

# The Possible Way of Alleviating Poverty in the Context of Bangladesh

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**Abstract**— This paper examines the poverty but basically explores possible policies or strategies in reducing poverty in the context of Bangladesh. Poverty is a situation in which individual can't fulfil his or her basic needs or lead his or her way of life normally. However, poverty, every people accedes, makes problems at social, economic, national and international level. In this study, qualitative research method is used and historical method and content analysis are employed to collect data and discuss the possible way of alleviating poverty.

It also clear that poverty disrupts the motion of economic growth day by day. This may sound daunting that millions of people are died every year because of living in the below of poverty line as well as thousands of people are injured. By and large, without rapid and far reaching changes to how poverty is running the damage to our planet could be irreversible. The message is clear that to reduce poverty and change current situation of poverty in Bangladesh, a cooperative effort on global scale must be needed. With so much to gain and to lose inaction, author guesses, controlling over population, growing Gross Domestic Product (GDP), rising educated population, arranging employment sector, rising foreign aids, involving civil society in due time must be required. It can be concluded that to reduce poverty by using every trick in the book, people of Bangladesh can live in a peaceful and comfortable situation and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would go up by two or three times.

**Keywords**— poverty, poverty reduction, strategies, Bangladesh.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. what is Poverty

While that is unacceptable, what is even worse that ongoing poverty rate threatens the human existence. It is tragedy that the poor, lying in neglect wants not to speedy development at a night, all that they want is only to eat ordinary food each day. This is the situation in developing and under developed countries. Not only Bangladesh but also many African, Southern Asian and Latin American Countries have a lot of poverty-oriented problems in social and national life for some

time now.

Bangladesh, bordering by Burma and India is a large and heavily densely populated country which total area is 147,610 square kilometers (56,999 square miles) and total population is 163.05 million [23,24]. Earlier to present, poverty is a simple figure in Bangladesh because of the lack of natural resources, proper technologies, higher education, suitable policies, proper communication, sufficient foreign aids which are hand in glove with poverty creation. But the economic condition of Bangladesh is being changed day by day. Now people of Bangladesh live in developing country that was under developed a fewer years ago. Along with, natural disasters, including-Fire, Cyclone, Drought, Tidal surge, Earthquake, River erosion damage the economy of Bangladesh every year. The concept "Poverty", related to deprivation, is a condition in which individuals have lack of resources to obtain diets, activities, good living condition. Poverty is defined in various ways by several scholars, someone focuses on lack of food to define poverty, someone focuses on lack of income and else scholars focus on scarcity of resources.

Firstly, the previous definition of poverty by Rowntree is "total earnings are insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for maintenance of primary needs" [1]. W.O. Atwater and D. Dunlop, American nutritionists, researched on prisoners in Scotland and showed minimum resources that make a person alive. After their analyzing, poverty became very important issue to analyze all over the world [2]. United Nations Educational, scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has explained that poverty is the lack or scarcity of certain amount of material possessions or money, includes social, cultural and political elements. According to UNESCO, Poverty, the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions [3]. According to Mooney et al (2012), 'Poverty has traditionally been defined as the lack of resources necessary for material well-being, including- food, water, housing, land and health care so on' [22]. Many forms of poverty, like- hard core poverty, chronic poverty, real poverty, extreme poverty and absolute poverty are known to us.

The author seems that those people who have no sufficient economy to fulfil basic needs, such as- food, clothes, house, medical treatment and education are poor and their vulnerable situation, refers to unprivileged position in society is poverty.

*B. Objectives of the study*

This is a secondary data-based study which emphasizes on poverty in Bangladesh but includes a few data from global scale. It is clear that reducing poverty is not grey area, to chew the cud in reducing poverty can find out some solutions, although it makes us see the light at the end of the tunnel. Taking that tendency in mind, the author started put pen to paper this study in order to

- Explain poverty,
- Show poverty condition,
- Analyze policies on poverty reduction

*C. Limitations*

The qualitative findings of this study can be biased for using only secondary data. Also, there are some limitations, including-

- Only secondary data are used,
- Lack of sufficient time to analysis,
- This paper doesn't show any statistical result to generalize.

Although it won't be able to generalize for whole poor population but it has identified several essential policies on poverty reduction in Bangladesh.

**II. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This paper was initially started with reviewing previous research articles, Governmental and international updated and reliable reports on poverty, current state of poverty in Bangladesh and the Southern Asia, policies on poverty reduction etc. The qualitative research methodology is used and content analysis and historical method are used to collect data.

It is completed on the basis of content analysis in which secondary data sources are information. Content analysis is a method of social research that analysis the content of texts, pictures, films and others form of verbal, visual or written communication in qualitative form. Historical method is employed as a method of data collection to depict the condition of poverty in Bangladesh. Data are collected from books, journals, reports, internet websites etc. which have discussed about poverty and ways of poverty reduction. This study considers possible ways of reducing poverty,

both sweeping and methodical, from Bangladesh and the world.

**III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

*A. Poverty in Bangladesh and the world*

Bangladesh, a developing country, has a large number of poor populations. Many organizations have shown the statistics of poverty in Bangladesh. The author has used the statistics of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank, ADB argued that the economic condition of Bangladesh is rising day by day. It also argued that 24.3 percent people were poor in Bangladesh in 2016 but 31.5 percent people were poor in 2010. They also claimed that 73.5 percent people earned under 1.90\$ per day in 2010 and 47.2 percent people earned under 1.90\$ per day in 2016 [4].

On the other hand, World Bank (2018) has claimed that the poverty rate of Bangladesh fell from 82 percent in 1972, to 18.5 percent in 2010, to 13.8 percent in 2016, to below 9 percent in 2018 [5]. Poverty is not only a national problem but also an international problem. Asian development Bank and World Bank have shown report on poverty [4].

ADB has shown statistics on poverty rate in the Southern Asian countries, like-

Country	Poverty Rate percent (%)
Nepal	25.2% (2010)
India	21.9% (2011)
Bhutan	8.2% (2017)
Sri Lanka	4.1% (2016)

*Table 1: Poverty rate in the Southern Asian Countries (source: ADB, Basic Statistics,2018)*

ADB, situated in Asia content is a bank which reports about the people of Asia content. It has shown that people of Nepal are poorer than other countries. World Bank has reported that people of Sub-Saharan African people are poorer than other regions and European and central Asian people are less poor than other areas [5]. Poverty at the international poverty line of \$1.90/day (in 2011 ppp)

Regions	Headcount ratio (%)		No. of poor (million)	
	2013	2015	2013	2015
East Asia and Pacific	3.6	2.3	73.1	47.2

Europe and central Africa	1.6	1.5	7.7	7.1
Middle East and North Africa	2.6	5.0	9.5	18.6
Latin America and Caribbean	4.6	4.1	28.0	25.9
South Asia	16.2	12.4	274.5	216.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	42.5	41.1	405.1	423.3
Total	11.1	10.0	804.2	735.9

Table 2: Poverty at international level  
(Source: World Bank, 2017)

**B. Preventing Poverty**

It must be remembered that poverty is a curse which disrupts the progress and development of Bangladesh and the overall human rights situation badly. Indeed, without preventing this social problem by addressing root causes of poverty, all and sundry believe, being economic developed in Bangladesh is beyond its wildest dreams, even won't be developed appropriately. As a matter of fact, every developed community or country prevented their poverty firstly then became developed colorfully. Whereas, Bangladesh is a developing country, it must reduce poverty so that it can be developed amazingly. No one wants to live in poor condition all over the world. So, to be rich or happy, everyone should take proper steps within the shortest possible time to reduce poverty in Bangladesh, because reducing poverty has a public interest. Poverty, we know from social experience, a reducible problem. By taking proper policies and programs and ensuring abide by own duty and responsibility of the officials and workers, poverty will be reduced through and through.

Bangladesh has made a remarkable progress in reducing poverty. It has been a lower-middle-income based country in 2015. The economic progress of Bangladesh is being continued day by day. But poverty is at extreme level in several areas of Bangladesh. Over population, corruption and others criteria have continued poverty. The author has tried to clarify those steps that are able to reduce poverty rate apparently. Although the author has discussed in Bangladesh

perspective, others developing or under developed country or community can follow these arguments to reduce poverty rate in their country.

Education and human capital: Education is the back bone of a nation. Admittedly, no nation has been developed or civilized without the benefit of education. Needless to say, for the sake of economic development in Bangladesh, the procession of education must be crying needed across the country. The author didn't mean to say that only education can develop a nation although education has a vital role to be poor nation and rich nation. It can be said that education is a part and parcel to be developed. Where there is proper education there is peaceful life. In this sector, the author has shown how to education plays role to deplete poverty.

In fact, education is the way of upward mobility, allowing access to jobs and earning opportunity. Education also plays a role to reduce poverty, because poverty in Dhaka and Chattogram region is lower than other regions of Bangladesh. For example, coastal areas of Bangladesh are left out from proper education and poverty rate in those coastal areas is so high [6].

It is clear that education has direct relation to wages. Employees get high salary who are higher educated than others in their work place. Lower educated workers get minimum wages and they become poor. So, education has a vital role to eradicate poverty [7]. On the other hand, inadequate investment in education decreases the motion of education in Bangladesh [8]. To combat the negative impact of poverty, sufficient investment in education system must be needed.

Along with education, other human capitals are needed to reduce unemployment rate, because human capitals, such as- education and skills contribute in economic growth [9]. About 70 percent employed person require manual skill and technical knowledge. There are many barriers in education system, like- cost of education [10].

Conscientization, originated by P. Freire, is a social concept which refers to be conscious about everything in the world. When people are aware about poverty, they contribute to reduce poverty. Along with it argued that educated person should give up silent culture in the field of reducing social problem. At the eleventh hour, there are effective several changes and policies, mentioned in the below must be needed.

- Equal educational right for all, barrier for women must be eradicated,
- Ensuring opportunities for women so that they can involve in higher education property,
- Ensuring vocational training for uneducated young and unemployed people,
- Rising parents' awareness about education for their children,
- Arranging educational programs in rural and remote areas, especially in coastal areas of Bangladesh,
- Involving local administration in education sector, although they are playing the role but the role is insufficient,
- Changing research system at university level, because there is lack of funding for students to research,
- Changing traditional education system and transferring into updated education system,
- Formulating programs on education for old aged men and women, although some Old Aged Education Programs are ongoing but those aren't sufficient.

Economic sector: Poverty is directly linked to economy across the world. They are rich who have much economy and they are poor who have low economy or not. So, economic factor dominates the poverty in any country. Many scholars have shown the relation between land ownership and incidence of poverty, because those who have land in rural areas aren't poor rather, they dominate the economy of those regions [7]. Even agricultural development has a vital role to reduce poverty indirectly. High food price makes a deplorable condition for poor people due to lack of agricultural food products in Bangladesh. A large amount of rice has been imported from India every year. Agricultural development helps to produce huge food products for people, when agriculture can produce huge food products, the price of food products will be reduced that contributes to reduce poverty, because general people can buy at low price. In this situation, people with lower wages can buy food product easily [8]. Sharker et al (2015) argued that to combat poverty, improving communication and transportation facilities, increasing cultivatable land, control disease of cattle, goat and sheep are needed [11]. Employment generation has an influential benefit to reduce poverty [12]. Micro-finance also can rise economic condition of any country, about 4 percent poverty has been reduced by micro finance [13]. Besides, micro-finance improves consumption, employment and education which help to reduce poverty [13].

The author has identified several policies to rise economy which can reduce poverty in Bangladesh, like-

- National capitalists have to invest at local level,
- Industrialists have to increase work places and opportunities,
- Some capitalists build up industries in aboard, they have to build up industry in Bangladesh,
- Agricultural land owners have to take digital technology which can rise food production,
- A large amount of land is virgin in Bangladesh, land owners have to use briskly virgin land for cultivating,
- Fishing sector has prominent role to develop economy of Bangladesh. So, shrimp pond owners have to careful about national poverty condition and try to use those ponds properly,
- Some industrialists don't pay exact wages to laborers, they have to pay exact salary to laborers certainly.
- Most of the people of Bangladesh don't pay tax and revenue which increases poverty rate. So, everyone has to pay certain tax or revenue to government completely.

Social sector: S. Rowntree, a sociological researcher, social reformer and industrialist, has identified several criteria to reduce poverty. Firstly, by getting job, maintaining family structure, mitigating illness, involving regular work can reduce poverty. Secondly, by giving up drinking, betting and gambling, individual can reduce poverty in family [1].

There are many contributions of social factors to rise poverty. For instances, inequality and poverty are related to each other. When inequality is being risen, poverty will be risen. When inequality is being diminished, poverty will be diminished [2].

F. Naschold has identified that there are direct and indirect relationship between inequality and poverty. When small changes in income distribution is risen, inequality will be reduced directly. On the other side, inequality hampers economic growth and low economic growth rises poverty to the full and vice versa which is indirect relationship between poverty and inequality [14].

Inequality (+) =Growth (-) =Poverty (+)

Inequality (-) = Growth (+) =Poverty (-)

Increasing= "+" Decreasing= "-"

Social exclusion is a social concept which turns people into marginalized situation in toto. This marginalized situation turns them into poverty, because they have



less opportunities to cope up with mainstream people [21].

The author has identified some ways of poverty reduction in social sector, including

- Capitalist have to pay a minimum wage to workers,
- Everyone has to aware about own rights and others' rights,
- Social organizations have to be attentive on their responsibilities,
- Gender discrimination is a basic cause of poverty. By reducing discrimination Bengali nation will be developed.

Government and political factor: In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, urban areas got attention of government. The poor people, bad communication system and administration of urban area got opportunities by government. But rural areas were got attention in the 20<sup>th</sup> century [15]. Corruption and political instability discourage to get invest in Bangladesh. Bangladesh government has to reduce political instability. Aid and government support in health care, education and infrastructure can contribute to reduce poverty. UN economists argued that good infrastructure, road, information networks help to do works. China claims that investing in railways, road, ports, rural telephone in African countries contribute to develop economy of Africa length and breadth [9].

A. Sen, an Indian economist and noble winner, argued that lack of entitlement, a situation in which food price is out of buying power for general people and Misdistribution, a situation in which food or other things are distributed unequally create poverty and famine all over the world [16]. When everyone can buy food products or get entitlement on food products and administrations distribute everything equally, poverty will be reduced first and foremost. In summary, government has to attentive on food price at national and local level.

In 2000, UN reported that good governance must be needed to develop economic condition, especially in developing countries. Because selfish people take interests by staying in company of political persons [9]. To meet basic needs of general people, government has to plan to improve economic growth, increase productive force, give material and cultural standard of living of the people [17]. Laws and regulations are more needed to stable a country. If there are any unstable laws, government has to give up that. A group of people instable the required rate of inflation by gathering food in Bangladesh. Bangladesh government

has to prevent these devil men letter and spirit.

Improving Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector has vital role to give employment opportunity to unemployed people as usual. Along with above strategies, there are some policies are required, including- Government has to maintain micro-economic stability, reducing poverty and inequality and establishing good governance [18]. Poverty reduction strategy framework is a strategy which has mentionable role to reduce poverty, it has included-

- Micro economic environment is need to economic growth,
- Improving critical areas of pro-poor growth,
- Essential infrastructure for pro-poor growth,
- Social protection for vulnerability,
- Human development.

Our government should make proper policies and arranging high technologies to use and maintain mining and others natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable resources.

Social Trends: There is a direct linked between inflation and poverty. Because, inflation rises the rate of food price that turns people into poverty as usual [7].

ILO (2015) argued that Ready-Made Garments (RMGs) sector contributes to develop economy at national level in Bangladesh of late. At the bottom of about 4.2 million people get employment in Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector among them 40 percent are women [19].

On the other side, Bangladesh is a Muslim dominated country. There is an Islamic fundamental principle, named zakat. Zakat refers to giving money or other property to poor people by wealthy people. When wealthy people give a certain part of property, poor people will be developed by using that property [20].

Bangladesh is a poor country but there is a tendency that some of wealthy people seem that parents' wealth will support them in future. But parent' property don't sustain many days. Once they become poor, because they are unskilled and uneducated person. On the other hand, there is a tendency that poor people are lower class people, they have no equal rights in politics and education. Thus, those poor people are left out from their economic growth.

Immediately, rice farmers and land owners in rural

areas have to lend money to poor people without demanding interest to poor people so that poor people can use that money to increase income. A group of people in Bangladesh lend money to rear cattle, like-cow or goat. The profit of cattle is distributed into two parts. Those poor people get a half of profit of cattle and money lenders get other half of profit with capital. Thus, a lot of poor people earn money beside their income sources.

NGOS: NGOs refers to non-profitable organizations, but NGOs means non-governmental organizations in Bangladesh perspective [15]. NGOs can help in two process, including- giving employment in their organizations and lending loan for irrigation, fishery, bee keeping and small business [15]. NGOs have contribution in rural area, like- Economic growth, human resource growth and specific target setting for poor [15]

### C. Discussion of Findings

Just as every research must have different findings from different dimensions, so this paper must have finding what the author has found out is that ways of poverty reduction. This study was initiated not because to define poverty but because to find out several appropriate solutions of poverty in Bangladesh. The main finding of this study is that economic development in Bangladesh can able to eradicate poverty by and by. On the whole, strong policies, struggle, proper education, maintenance, stringent enforcement and strict punishment for criminal chip in moving country forward for the sake of public safety and surviving. It also mentionable that poor people should not avoid their responsibilities, even they have to paddle their own canoe here and there. The GDP of Bangladesh aggrandized many times because of agricultural development. On the other hand, economic development is proven through agricultural development. Whereas, most of poor people live in agriculture-based areas.

At the eleventh hour, we can understand that poverty is reducible social problem and many countries, such as-India, China, Malaysia etc. took proper steps and have been succeed in alleviating poverty more or less. Had Bangladesh taken proper steps, have taken by Malaysia, China etc., the Bangladeshi would have seen the benefit of poverty reduction. But the Bangladeshi are ever grateful that several policies on poverty reduction by present government have been fruition which helps to arrive its rightful place.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
 Bangladesh is a lower middle income-based country which declines foreign credit and assistance for Bangladesh, even afterwards Bangladesh has to pay interests by three times for foreign loans. But even then, it will be beneficial for Bangladesh to take loans from foreign sources several times. The fact that Bangladeshi are poor proves that they have limited natural resources. Having limited renewable and non-renewable resources, Bangladesh faces various natural disasters, damaging and destroying this country and rising the rate of poverty point blank over the years. Poverty impacts on human life over and over again, still can be eradicated. The end phase of this study has described that eradicating poverty in Bangladesh will be a turning point which will turn over a new leaf for the Bangladeshi. Bangladesh would certainly be able to reach its goal, only that poverty, as everyone knows prevents at a stretch. So far, it seems that several policies have already contributed to a broad pattern of income and job pluralization in Bangladesh. But no fixed benefits have been visible as yet. The law enforcement agencies have to carry out raids in suspicious sectors. Ultimately, rich people have to contribute in poverty reduction. The reason why most people of our country are poor is that the rich people don't help the poor at all. It is only when Bangladeshi have learned to love one another strongly that they will make a good nation really in the world.

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