rural people are sent to the cities for better education. Besides, they go to cities to get better medical treatment. Luxurious lifestyle of cities, better employment opportunity, better scope for investment and trade and commerce are some other provocations. But, some people are forced to migrate in this country due to frequent natural disasters here. The industries being situated in the towns and cities is another cause for rural migration, like garment and leather industries are there in the urban areas. This is the reason, lakhs of people live in overcrowded slums of towns. Better transportation and communication are two other causes.

### **Results of Internal Migration**

Internal migration has both good and bad effects in Bangladesh. A portion of the migrated people from villages is engaging themselves as rickshaw pullers, drivers, van pullers or industrial labourers. Besides, they are also employed in different positions in commercial houses. On the other hand, members of middle and high earner farmer families are engaging themselves in service, trade and commerce or other productive jobs.

These migrants are sending their earned money to the villages. Bearing the monthly expenses, the excess amount is again invested in agricultural and non-agricultural production sectors.

Internal migration has benefitted the insolvent rural women most. As they were unemployed, their families used to consider them as burdens. As a result, they were subjected to discrimination, deception, cheating and oppression. Today, only readymade garments industries are employing a huge number of women labourers. Now their status in the family has increased. They get more opportunity to express their opinion and decision. They are spending for the education of the children. They also enjoy some benefits of advanced lifestyle to some extent.

On the contrary, slums have been created to accommodate these migrants in the towns and cities. These slums are spoiling environment of these places. Tendency towards crime, smuggling, kidnapping, drug peddling, human smuggling, sex business, etc. social indiscipline is rooted in these slums. Besides, many diseases spread from these slums.

Migration is also increasing the urban population. The urbanites are experiencing the influence of this effect. Specifically, the demand for daily necessities is increasing. The migration from urban areas to villages does not affect that much in Bangladesh. In many cases, it is noticeable that urban people go to the villages in order to take part in elections. They construct roads, schools-colleges and carry out many other development works. This helps develop the rural economy.

Village to village migration contributes to the increase in mutual relationship in rural areas. One's place is taken up by others of different villages. This facilitates newer relationship among the people.

Inter city migration facilitates increased skill of employees. It also helps exchange of social and cultural customs and rites. It increases earning and savings. Besides, it also adds to investment which is supportive to economic development.

### **3.2: Causes of International Migration**

Transfer from an independent country to another for job, marriage, residence and even citizenship is known as international migration. People of our country go to various countries on various purposes. Many people migrate from our country every year due to lack of employment, highly competitive job market, adverse climatic condition and political asylum. Besides, many go out in order to go closer to their family. Some also go abroad for getting citizenship, investing in trade and commerce, transfer and promotion in job, participate in cultural activities, and as professionals. There are also some other reasons that you can learn from your reading of the daily newspapers.

### **Results of International Migration**

International migration is highly beneficial for Bangladesh. Remittance sent from abroad is invested in agriculture and industries, banking services, garment industries and many other profitable sectors. Consequently, production in different sectors is increased. Again, a portion of this production is exported abroad. It also facilitates jobs and employment. Our life and livelihood is developed for this.

International migration has many adverse effects too. Some viruses including HIV/AIDS have spread here in this country due to these immigrants. Some social and cultural problems also arise due to it.

- Activity 1: Identify the causes and effects of internal migration and present it in a chart.
- Activity 2: Identify the causes and effects of international migration from Bangladesh.
- Activity 3: International migration plays a role in economic development- Work in groups and show reasons for the statement.

## **Lesson 4: Situation of mother and child mortality in Bangladesh**

Generally speaking, if mothers meet death before they give birth to their children or for reasons after the birth of their children, it is called mortality of mothers. This kind of death is estimated per lakh. On the other hand, a newborn up to its one year of age is known as baby. If a baby meets its death during in this one year, it is called child mortality. Child mortality is estimated by the number of babies dead against a thousand new born. If a baby dies within the first month of its birth, it is called neo natal mortality. Death after this one month up to the completion of first birth anniversary falls into the category of child mortality.

### **4.1: Maternal Mortality Situation in Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh in the year 1980, a total of 650 mothers died when giving birth to their children. In 1990, the number came down to 574, in 2001, 322 and in 2010 it decreased to 194. According to the World Bank data, Maternal mortalit was 176 in 2015.

#### **Causes of Maternal Mortality**

In our country, many girls conceive at an early age due to child marriage. These girls do not get proper nutrition due to ignorance, indifference, religious superstition, etc. As a result, they suffer from various complicacies during their pregnancy and die. Besides, there are other reasons like low standard of life, lack of pure water and weak sanitation, lack of female education, lack of medical treatment, risky abortion, and high blood pressure during child birth and eclampsia, etc.

#### **Effects of Maternal Mortality**

In Bangladesh, the neonatal suffer from lack of nutrition due to maternal mortality. Consequently, the child loses its resistance to diseases and falls victim to diseases. In many cases, they die. Motherless children suffer from proper socialisation. Alternative milk is required for a newborn due to death of its mother. In poor families, they are usually given cow's milk or goat's milk. In these cases, the baby suffers from stomach disorder and some other complicacies. They need doctors. It is an extra burden over the poor family. Apart from this, the remarriage of father also needs extra expenditure. Sometimes, death of mother causes the family discipline to break down. We all should be aware to stop maternal mortality.

### **4.2: Child Mortality Situation in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has achieved great success in controlling child mortality. A report published by UNICEF in 2008 shows the child mortality in 1990 in this country was

149 per 1000. It came down to 69 in 2006. It was further decreased in 2008 with 52 deaths. It was further decreased in 2016 with 28 deaths. That proves child mortality is decreasing fast in this country. However, the rate is still much higher than that of the developed countries. So, what are the reasons behind child mortality?

### **Causes behind Child Mortality**

Most people of Bangladesh are still living below the poverty line. As a result, mother and child do not get proper health care and nutritious food. Most children die because of poverty. Besides, child marriage is still rampant in the country which is most available in poor families.

In the rural poor families, girls are married off at the ages of 18 to 23. Their children take birth with weakness and malnutrition. In many cases, these children die due to physical complications. The rural midwives who are not properly trained also causes the child mortality rate to go high. Malnutrition and sickness of the mother also affect the newborn to suffer from malnutrition. Malnutrition gives scope to many diseases. As a consequence, many infants die.

Though infant mortality due to measles, polio, tuberculosis, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, etc. diseases have gone down all over our country, still, they cause some deaths in some parts. They add to the death of infants. Irresponsibility of doctors, difference between medical facilities available in rural and urban areas also play a role in higher mortality of infants in villages. Apart from these, lack of education, ignorance, superstition and negligence are also responsible. Another reason is frequent natural disasters in the country. The cyclone of 29 April 1991 caused deaths to the total of about 1,38,000 lives in Bangladesh, of which, 50% were children.

### **Effects of Child Mortality**

Some of us are familiar with infant mortality in our families. A death of a child creates some sort of disorder in a family. It is hard to accept. Many a times, it becomes a cause of disturbance in the relationship between husband-wife as they accuse one another. This calls in a host of problems including divorce.

High rate of child mortality is a reason parents favour to have more children. It is also an impediment to socio-economic development of the country. A child beginning from its pre-birth stage to its time of survival costs a lot of money on a family. Its death is naturally a financial loss for that family. The death of a child is a mental breakdown

the earning members of the family too which creates disturbance in their regular life. In poor families, they take frequent babies due to child mortality. As a result, these children come with lesser weight, lesser intelligence etc. We have to be careful about the issue and take necessary awareness programmes to prevent child mortality.

Activity 1: Identify the causes of maternal mortality in your locality.

Activity 2: Identify the causes of child mortality in your locality.

## **Lesson 5: Population and Natural Resources of Bangladesh**

Natural resources are precious for a country. These resources are the base of its social, political and even economic strength. The stronger a country is in natural resources, the stronger it is financially. You have certainly seen the world map. The map shows how big countries like Canada, Russia, Saudi Arabia and United States of America are. These countries have huge stocks of natural resources. Their stocks exceed their national demand. On the other hand, Bangladesh has forests, mineral coal and gas, population, hard rock, stones, etc. natural resources. The population of Bangladesh is a pressure on these resources. We will learn about that pressure on our natural resources in this lesson.

Population of Bangladesh is increasing fast. Our country faces troubles to meet the demand of this huge population. Therefore, the country resorts to the resources to fill the need which is creating a huge pressure on them.

### **Pressure on Forest Resources**

Habitation problem for the huge population is taking a huge proportion. To accommodate them we need to build houses. Use of wood and materials of wood in constructing houses is increasing pressure on our forest resources. As a result, forests are destroyed. This causes harm to natural balance. Presently, construction of infrastructures like houses, roads, highways, etc. is going on all over the country including towns and villages. These require huge quantity of bricks, wood, stones, metal, etc. These are dependent on and depleting natural resources.

### **Pressure on Cultivable Land**

Increased population is a huge pressure on our cultivable land. Newer houses to meet demand of houses for increased population mean use of cultivable land. Besides, expansion of trade and commerce, industrialization and urbanization also use up cultivable land.

### **Pressure on Gas and Oil**

To meet up daily necessities of huge population, Bangladesh needs to produce huge quantity of commodities. Wood, natural gas and oil are used in the process as raw material and fuel. As a consequence, natural resources are being depleted. Scarcity of electricity is a long-pending problem in this country. Production of electricity requires natural gas and coal which are again putting pressure on our resources. Urea fertiliser is produced in the country; 60% of raw material in its production is natural gas. Vehicles are using CNG as their fuel which also is a pressure.

### **Pressure on Water Resources**

Left off matters from industries are polluting water resources of Bangladesh. It is generating lack of drinking water. Fish living in these waters are dying. Polluted water is flown to the sea through rivers which is also polluting the sea. This is also generating natural disasters.

Activity 1: Excess population is the only reason of depletion of mineral resources of Bangladesh- how far do you support this statement?

Activity 2: Identify the effects of excess population on our natural resources.

## **Lesson 6: Causes, Effects and Solutions to Population Growth of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is a populous country. The population of the small country of the world is gradually increasing. The total population of this country in 1974 was 7.64 crore, in 1991 it was 11.15 crore, in 2001 it was 12.93 crore, in 2007 it was 14.06 crore and in 2011 it was 14 crore 97 lakh 72 thousands and 364. In 2011 density of population was 834 per square kilometer. The density of population has gradually increased and become 904 in 2005, 953 in 2009, 990 in 2010, 1015 in 2011 and 1252 in 2016. Now we will know the reasons of population growth in Bangladesh.

### **6.1: Causes of Population Growth**

There is no single reason behind the growth of population. There are a number of reasons behind it, some of which are discussed below.

The main reason behind population growth or decline is birth and death. There is great difference between the gross birth rate and gross death rate of Bangladesh. Advance medical treatment and expanded programme on immunisation have lessened the gross infant mortality rate here. This is one reason, population is going up. According to one statistics report, every year, some 25 lakh children are born here, while about six lakh people die. That means, 19 lakh people are added to the population of Bangladesh per year. Therefore, it can be said, the main cause of our population growth is high birth



Child marriage, polygamy, religious superstition, and irregular use of birth control measures are contributing to the growth of population. Besides, expectation for boy child among the rural families, poverty, and lack of female education, ignorance and superstitions also play their roles.

Bangladesh has a number of programmes for birth control in government and non-government levels. But lack of coordination among them, lack of proper initiative for implementation and lack of effective communication also hinder them to reach the people. Implementation process of registering birth, death, marriage and divorce is also not in proper shape. Employment for the unmarried young women is slow which is also responsible for the growth of population in Bangladesh.

### **6.2: Effects of Population Growth**

You have learned the effects of population growth in classes four, five and six. Population growth is increasing the dependent population in Bangladesh. As a result, Bangladesh has to spend a large portion of its development budget for their welfare. But there will be 40% dependent and 60% independent population in Bangladesh in next three decades. If we can properly utilise this independent section of population.

Pressure created by overpopulation is dealing adverse effect in all spheres including education and health. In the previous lesson, you have learned how it is creating pressure on our natural resources. Overpopulation is also largely responsible for social problems like drug addiction, sexual indiscipline, smuggling, cruelty towards women, smuggling women and children, etc. If we fail to turn the huge population into human resource, we have to face the consequences in near future.

### **6.3: Steps for Solution of Population Problem**

- We need proper implementation of child marriage act. We have to impose the law of minimum age of marriage strictly (boys' 21 and girls' 18 years).
- We need to create employment for women folk in productive sectors and involve them.
- We need to motivate everybody to take birth-control measures and form smaller families.
- We need to turn the population into human resource. We need initiatives to ensure proper education, training, medical treatment, accommodation, etc. with the view to achieving this goal. The skilled human resource will not only fit in our national level, they will also do good abroad.

Activity 1: Identify causes for population problem and discuss the remedies.

**EXERCISE****Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **What was the population of Bangladesh according to 1974 census?**  
a. 4.20 crore    b. 5.28 crore    c. 5.52 crore    d. 7.64 crore
2. **Death rate in Bangladesh has decreased because-**
  - i. Rate of education has increased
  - ii. Medical treatment facilities have improved
  - iii. Awareness of nutrition in food has increased.

**Which is correct?**

- a. i and ii    b. i and iii    c. ii and iii    d. i, ii and iii

**Read the following passage and answer questions 3 & 4**

Fawzia is a social worker. She has been running development works in Nayanpur village for five years. A recent survey shows that every year, 50 children are born in Nayanpur village and 5 persons die due to different causes.

3. **What is the reason behind fast population growth in Nayanpur?**
  - a. Higher birthrate and lower death rate
  - b. Birthrate and death rate are equal
  - c. Lower birthrate and higher death rate
  - d. Higher birthrate and higher death rate
4. **Ways to address population problem in Nayanpur are-**
  - i. Stopping early marriage
  - ii. Improving standard of life
  - iii. Migration of population

**Which is correct?**

- a. i and ii    b. i and iii    c. ii and iii    d. i, ii and iii

### Creative Questions

Read the following table and answer the attached questions:

Tendency of Population Growth in Bangladesh	
1961	5.52 crore
1974	7.64 crore
1991	11.15 crore
2001	12.93 crore
2007	14.06 crore
2011	14.97 crore

- What is the minimum age of a girl for marriage in Bangladesh?
- Explain how shifting of settlement helps increase population.
- Explain why the population of Bangladesh in 2007 became three times that of 1961.
- The population growth rate of Bangladesh is decreasing since 1991- Discuss the statement in the light of lessons taught in textbook.

2. **Event 1:** Chowdhury family and Halder family are well known as successful businessmen to many at Kulaura of Sylhet. But the Chowdhury family originally came from Kishoreganj and Halder family is from Brahmanbaria.

**Event 2:** Many people from some neighbouring villages including Syedpur and Shohagi have been living along with their families in the Middle East for 15 years. Most of their children have not yet visited their ancestral homes.

- What is gross birth rate?
- Explain a cause of the increase in average life expectancy in Bangladesh.
- What type of migration is indicated at Event 1 of the stem? Discuss.
- Migration indicated in Event 2 of the stem is the main cause of decrease in population of the country- Do you support? Justify your answer.

## Chapter Nine

# Rights of Senior Citizens and Women in Bangladesh

Rights are some facilities and opportunities approved by society and state which helps the flourishing of citizens. Nobody can realise their full potential without their rights. The chief aim of rights is to facilitate betterment of individual. Ensuring proper enjoyment of all rights and flourishing of physical and mental health, social and economic status by citizens is a responsibility of a modern country. Rights primarily refer to human rights. All rights for human beings are written in human rights charter. The United Nations brought out the human rights charter in 1948. This chapter will highlight the rights of the seniors and women.

**By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-**

1. explain the concept of rights of the seniors and their rights;
2. describe the problems of the senior citizens;
3. describe the programmes for welfare of the seniors in Bangladesh;
4. explain the concept of women rights in the context of Bangladesh;
5. analyse women's position in society and their rights situation;
6. discuss importance of women rights in Bangladesh;
7. describe the rights enjoyed by women in Bangladesh;
8. identify steps necessary to ensure women rights.

## **Lesson 1: Concept of Rights of the Senior Citizens and Their Rights**

people above 60 years are generally known as the aged in Bangladesh. People go to retirement from earning their livelihood at this age. The age for retirement for a government service holder in Bangladesh is 59. The retirement age for Justices has recently been raised to 67, for University Professors and some other professionals to 65. In the modern developed countries, people above 60 or 65 are regarded as Senior Citizens. They are awarded special honour, privilege and opportunity. The United Nations also has drawn up certain principles to protect the rights of senior citizens. Besides, the same organisation has declared a specific day as the Senior Citizen 'Day' in order to create awareness about their rights and our responsibilities towards them.

### **Rights of the Senior Citizens**

Rights that determine the independence of the seniors are:

- Right to get sufficient food, drinks, shelter, clothes and medical care;
- Right to work or earn for themselves;
- Right to decide when to retire from physical labour;
- Right to live in a safe and sound environment according to own will and adaptability;
- Right to get suitable education and training;
- Right to live along with family at home.

### **Rights to Participate**

The rights of participation for the senior citizens are:

- Right to participate actively in various policymaking and implementation process;
- Right to participate in social welfare activities according to health and ability;
- Right to organisation and participation in movement.

### **Rights to Care**

There are some rights to care for the senior citizens. These are:

- Right to care from the family and society and subsistence;
- Right to medical facility in regard to physical, psychological and emotional health;

- Right to social and judicial access in order to ensure individuality, sustenance and care;
- Right to live in humane and safe condition, rehabilitation, all cares related to social and mental joys.
- Right to dignity and reverence and enjoyment of all basic human rights and freedom for those who live in shelters and care or treatment facilities;
- Right to decision in regards of taking support from the above stated care centres.

Apart from these, the senior citizens enjoy some other rights that ensure their flourishing. These are:

- Right to full flourishing of their talent;
- Right to access educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational activities and access to own properties.
- Right to a beautiful place free from physical and psychological torments;
- Right to good behaviour from all irrespective of age, gender, religion and race;
- Right to get respect and value for contributing to economy.

Activity 1: Who are senior citizens? Write why they should be respected.

Activity 2: What kind of rights to care do the senior citizens enjoy in your family and relatives? Identify them from your own experience.

## Lesson 2: Problems of the Senior Citizens

The problems that senior citizens in our society have to face usually are discussed below.

(a) **Familial Problem:** once, in our country, our families were extended families. At that time, the senior citizens had a kind of authority or role in their families. But urbanisation, industrialisation and changes in our economic activities have broken those extended families into small nuclear families. These newer versions have only the father-mother, children and at best, the home-worker with them. There is no place for the parents or in laws or even if there is, they live a subdued life. They are not properly looked after or taken care of during their illness. They do not get company or somebody to talk to. Consequently, they fall prey to loneliness and melancholy. In many a cases with working parents, senior citizens have to take care of the children, reach them to school, do the shopping and carry out the daily chores. It is sometimes

difficult for them at their age. Sometimes, they are even regarded as burdens.

**(b) Economic Problem:** senior citizens suffer from financial helplessness as they do not have an earning and their savings and properties are already distributed to inheritors. They become dependent on their children. They cannot do anything on their own. This situation is more serious in poor and middle class families. The senior citizens become penniless even before they reach old age as they spend all the money in running family, paying for the education and marriage of children. Sometimes, they are also made penniless by natural disasters like floods, tidal waves and river erosions, etc. The children with their insufficient income or ability cannot come to support their parents in misery. They cannot care for their parents even if they have all the will.

**(c) Physical Problem:** people start to lose physical strength as they grow old. Various diseases strike their body. They need a bit of rest and comfort. But most of the elderly people of our country do not get this comfort. They do not even get proper medical facilities in their illness. They do not have the ability to purchase proper medicine and diet during their illness.

**(d) Socio-cultural Problem:** nowadays, the older reverence, respect and importance paid towards the senior citizens and their opinions are no more noticeable in our society. A number of causes like decadence of social values, lack of moral education, influence of foreign culture, selfish attitudes, etc. are responsible for this. Families and society tend to show disregard to them. Their opinions are not counted. They are not provided time and company. They hardly have any scope for recreation and leisure.

**(e) Psychological Problem:** the 'cornered' situation of the aged in family and society generates an inferiority complex in them. They start to feel neglected and helpless. Lack of own support and ability added with physical sickness and loneliness increase this inferiority complex. Loss of memory at old age also makes it more complex for them.

Activity 1: Mention the problems faced by the elderly people.

Activity 2: Describe the sufferings of an old man from your own experience.

### **Lesson 3: Welfare Programme for the Senior Citizens in Bangladesh**

The constitution of Bangladesh also dictates to provide social security to senior citizens. Presently, there are about 1 crore aged people in this country. There are about 50 countries in the world whose total population is less than that. We have welfare activities for the senior citizens both in government and non-government sectors.

### Non-government Programmes

There are a handful of organisations in the private sector that work for the welfare of senior citizens.

- *Probin Hitoishi Songho o Jora Biggyan Organization*: This organisation is situated in Sher e Bangla Ngor, Dhaka. Its activities include medical treatment facilities, rehabilitation, recreation, observance of religious festivals, etc. Besides, this organisation has established a library for the seniors.
- *Bangladesh Retired Government Employees Welfare Organisation*: This organization provides monetary facility to the seniors for education and health issues as donation and zero interest loans.

Besides, there are Bangladesh Women Health Association, Rotary Club, Mother and Child Home, Old Home, Jhora Pata, etc. who also carry out certain programmes for the senior citizens.

### Government Programme:

1. **Pension Allowance**: Employees of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies get pension facilities when they retire or die. It is a long term social security. When an employee goes in retirement after specific years of service for the government service, he or she gets this allowance according to some rules. This is known as pension allowance.
2. **Allowance for the Senior Citizens**: This programme is run for the benefit of seniors all over the country, specifically, for the neglected poor elderly of rural areas come under its net. Ten elderly people (minimum age 57 years) of each ward under a union are awarded 100 taka per month as elderly allowance. They are selected on the basis of their helplessness and age. 50% of them are women.
3. **Allowance for Destitute Widows and Separated Women**: Destitute widows and women left off by their husbands come under this coverage. There is no age bar to it. As a result, maximum receivers of this benefit are aged women.

Besides, the government is taking up newer programmes for the benefit of senior citizens.

**Activites 1**: Identify the welfare activites of agad persons in Bangladesh

**2**: What programmes can be taken for the welfare of senior citizens in Bangladesh.

### Lesson 4: Concept of Women Rights and Situation of Women and Their Rights in Bangladesh

**Concept of woman rights**: We live in a society. We need certain facilities and opportunities to live safe and sound as a member in the society. The chance to fulfill these needs is a kind of right.



Therefore, the term 'rights of women' means those facilities and opportunities a state approves of for its women. Women rights are human rights. The United Nations passed the "Charter of Human Rights" on 10 December 1948, approving these rights for people all over the world. According to the charter, all people irrespective of their race, religion, caste, age, gender, etc. qualify to enjoy these rights. In our previous class, we learned these rights. One major and special feature among them is all men and women are equal and they deserve equal rights. United Nations plays a unique role in preserving various rights for the women in education, health, medical treatment, etc. The constitution of Bangladesh also declares to eradicate all discrimination to the women. But we need to learn how our women folk are living. It is really tough to ensure equal rights for women in our society. If we do not know about our rights, we cannot enjoy them. In reality, women compared to men, are lagging behind. The main reason behind it is that we do not have a clear concept about the rights of women.



Women Rights

**Position of woman in Bangladesh and their right:** In Bangladesh, women are lagging behind men in many ways. They are still deprived of economic rights, social rights, cultural rights and many more. They are also victims to many types of discrimination. Many parents in our country still regard a female child a burden. They think their male child, once he grows up, will earn to feed them and take the helm of family. On the other hand, a female child, according to them, will go away to her husband's or in laws' family after marriage and it will cost quite an amount to marry her off. From this point of view, parents prefer a male child over a female child. But the situation is changing now. Girls are coming forward equally with boys to take up responsibilities of parents, family as well as society. Similarly, although slowly, the attitude of society toward women is changing. Many in the society are not yet ready to give the women their due rights because of lack of culture and education and also because of social and religious superstitions. Our constitution as well as government regulations provide women an equal status with men as citizens. They have equal rights as men in service in other professions, and in getting wages. But in reality, women are deprived of these rights in many respects. They are victims of deprivation in family and society as well. A family does not show equal interest in educating their girl child as they do for a male child. Specifically, in villages, girls are married off at minor age. As a result, girls are not allowed to go beyond primary and secondary levels despite being good students. Besides, there are instances of physical and mental tortures too.

Activity 1: Discuss why the role of women is important in society.

## Lesson 5: Women Rights in Bangladesh and Significance of Their Rights

Now, we will learn the rights of women.

- Right to equal status with men;
- Right to participate in all spheres of activities in the national arena;
- Right to equality in the eyes of law and equal access to law;
- Right to access any recreational and refreshment facility and access to any educational institution for admission;
- Right to equality for government service and be considered free of any discrimination;
- Right to individual freedom.

### The Importance of Women Rights in Bangladesh

Almost half of the population of Bangladesh is women. Development of country is beyond question keeping this half deprived of their rights or letting them fall behind. Begum Rokeya, the forerunner of women advancement, has compared a man and a woman with two wheels of a car. If the two wheels cannot complement each other the car will stop. Similarly, in the society, if women cannot move forward equally, advancement of society will stop. Women do not only play the roles of mother, sister, daughter, sister-in-law, aunt or grandmother, they also



Equal Rights of Men & Women in education

play their role alongside their male partners to maintain the family. They also play the main role of rearing children which is highly important. Women are not limited to traditional homemakers only. They are also earning for the family. They are now showing their excellence in different industries including garment, academic institutions, multinational companies, engineering, medical and defence services. If we provide them proper education, training as well as rights to movement and opinion, they will be able to play vital role in different sectors. This will help advancement of family, society and the country as well. They will be able to contribute more effectively to their families and society and through that, construction of the country.

Therefore, women rights are indispensable for welfare and development of the country as well as the world. Considering this, providing proper opportunity for the women to enjoy their rights and to emancipate has become so vital these days. An educated, self-sufficient and sensible lady can work both inside the home and away from home. That is why, the most important is to let them enjoy their rights to the fullest and to let

them flourish to the fullest. The French leader and general Napoleon Bonaparte has described the significance of women in his famous quote "Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation." This highlights the importance of women rights in a country.

**Activity 1:** Write down the rights of women in Bangladesh.

## **Lesson 6: Steps to Implement Women Rights of Bangladesh**

The constitution of Bangladesh specifies equal rights to men and women. The UN charter also prescribes the same. Here, equal rights imply all spheres of life including family, society and country where women deserve to be treated equally with men. It is not that women will be able to cast their votes or contest elections; they will have equal access to education, service, employment and wages with men.

The government has taken some steps to allay all discrimination toward the women and ensure equal rights for them. Education for girls up to higher secondary level is made free and these students are provided with stipend from the government. Earlier, the system was to write father's name only with the children's name. Now, writing mother's name is compulsory. Tough law has been enacted to tackle cruelty against women and acid terrorism. Maternity leave has been increased. Women have started to get some fruits from these measures. However, it may not be possible to see a definite change in the society's attitude unless we can expand education and create mass-awareness. Participation of women in various organizations is a proof that our women folk are coming up.



Participation of woman in job

**Activity 1:** Identify the major obstacles on the way to ensuring women rights.

**Activity 2:** Discuss some of the measures of government in order to ensure women rights in the country and their advancement.

## **EXERCISE**

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **What is the retirement age for government employees in Bangladesh?**
  - a. 57 years
  - b. 59 years
  - c. 60 years
  - d. 65 years

**2. Reasons for the senior citizens in our society are-**

- i. They do not have the ability to earn
- ii. Decadence of social values
- iii. Lack of moral education in society.

**Which is correct?**

- a. i      b. i and iii      c. ii and iii      d. i, ii and iii

**Read the following passage and answer questions 3 & 4**

Rozina requested her husband to bring some toys for the children. Her husband brought cricket ball and bat for the boy while a doll and some kitchenware for the girl.

**3. Different toys for boy and girl reflect on attitude of Rozina's husband which is-**

- i. economic discrimination
- ii. Difference in attitude
- iii. Difference of love

**Which is correct?**

- a. i      b. ii and iii      c. ii      d. i, ii and iii

**4. Which aspect of the child is most affected due to that discrimination?**

- a. Growing up safe
- b. Health security
- c. Receiving education
- d. Proper mental growth

**Creative Questions**

1. Hafiza's family includes her husband and three children. She cannot run the family with her husband's income only. To support the family, Hafiza starts working as a construction labourer. At the weekend, the owner pays her 300 taka as wages. But he pays 400 taka for the same job to a male worker. When Hafiza protests, the owner forbids her to come next day.

- a. What has Begum Rokeya compared men and women to?
- b. Describe the main role of women in family.
- c. What kind of disparity has Hafiza become a victim to? Discuss.
- d. Give your opinion about what to do to ensure rights of women like Hafiza.

2. The 70-year-old Siddika Khatun has all the interest to talk about the old days, but her children do not have the time to listen. She is not even asked her opinion during the marriage ceremony of her granddaughter. Jobeda Begum, their neighbor, tells the children of Siddika Khatun that they should take care of the food and health of their mother. She also advises them to take her to different places sometimes.

- a. Who are the elderly?
- b. Discuss the activities of Bangladesh Retired Government Servants' Welfare Association.
- c. What kind of problem is faced by Siddika Khatun? Explain.
- d. Do you think Jobeda Begum's advice about Siddika Khatun is correct? State reasons for your answer.

## Chapter Ten

# Social Problems in Bangladesh

There are different problems of social life in Bangladesh. Some of them are poverty, population growth, illiteracy, superstition, custom of dowry and child marriage. These social problems have harmful effects on individuals and society. Economic and social advancement of the country is hindered by these social problems. These problems should be addressed and solved. For this reason people have to be conscious.

**By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-**

1. explain the custom of dowry;
2. analyse causes and effects of dowry;
3. discuss 'Anti-dowry' law;
4. describe measures of social movement to resist and solve dowry problem;
5. explain child marriage;
6. analyse effects of child marriage;
7. discuss measures necessary to resist child marriage;
8. discuss 'Anti child marriage' law.

## Lesson 1: Concept of Dowry, Causes and Effects

One of the major social problems of our country is the custom of dowry. Exchange of dowry is prohibited in the marriage law of the country. Still, in most marriages, groom's side takes dowry from the bride's family.

The money or property that the groom or bride demands and receives from the opposite side during marriage is called dowry. Presently in Bangladesh, the groom's side demands dowry from the bride's side. Few marriages are held without dowry. It has turned into a social vice.



Dowry, a punishable offence

Dowry is an age-old tradition. In ancient China, the bride used to carry dowry to the house of groom after marriage. Ancient Athens too had the tradition of sending money and property along with the bride to groom's house. There, dowry used to determine social status. In present Bangladesh, dowry takes the form of money, property, valuable furniture and articles given to the groom during marriage. However, according to the marriage act of Bangladesh, exchange of dowry is prohibited.

In Bangladesh, dowry has turned into a deadly social disease. There are many reasons behind it. But poverty is thought to be the main cause of this problem. The groom's side demands money and property from the bride's side because of poverty. The groom wants to establish himself using the money and property of bride's father. Most women of this country remain engaged in domestic works in their own houses and as such they do not earn anything from that. They live a life of dependence on others in their husbands' family. These women most often suffer humiliation and torture by their husbands.

Many wealthy people in Bangladesh give huge dowry in their daughters' marriage. They believe that the dowry will help their daughter to keep her head high in their husbands' families. This is also a reason dowry has become so deeply rooted in our social psyche. We have laws to check dowry. In many a cases, ignorance about this law is helping dowry get social permanence as a tradition. Again, sometimes, lack of proper enforcement of this law is giving rise to this bad tradition.

Dowry is a practice in all social sections of Bangladesh. Many problems have arisen in the society out of this custom. The main reason behind torture and violence against married women is dowry. The wife is humiliated in her husband's house due to dowry. When the demand of dowry is not met, the wife is forced to leave the husband's house. This sometimes leads to divorce and even death of the wife too.

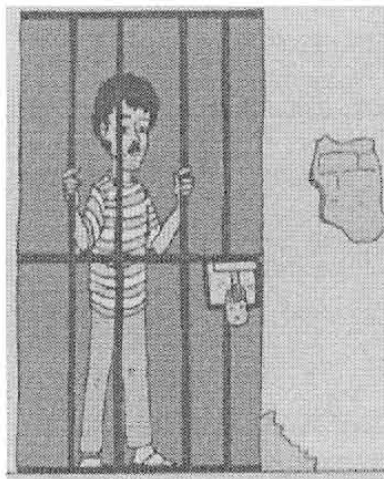
Incidents such as post marital conjugal quarrel, torture, murder of wife, etc. are happening mostly due to dowry. It acts as the root of poverty, corruption, criminal tendency, early marriage and polygamy in the society. We have to keep in mind that both giving and receiving dowry are equal crimes.

Activity 1: Discuss in pairs your idea of dowry.

Activity 2: Discuss in groups, crimes that take place in society due to dowry and present them.

## Lesson 2: Law against Dowry

The Muslim family law does not regard 'Mohorana' in marriage as dowry. Besides, marriage gifts up to 500 taka will not be considered as dowry too. But at present, there has been a large-scale increase in the practice of dowry as a custom. For this, the anti-dowry act was passed in 1980 in Bangladesh. The law prescribes a highest one year of imprisonment or a fine of five thousand taka as punishment for giving or receiving dowry. One may also be punished with the same if he/she demands directly or indirectly, any form of dowry from the bride's or groom's family. The judge can award both punishments together. Any accomplice in the matter will also be awarded the same punishment.



Punishment due to taking dowry

The anti-dowry act was amended in 1986. According to the revised law, the convict for receiving or giving dowry will receive a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 5 years' jail sentence. According to the Act Against Women and Child Repression 1983, a convict may be awarded death sentence or life imprisonment and financial penalty if a woman is tortured to death or any



attempt to her death for dowry. To marry a woman against her will and receiving dowry have also come under the provision of severe punishment.

Dowry has created a massive problem in familial as well as social panorama of Bangladesh. We need to be conscious in order to be free from effects of this evil custom. Primarily, we need to raise consciousness in the family to stop dowry. We must abstain from receiving and giving dowry. Simultaneously, we must raise consciousness among our neighbours. If necessary, we should take support of law.

We have to motivate all members including girl children of the family to go for higher education. Dowry cannot curse their lives if they become self-dependent.

**Activity 1:** Explain what is told in the act against dowry.

### **Lesson 3: Social Movement to resist Dowry**

We have to raise mass-awareness in society beside our family if we want to be free from the curse of dowry. For this, we have to organise social movement against dowry.

Social movement is organised social resistance. Everyday incidences like illiteracy, poverty, torture of women, kidnapping and divorce, etc. occur around us. Demand of dowry is the main issue behind many of these crimes. We have to make our people conscious of the evil effects of the custom in our neighbourhood as well as in our locality, village and ward. Everyone should be urged to come forward and resist dowry. We have to build anti-dowry attitude in everyone's mind in society.



**Rally against Dowry**

We need to seek cooperation from all educated people, lawyers, UP chairmen and members and development workers of our locality to build up social resistance against dowry. If we can gather everybody into an organisation, we can be free from it. This organisation will stand beside the dowry-victim and provide legal support to them. It will organise anti-dowry meetings, rally, walks etc. as well. Thus, mass-awareness will be raised and society will be free from the claws of dowry.

Activity 1: Make a list of activities you will do in order to raise awareness against evil effects of dowry.

## **Lesson 4: Concept of Child Marriage and Causes**

The term 'child marriage' refers to a marriage where both the bride and groom are children or at least one of them is a child. It is known so as it takes place in the childhood and adolescence of the children involved.

According to Act against Child Marriage 1929, the child marriage restraint Act 1929, Act No. XIX of 1929 and Bangladesh officials' approval of child marriage prevention Act of 2014, the term 'child' refers to a girl under 18 and a boy under 21. Therefore, in a marriage, if a bride is below 18 and a groom is below 21, the marriage is considered as a child marriage and hence, prohibited according to law. It is the same if either of them is below the above mentioned age-limit.

The main cause of minor marriage in Bangladesh is poverty. A poor father is somehow unable to provide for his daughter and marries her off to in-law's house. Besides poverty, there is also lack of social security as a cause.

Whim of parents as well as grandparents is also responsible for child marriage. Such guardians sometimes arrange such marriages just to satisfy their own whims.

Another reason behind child marriage is dowry. Fathers of many grooms bring minor girls as daughters in law as they get dowry to meet their respective necessities.

Activity 1: Identify the reasons behind child marriage from your experience in your locality .

## **Lesson 5: Effects of Child Marriage, Resistance and Law**

Child marriage affects the increase in various individual and collective social problems in society. For example, though the minimum age for marriage of a girl and boy in our country is 18 and 21 respectively, yet they are seen to marry earlier than that. This usually leads them to become parents themselves even before they attain full maturity of their physique and psyche. As a result, the adolescent girl suffers from malnutrition and her baby also suffers from weakness and malnutrition. Rate of maternal and infant mortality is increased.

We need to arrange proper education for these children and adolescents. When they become educated, they will be conscious and will have clear idea about the bad effects of early marriage. Child marriage is a punishable crime. We need to step forward to stop child marriage. Parents and guardians of such children must be consulted frankly. Besides, both boys and girls need to be independent. A self-dependent nation can stop child marriage altogether. Specifically, girls need to be conscious about the issue.

According to Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, child marriage is an offence. In the case of this offence, an adult shall be sentenced to two years imprisonment or one lac taka fine or the both. If any adolescent commits the offence like child marriage, he or she shall be sentenced to one month imprisonment or fifty thousand taka fine or the both according to this law. If parents, guardians or any other person arrange the child marriage, shall be sentenced to two years imprisonment or fifty thousand taka fine or the both.

Activity 1: Mention one rule of anti-child marriage act.

Activity 2: Identify reasons behind child marriage.

Activity 3: What can we do to stop child marriage? Discuss in groups and make a chart.

### **EXERCISE**

#### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **When was the law against dowry amended?**
  - a. 1980
  - b. 1983
  - c. 1986
  - d. 1988
2. **Measures that can be taken to resist dowry are-**
  - i. To educate all properly
  - ii. To make girls independent
  - iii. To create awareness among people.



## **Chapter Eleven**

# **Some Countries in Asia**

Bangladesh is a developing country in Asia. Among the countries in Asia some are developed and some are not. The second group stands in the status of middle income and developing countries like Bangladesh. But there are huge similarities among the Asian countries regarding standard of life, economic condition, geographical and climatic characteristic, history and culture. Bangladesh has excellent and friendly relationship with many countries in Asia. We have cooperative relationship with them relating to education, literature, culture, commerce, industry, technology, etc. Here we have given a brief introduction of some countries.

**By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-**

1. describe the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and India;
2. describe the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and China;
3. describe the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan;
4. discuss the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Korea;
5. discuss the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

## Lesson 1: Friendship and Cooperation between Bangladesh-India and Bangladesh-China

### India

India is our nearest neighbor. It is a large and powerful country of South Asia. It is situated at the mid-south of Asia. To its north are the Himalayas, the largest mountain range in the world. To the east is situated the Arakan mountains and the jungles of Assam and to the west are the Hindukush and the Suleman ranges. The Indian ocean is to its south. The area of India is 32 lakh 87 thousand 240 square kilometers and population is about 131 crore, 95 lakh 77 thousand and 958. The capital of the country is New Delhi.



Map of India

India is enriched with the oldest and richest civilisation of the world. Marks of civilisation of nearly five thousand years old have been found in this country. Cave drawings of Ajanta in south India, innumerable temples and sculptures spread all over the country, Tajmahal of Agra, Kutub Minar and Red Fort of Delhi, etc. bear the mark of ancient civilisations of India. Throughout ages, India had been invaded and ruled by different foreign powers. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the Mughals and the Pathans were followed by the English at the end of that list. After two hundred years of British rule, India was independent on 15 August 1947. About 80% of its population live in villages while the rest 20% are urban. Around 70% of the total population live by agriculture. Paddy, wheat, barley, oat, coffee, and tea are among the chief agro-produces of the country. From the very ancient period, India was famous for its fine textile. At present, they have advanced in steel, cement, machinery, chemical products, fertiliser, and even ship building and car making industries.

India is known as the world's largest democracy. Parliamentary democracy has long been highly effective in the country.

India is a country of diverse people of different sects, religions and languages. People of many religions like Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, etc. live in the country. Bangladesh has friendly relation with India. We remember the support we got from India during our war of freedom in 1971.

## China

China is a country of East Asia. Its official name is People's Republic of China and locally, it is known as Jhunghua. The name of its capital is Beijing. With its 137 crore 51 lakh 37 thousand 837 people, it is the largest population of the world. The area of this third largest country of the world is 95 lakh 98 thousand 89 square kilometres. Geographically, it is situated between India and Russia. To the east of China is the Pacific Ocean, to the west and north are Russia, Mongolia and some parts of India and to its south are the Himalayas. Mountains cover more than one-third of its total land area. The Mount Everest, the highest peak of the world, is situated on the Nepal-China border. Climate of China is mostly moderate but some parts of the country remains covered with ice for a long period of the year.

Many races and sects live in China. About 95% of Chinese people are originated from the race Hun Chinese. Besides, there are 56 other races like Juang, Manchu, Hui, Miao, Wighur, Mongol, Tibetan, etc. The language of 95% of its population is Mandarin. The world knows this language as Chinese.



Map of China

Chinese economy is mostly agro-based. Paddy is the main agricultural produce. Wheat, potato, beat, cotton, tea, tobacco, oil seed, sugarcane, soybean, coco, palm seed etc. are some of the other products. Iron, steel, silk, fertiliser, machinery, cement, paper, sugar and medicine are some of their major industries. China is highly rich in minerals too. Its soil gives away petroleum, iron ore, brass, aluminium, gold, coal, etc. valuable minerals. Its forests provide for more than 32 thousand species of trees and about 1150 species of birds. The Hoang Ho and Yang Tze are the largest rivers of China.

China is divided into 22 administrative provinces and 5 autonomous regions. Literacy rate among this large population is about 86%. Bangladesh has friendly relation with China. Besides, there is economic cooperation between the two countries in industry and commerce.

**Activity 1:** Make a list of some of our closest neighbours.

**Activity 2:** Discuss the importance of the relationship between India and Bangladesh according to your textbook.

**Activity 3:** Describe the economic relationship between China and Bangladesh.

## **Lesson 2: Friendship and Cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan, Korea and Malaysia**

### **Japan**

Japan is a country of islands in East Asia. The country consists of about four thousand islands, both large and small. The four main islands among them are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. The sea is on all four sides of the country. It is separated from the mainland of Asia by the Japan Sea and South China Sea.

The official name of the country is Kingdom of Japan and the local name is Nippon or Nihon. Its capital is Tokyo. It is situated at the farthest east of Asia. That is why, it is also called the 'land of sunrise'. Japan is a small country with regard to its land area. About 12 crore 65 lakh 34 thousand people live in this 3 lakh 77 thousand 708 square kilometres of land. About 99% of its population speaks Japanese language. Literacy rate of Japan is 100% and per capita income is 37 thousand 6 hundred US dollars. Shinto is Japan's major religion.

The climate of Japan is temperate. Effect of monsoon is clear in the north east part of Japan. The summer is humid and the winter is moderately cold. Some of the mentionable crops of the country are paddy, wheat, barley, soy bean, sweet potato, sugar cane, beet, apple and grapes. Its major industries include iron and steel, electronics, ship building and car making, textile, machine tools, medicine, electric appliances, and heavy machinery. Japan leads the world in



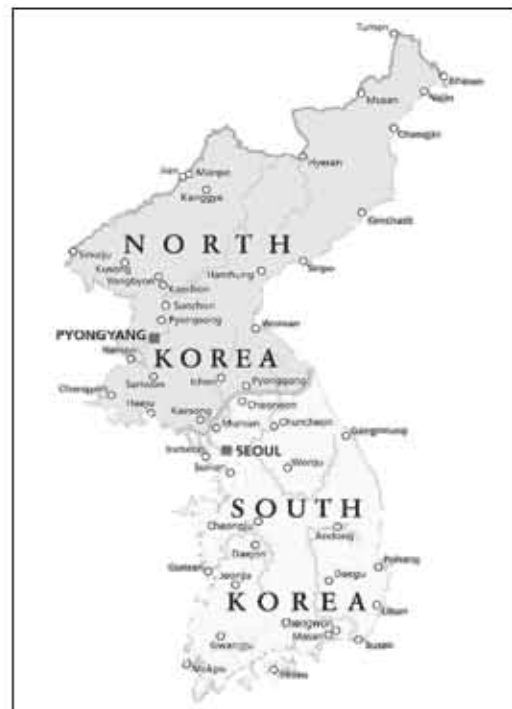
**Map of Japan**



industries. The main drive of its economy is industries. It is also rich in minerals, some of which are natural gas, coal, iron, manganese, petroleum, lead, gold, silver, etc. Japan has compulsory education for the age range of 6 to 15. Japan's relation with Bangladesh is friendly all along. It is the main partner in the development of roads and bridges and our industrial development. We have commercial relation with this country.

### **Korea**

The Korean peninsula is situated at the north east of Asia. It is spread from north to south. The distance from north to south is about 1000 kilometres. Most of its northern border lies with China alongside some parts with Russia. Korea was divided into two parts after the Second World War. The parts are named South Korea and North Korea. The official name of the first is Republic of Korea and the second is People's Democratic Republic of Korea. Economic and political systems of the two countries are also different. Most of the land area of Korea is mountainous. However, most parts of its west and south region is plain land. The Japan Sea is to its east. The two parts contain a total of about 3,000 islands.



**Map of Korea**

There are four seasons in Korea. Besides, in different times different kinds of weather are seen. There is a lot of rain in June, July and August. Winter prevails from November to March. Its main agro-products include paddy, barley, cabbage, apple, grape, tobacco, etc. Major industries include petro-chemicals, chemical fibers, ship building, automobile, electronics, etc. Among its minerals are iron, tungsten, lime stone, granite, lead, silver and zinc.

Nationally, the Koreans are monolingual. They have the same physical structure as that of the Chinese and Japanese. But they are different from the Chinese and Japanese in respect of linguistic and anthropological aspects. They speak and write Korean language.

The relation of Bangladesh with Korea, especially South Korea, is very friendly. Korea has been cooperating with Bangladesh with regard to the development of

highways-roads, bridges and industries. Bangladesh also has commercial relation with Korea

### Malaysia

Malaysia is an important country of south east Asia. Malaysia consists of 15 provinces. The topography is full of variety. Its west is marshland, eastern part is sandy and the middle is covered by mountains ranging toward north and south.

There are followers of Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism in the country. Its capital is Kuala Lumpur. Its main cities are Georgetown, Ipoh and Kuching.



Map of Malaysia

Malaysia is an agricultural country. More than 50% of their total population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Major industries of the country are rubber, fertiliser, China ware, etc. Their notable minerals are tin, iron and petroleum. Railway, road and air-all three communications systems are developed. Georgetown, Klang, Kuching and Penang are their main sea ports. Malaysia has developed in many sectors within short period of their independence. Bangladesh has trade relations with Malaysia. The country has invested huge amount in different EPZs of Bangladesh. Many expatriate Bangladeshis work in Malaysia. Its labour market is a big sector for us.

Activity 1: Give a brief introduction of Korea and Japan according to the lessons.

Activity 2: Is Malaysia agriculture based or industry based country? Discuss what you know about the economic relationship between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

## EXERCISE

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. To which country does Kuchin belong to as a main sea port?

- a. Korea      b. Japan      c. India      d. Malaysia

**2. Which of the following features is observed in the climate of Japan?**

- i. Effects of monsoon    ii. Humid summer    iii. Rainy winter

**Which is correct?**

- a. i and ii    b. i and iii    c. ii and iii    d. i, ii and iii

**Read the following passage and answer questions 3 & 4**

Mr. Adnan, the industrialist, went to visit an industry based country of East Asia. The country is surrounded by seas. Most of the people of that country follow a religion named Shinto.

**3. Which country did Mr. Adnan go to visit?**

- a. India    b. China    c. Japan    d. Malaysia

**4. The country Mr. Adnan visited is industry based because it has-**

- i. developed lifestyle    ii. abundance of minerals  
iii. effects of tropical climate

**Which is correct?**

- a. i and ii    b. i and iii    c. ii and iii    d. i, ii and iii

**Creative Questions**

1. Anindo along with his parents went to visit a neighbouring country during the summer vacation. It has the Himalayas at its north and the Hindukush and Suleman mountains at its west. The country is rich in ancient art and civilisation.

- What is the name of capital city of Malaysia?
- What do you understand by a multi-ethnic country? Discuss.
- Describe the similarity in climate between Bangladesh and the country visited by Anindo.
- Explain the importance of friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and the country visited by Anindo.

2. **Event 1:** Mr. Shafiul went to visit a country of southeast Asia. Natural sights of this country surrounded by sea are very beautiful. Though the country is island based, four islands mainly constitute their economy.

**Event 2:** Mr. Kabir has long been serving in an East Asian country. Though the country has got the highest population on earth, it is also rich in its economy.

- What is the name of the largest mountain chain on earth?
- Explain why India is known as rich in ancient civilisation.
- What kind of climate is available in the country Mr. Shafiul went to? Describe.
- Give a comparative study of the two economies described in Events 1 and 2.

## **Chapter Twelve**

# **Bangladesh & International Cooperation**

All independent countries of the world enjoy sovereignty. The government of a country is responsible to run the country smoothly so that welfare, development and prosperity of the people as well as country are ensured. To achieve this, the governments of different countries run multidimensional programmes. However, some issues are there which a country cannot solve on its own. In these cases, they require help from other countries or organisations. This necessity has given rise to the idea of regional and international cooperation and accordingly, some organisations have flourished. The United Nations is the topmost among them. This chapter highlights the importance of international cooperation and different aspects of the United Nations.

By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-

1. explain the concept of international cooperation and its significance;
2. describe the structure of the United Nations;
3. mention objectives of the United Nations;
4. describe basic principles of the United Nations;
5. describe activities of different branches of the United Nations;
6. discuss the role of United Nations in establishing peace around the world;
7. discuss the role of Bangladesh in international peacekeeping forces.

## **Lesson 1: International Cooperation: Concept and Significance**

### **The Concept of International Cooperation**

At present each and every country in the world constitutes its foreign policy in accordance with its own benefit and welfare. Fundamentally, these policies emphasise ensuring their national interests by means of mutual dependence with others. A country builds up political, economic and military relationship with another. All countries are spread over seven continents. Although each of them is an independent and benevolent state, none of them is completely self-dependent. Besides, there are certain necessities and problems in these countries. Eradication of them needs support from other countries and organisations. For example, our country Bangladesh has problems like fuel crisis, environmental problems, and health and education issues. As a developing country, our government cannot solve all these on its own. As a result, Bangladesh is taking support from other countries as well as organisations. Again, some countries in the Middle East and Africa have racial conflicts and war as well. As a consequence, multinational forces including Bangladeshi forces are working there to maintain peace. That way, all countries around the world survive through mutual cooperation.

The above discussions show that although independent, all countries need mutual support and maintain friendly relation among them. This is true not only in case with a handful of nations within a region, but such relation can be stretched up to the farthest corner of the globe. Significance of such cooperation has given rise to various organisations like the United Nations, the OIC and the Commonwealth, etc. They lend their support to countries and thus contribute to global advancement.

### **Importance of International Cooperation**

Present age is the age of mutual dependence. And in such an age, there is no alternative to mutual cooperation. That is why, countries are building up cooperation of various kinds and nature among them. A country may need such assistance in its education, health, agriculture, economy, environment, weather, communication and technology, etc. sectors. In many instances, a country lends direct or mutual treaty-based assistance to another. Sometimes, they also provide support through international organisations. The recipient countries try to utilise this support from other countries alongside their own initiatives in order to solve their problems. Again, there are some issues that involve more than one country.

Such issues obviously require mutual support. Keeping this in view, mutual cooperation is given emphasis by all countries of the present world.

Below is an example of mutual cooperation. Reading it, we can learn of its importance more clearly.

**Example 1:** Including Bangladesh, there are many countries in the world that have about half their population illiterate. Education is the key to all developments. But these countries are unable to educate all their people due to their poor economy. UNICEF, UNESCO and some other organisations come up with assistance for such countries for eradicating illiteracy.

The United Nations took up "Millennium Development Goals (MDG)" to make these countries free from illiteracy by the year 2015. To achieve this, UN provided financial and technological assistance to these countries. Since the MDG programme reached its deadline, UN has now taken up "Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)" which has started in 2016. This charter clarifies the UN promise for extension and standardisation of education.

The above example shows how important international cooperation is. Such assistance help many countries to solve many major concerns prevailing in those lands.

**Activity 1:** Write a brief report based on your reading of the above example and your knowledge of such kind of international cooperation from reading newspapers.

## Lesson 2: The United Nations and its Structure

### Background of the United Nations

We know that there took place two world wars within a span of only 25 years at the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The World War I started in 1914 and the World War II started from 1939. Many countries of the world got involved in these wars. These wars were great impediments on the prosperity of human civilisation. That is why, there were simultaneous attempts to establish peace. From this view, after the WWI, League of Nations was formed in 1920 with the idea of maintaining



The Headquarter of the UN

peace. However, the organisation could not achieve permanence due to self-righteousness of some countries. The world experienced yet another world war from 1939. This WWII caused massive destruction to many countries. Japan was devastated by nuclear attacks. Lakhs of people were killed.

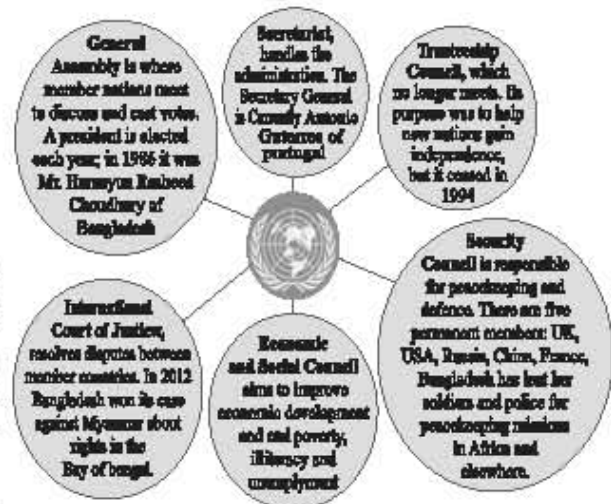
The world got shocked and awed at the devastation caused by WWII. They started to think of world peace. They also started to think of avoiding wars for the betterment of humanity. The idea was to achieve worldwide peace and prosperity by means of cooperation among the countries. The world leaders began the process of establishing the United Nations from 1941. Winston Churchill, the then British Prime Minister, and President Roosevelt of the USA initiated the idea and other world leaders participated in discussion. As a result of long discussion, the United Nations was formed on 24 October 1945. This way, the United Nations came to light in order to save the world from any further war and its devastation.

### Structure of the United Nations

The United Nations is structured with six organs. They are: General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the UN Secretariat.

At the beginning, the UN had 51 members. Now they are 193. The Secretary General is the chief administrative officer. The first Secretary General was Trygve Lie of Norway. The present Secretary General is Antonio Guterres of Portugal. The UN is headquartered in New York of the United States of America. Bangladesh became a member of the UN in 1974.

### The six administrative branches of the UN



The United Nations has its own flag. The colour of the flag is light blue. A globular map of the world is set on white in the middle of the flag. On the right and left sides of the globe are two wreaths of olive leaves.

There are six official languages in the United Nations. They are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Any of the six languages, if used by someone inside the UN, is automatically translated into the other five. However, English has predominance.

Activity 1: Write a brief essay on mentionable events during the formation of the UN.

### **Lesson 3: Objectives and Basic Principles of United Nations**

#### **The Objectives**

The aim of world peace and cooperation of the United Nations is complemented by the following objectives:

1. To promote world peace, discipline and security, resisting all offending actions that threaten peace;
2. To promote freedom and basic rights for all human beings irrespective of race, caste, language and gender and ensure everyone honours them;
3. To promote international cooperation in order to solve economic, social, cultural and humanitarian crisis;
4. To promote freedom for all colonies and their people.

#### **The Basic Principles**

The United Nations has seven basic principles. All member countries get their membership of UN with their pledge to abide by these. They are:

1. The organisation is based on sovereign equality of all its members;
2. All members shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the charter;
3. All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means;
4. All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state;
5. All members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with its charter and shall refrain from any action against the United Nations;
6. The organisation shall ensure that non-member states of the United Nations act in accordance with these principles ;



7. Nothing contained in the present charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the jurisdiction of any state; but the principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures if a state is aggressive on others.

#### **Lesson 4: Activities of the United Nations**

The United Nations is involved in multidimensional activities for the betterment of humanity and development of member states as well. Some of these are mentioned below:

1. To ensure peace, cooperation and security;
2. To impose economic and diplomatic sanction against aggressive states;
3. To deploy peacekeeping forces in order to establish peace and stop war;
4. To take support from regional organisations;
5. To engage in activities in order to solve unemployment, meet crises related to education, agriculture and health issues and ensure rehabilitation in a member state;
6. To mitigate all international disputes through International Court of Justice.

**Group Activity 1:** From your reading of newspapers and reports, make a report mentioning two examples of implementation of objectives and principles of the United Nations.

#### **Lesson 5: Role of the United Nations in Maintaining World Peace**

The United Nations was born due to demand for world peace against the backdrop of devastations of World War II. One of the main objectives of the UN was to promote peace in the world. The United Nations has achieved considerable success in this regard. Although there are some failures, still, its contribution is noteworthy. The greatest success of the United Nations is that there had been no more World Wars since its inception. Within a span of only 25 years before it came into being, the world saw two World Wars. The Security Council is one major organ of the United Nations. It is responsible for the maintenance of world peace.

The UN charter has empowered the Security Council to take all necessary combined actions in order to ensure peace and security. Wherever something happens that may threaten prevalence of peace and security of the region, the United Nations through its Security Council steps in to control the situation. Thus the United Nations works for maintenance of world peace. It has become successful in a number of countries. The United Nations brought an end to a long-standing civil war and emergence of South Sudan as an independent state, which is a fine example in this regard.



Peace keeping force of Bangladesh in the UN

Besides, various socio-economic issues, violation of human rights in various countries and regions also threaten the world peace. Keeping this in view, the United Nations also conducts various kinds of socio-economic development efforts. Below is a brief discussion on these kinds of activities run by the United Nations.

- Whenever there is a conflict or war between its member states or even within a state, the United Nations through the Security Council attempts to mitigate that conflict. It sends Peacekeeping forces to the places of conflict. It even goes on the offensive if deemed necessary.
- Environmental pollution and climate change are major concerns of the present world. The United Nations is working to the effect of preserving environment and fighting climate change.
- One major aspect of establishment of world peace is ensuring human rights. The United Nations is working to ensure rights for people all over the world through implementing its charter of human rights.
- Illiteracy is a curse for humanity. The United Nations is implementing various programmes to eradicate illiteracy through UNICEF and UNESCO.
- Many countries of the world are victims to hunger and poverty. It is an obstacle on the way to peace. Therefore, the United Nations is working to eradicate poverty and hunger from these countries.

- Besides, the United Nations also has initiatives to meet the population crisis of the world, establishment of women rights, refugee crisis, prevention and resistance to natural disasters, etc. These initiatives act as supports for world peace.

Activity 1: What role does the United Nations play to maintain world peace at present?

## **Lesson 6: Role of Bangladesh in Peacekeeping Forces**

Bangladesh is one of the major contributing countries in UN Peacekeeping Forces. Bangladesh has been playing an active role in maintaining world peace since it received membership in the United Nations in 1974. The country sent its first contingent of armed forces to peacekeeping forces in the year 1988.

As of August 2015, members of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Police were deployed in 50 missions in 40 countries. The countries where Bangladeshi forces have been engaged so far are Congo, Haiti, Ivory Coast, East Timor, Iraq, Kuwait, Namibia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, West Sahara, Mozambique, Ruanda, Cambodia, Somalia, Uganda, Georgia, Syria, Afghanistan, Liberia, etc.

Bangladesh has sent a total of 1,57,050 personnel to the peacekeeping forces till August 2015. In this field, Bangladesh tops the list according to number of personnel. Members of Armed Forces of Bangladesh have gained considerable good name in these peace missions. These Armed Forces and Police personnel have thus gained a dignified identity for the nation and its flag as well.

This participation and fame did not however come without a price. Till August 2015, a total of 124 members of Bangladesh contingents in peacekeeping operations met their deaths in accidents and conflicts. Yet, the excellence of Bangladeshis continues to grow. Noteworthy to mention, besides their male colleagues, the female members of Armed Forces of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Police are also working with the same kind of excellence.

The position of Bangladesh in UN Peacekeeping Forces is indeed like a bright star. This contribution of Bangladesh has been recognised by the appointment of some high officials of Armed Forces of Bangladesh to the post of Commander or other higher posts. This also has increased the status of Bangladesh in the world. This participation in Peacekeeping Forces is economically beneficial for the country too.

Activity 1: Highlight the contribution and sacrifice of Bangladesh for the sake of world peace through examples. You may take help from the newspapers and magazines.

## EXERCISE

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following is the key to all kinds of development?

- a. Industry    b. Education    c. Resource    d. Health

2. Participation in peacekeeping forces has earned Bangladesh-

- i. Worldwide recognition  
ii. Uplifting of the status  
iii. Gateway to foreign currency

Which is correct?

- a. i and iii    b. i and ii    c. ii and iii    d. i, ii and iii

3. Which organ of the United Nations is responsible for maintenance of world peace?

- a. The General Assembly    b. The Economic and Social Council  
c. International Court of Justice    d. The Security Council

4. Which of the below is not the responsibility of the United Nations?

- a. To ensure peace and security  
b. To take actions against aggressive states  
c. To cooperate in holding elections  
d. To settle disputes in International Tribunal

### Creative Questions

1. All Chairmen of unions under X upazila got together in 2012 under the chairmanship of Upazila Chairman. They brought out a charter to ensure peace, discipline and security and declared their pledge to it. This initiated the process of mitigating conflicts as well as ensured development and basic rights for the inhabitants. As a result, peace and discipline prevailed in the area and people were able to feel safe and secure. It is solved by the chairman of X upazila after seeing the conflict between two Unions. The success of X upazila has become a motivation for others to follow the example.

- a. When did Bangladesh receive membership in the United Nations?
- b. The organisation is based on sovereign equality of all its members- Explain this basic principle of UN.
- c. Which principle of the United Nations is similar to the measures taken by X upazila for mitigating the conflict of two Unions? Discuss.
- d. X upazila's endeavour for peace is reflective of the UN endeavour- Give your opinion.

2. Look at the picture below and answer the attached questions:



**A Doctor of Bangladesh Army of the UN mission  
in Sierra Leone is giving treatment**

- a. What is the name of the present Secretary General of United Nations?
- b. Taking help from regional organisations is one of the activities of the United Nations- Explain.
- c. What kind of role is being played by the employed forces of the picture with respect to world peace and security? Discuss.
- d. The activity of the peacekeeper in the picture is the reason Bangladesh now enjoys better fame and status- Do you agree? Give your opinion.

## **Chapter Thirteen**

# **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**

The United Nations (UN), the largest international organization of the world, was established in 1945 with a view to ensuring world peace and safety. This objective cannot be achieved without sustainable development. With a view to working for this, the UNDP (United Nations Development Program), a co-organization of the United Nations, declared Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to achieve comprehensive development of all countries of the world during the period 2000-2015. After the success in achieving MDG, 193 member states of the United Nations agreed upon 17 new goals. These goals are called “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG). In class six we could have some ideas on what ‘sustainable development’ means. We also learnt what the sustainable development goals are. This chapter discusses the differences between MDG and SDG as well as the important areas of sustainable development goals.

### **After completion of this chapter we will be able to-**

- differentiate between MDG and SDG approved by the UN;
- identify the areas of SDG approved by the UN;
- present the similarities and dissimilarities between the areas of MDG and SDG on a chart;
- present the areas to be addressed for sustainable development through pictures.

## **Lesson 1: Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals**

We learned about 8 goals of MDG in the previous class.

The United Nations works for creating safe environment, economic development, social mobilisation and cooperation across the globe. For these to work, the UN declared Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2000 for overall and universal development of the world. We learned about 8 goals of MDG in the previous class.

The deadline for achieving MDG ended in 2015. Bangladesh achieved most of the targets of MDG, Hence the United Nations declared Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on 25 September, 2015 to carry on this worldwide development.



**Logo of United Nations**

The declaration of SDG creates a new chapter in the world in terms of development and cooperation. This declaration includes 17 specific goals. All countries in the globe will take initiatives together with a view to achieving these goals and ensuring sustainable development in the world. As they will help end hunger and poverty from the world, they will help reduce carbon emission. Thus a safe and healthy life for all would be ensured. It is expected that both male and female will take part in these initiatives hand in hand. As a result, equal rights for male and female will be ensured. Everyone will have a stake in this development and development thus earned will be sustainable development. It can confirm the highest welfare for human beings.

In fact, the sustainable development goals are the extended version of millennium development goals which are adopted for worldwide development. The sustainable development goals are more specific than the millennium development goals. SDG aims at overcoming the limitations of MDG. MDG aimed at reducing poverty and hunger whereas SDG aims at ending them. MDG was adopted for under developed and developing countries. On the other hand, SDG is universal. Moreover special importance has been given here on some issues like conservation and use of aquatic and terrestrial resources, preservation of affordable and clean energy, establishing peace and justice, overall development of everyone by including everyone to the development process.

**Task:** Differentiate between MDG and SDG.

## Lesson 2: Areas of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The United Nations is committed to build up a hunger and poverty-free world through ensuring prosperity, equality and respect for all. So the UN is working to achieve sustainable development goals through integration of economic, societal and environmental development. This lesson elaborates SDG and their importance.



- 1. No Poverty:** Millions of people in the globe are still living below extreme poverty. They are deprived of fundamental needs for survival. This is why, ending poverty through sustainable development is imperative.
- 2. Zero Hunger:** Nobody can work when he/she is hungry. So we have to build up a hunger-free world. We have to confirm plenty of safe,



- nutritious, and necessary food as per choice for all. By providing sustainable agricultural system, we can ensure food safety.
3. **Good Health and Well-Being:** Healthy lifestyle for hale and hearty living has to be ensured. For this, a standard health service system is to be established for the well-being of all people of all ages.
  4. **Quality Education:** Education aims at acquiring knowledge, skills and attitude. Education helps adopt strategies to cope with the environment. So inclusive and equitable quality education for all as well as opportunities for lifelong education is to be provided.
  5. **Gender Equality:** At present, gender disparity is prevailing everywhere and it hinders the trend of socio-economic development. So equality between male and female in every aspect is necessary. This is why, gender parity and empowerment of women and girls are to be achieved through changing social attitude.
  6. **Clean Water and Sanitation:** Pure water and sewerage system is very urgent for good health. The absence of which may cause various contagious diseases and lead us to death. So we have to preserve, purify and reuse natural water. Besides we have to develop local sewerage management as well as good health habits to promote sustainable development.
  7. **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Sustainable development is possible by ensuring pollution-free renewable energy with reasonable price. By using cow dung, hyacinth, house hold liquid dirt and solar energy, affordable renewable energy can be produced.
  8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Working opportunities for all according to qualifications is to be provided for ensuring economic growth. Economic growth and sustainable development are closely related to decent working environment.
  9. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:** We have to make the development sustainable by establishing new industries based on local raw materials, encouraging need based technology innovation and developing environment-friendly infrastructure.
  10. **Reduced Inequalities:** All kinds of disparities irrespective of of cast, creed, religion, sex, status and age are to be reduced. In addition,

- income discrepancy has to be reduced by ensuring equal rights, equity and equality under national, regional and global consideration.
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Essential facilities for city dwellers, environment friendly city infrastructure and proper entertainment can ensure a sustainable city. Various citizen facilities are to be provided for removing discriminations among city people.
  12. **Responsible Consumption and Production:** We are misusing the assets which should be preserved for our future generation. If we do not make proper balance between production and consumption, the upcoming generation will fall in crisis. This balance can be maintained through frugal use of gas, water, electricity and all kinds of consumer goods.
  13. **Climate Action:** Excessive temperature, drought, heavy downpour, flood and other natural disasters occur because of climate change. So we have to mitigate adverse effects of climate change without delay. Awareness building is necessary for what to do at pre, during and post disaster period.
  14. **Life below Water:** There are many seas and oceans in the world. They are full of sea-animals, gases, oil and many other animal as well as mineral resources. The conservation of bio-diversity has to be ensured being aware of not hampering animal resources during pitting of mineral resources. We can do many development activities through proper use and preservation of them.
  15. **Life on Land:** We have plain land, hills, forests, rivers, and different species of animals on the earth. The interdependency of them keeps proper balance in animal kingdom, which is called eco-system. A balanced eco-system demands revival and protection of life on land; sustainable forest management; combatting desertification; halting and reversing land degradation; and halting biodiversity loss.
  16. **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:** Everyone has the right to live in peace and safety. Similarly all of us are supposed to get the benefit of any development in the society. We have to ensure everyone's participation in the process of development. Besides justice and peace should be ensured for all. In this regard, violence, torture, repression, corruption, especially child and women trafficking are to be prevented.

For this to work we have to work for a peaceful, and inclusive society. People should have access to justice; and social institutions need to be effective, accountable, and inclusive.

- 17. Partnerships for the Goals:** Due to communication superhighway and easy access to information the world today is more interconnected. The world has become a “Global Village” where we are inhabitants. Social, economic, political, and environmental cooperation plays important roles here. This mutual cooperation is essential for any kind of development, peace and safety. It is also called partnership.

Bangladesh is working to achieve SDG, like other countries of the world, by 2030. We all have to work together for the greater benefit of this beautiful world.

**Task-1:** Identify and then present the goals of SDG.

**Task-2:** Prepare posters with slogans on SDG. Use capital letters. Then present the poster on the board.

**Task-3:** Read each of the following statements to match with the goals below:

no	Statement	Goal	no	Statement	Goal
1.	Vaccination for 6 venerable diseases to a child		8.	Not to enact any discriminatory law	
2.	To pay men-women equally for all types of work		9.	Our city streets do not go under water during heavy rain fall	
3.	Arranging clean water		10.	Stopping child torture	
4.	No bird shooting		11.	Using solar energy	
5.	Planting trees and taking care of them		12.	Stopping emission of black smoke of cars	
6.	Stopping child marriage		13.	Stopping child and women trafficking	
7.	Stopping violence		14.	Arrangement for saving extinct animals	

## Exercise

### Multiple choice questions

**1. In which year did the task of achieving SDG start?**

- a) 2000                      b) 2015  
c) 2016                      d) 2030

**2. For whose development sake has the aims of SDG been adopted?**

- a) South America          b) Africa  
c) Asia                        d) the whole world

**Read the following text and answer question 3 and 4.**

The following table shows information regarding about two programmes.

<b>Program serial</b>	<b>Implementing agency</b>	<b>Duration of the programme</b>	<b>Goals of the programme</b>
1	The United Nations	2000-2015	08
2	The United Nations	2016-2030	17

**3. The programme in serial 1 in the above box relates to which of the following?**

- a. Millennium development goals      b. Sustainable development goals  
c. social development goals              d. economic development goals

**4. The programme in serial 2 in the table above will help achieve –**

- i. Reduced rate of child mortality  
ii. Equality of male and female  
iii. Affordable and clean energy

Which answer is true?

- a. i and ii                      b. i and iii  
c. ii and iii                    d. i, ii, and iii

**Creative question**

1. After the Final Examination, Chinu came to Dhaka for a visit. While hanging around with his uncle he noticed a big bill board beside the Sangsad Bhaban. The billboard had the UN monogram. 17 goals were written there. He saw a similar billboard when he visited the national zoo. While watching television he saw the same billboard in Chittagong and asked his uncle about the billboard. His uncle described everything for him. Chinu became anxious about his ill-health and studies after he had talked to his uncle.
  - a) What does SDG stand for?
  - b) What is meant by gender equality?
  - c) Explain the programme the billboard in the stem showed.
  - d) If the goals of the billboard are achieved, learners like Chinu will be benefitted. Do you agree with this statement? Why/Why not?

**The End**

# 2020

## Academic Year

### 7- BGS

শিক্ষাই দেশকে দারিদ্র্যমুক্ত করতে পারে

– মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

আলস্য দোষের আকর

তথ্য, সেবা ও সামাজিক সমস্যা প্রতিকারের জন্য '৩৩৩' কলসেন্টারে ফোন করুন

নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতনের ঘটনা ঘটলে প্রতিকার ও প্রতিরোধের জন্য ন্যাশনাল হেল্পলাইন সেন্টারে  
১০৯ নম্বর-এ (টোল ফ্রি, ২৪ ঘণ্টা সার্ভিস) ফোন করুন



**Ministry of Education**

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