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## Policy Recommendations

BISRT is committed to knowledge creation through social research on both contemporary and persistent issues. The ultimate objective is to ensure social progress by informing national and social policies at different levels and foster informed citizenship. Since inception in 2002, BISRT has been involved in numerous research projects that furnished policy recommendations. The research projects include some exclusive policy studies as well that touch upon various substantive areas of policy interest. Apart from that, BISRT researchers also published many op-eds at national dailies, which offered recommendations that are of significant relevance. This document compiles policy recommendations from BISR studies and op-eds by BISR researchers with a view to share the research outcomes of BISR with a wider readership and policy makers both within and beyond the research community and academia. The recommendations are organized by the major areas of interest so that any reader can find relevant recommendation without much problem.

### Policy Recommendations

Policy Brief 1: Economic Development

Policy Brief 2: Built Environment and Society

Policy Brief 3: Gender Development

Policy Brief 4: Human Resource Development

Policy Brief 5: Managing Environment and Combating Climate Change

Policy Brief 6: Crime abatement and Ensuring Human Rights

Policy Brief 7: Institution and Governance

## **Policy Brief 1: Economic Development**

### ***1.1 Poverty and Microfinance***

Poverty is a persistent problem in Bangladesh. However, the country has made notable progress in poverty reduction in recent decades. However, for desired effect in poverty reduction continued effort is necessary. Though microfinance models from Bangladesh are hailed globally, it leaves a lot more to be desired. In this context, BISRT offers two sets of policies on poverty reduction. One is regarding general approaches to poverty reduction and the other on expanding the benefits of microfinance by adopting a livelihood mapping approach<sup>1</sup>.

### ***1.2 General Recommendations***

- Universal approaches in poverty reduction may not be applicable rather country-specific approach should be adopted for best outcome.
- In order to reduce poverty, rather than attempting to change the “culture of poverty” and “structural trap” it should adhere to country-specific approach.
- A country needs to focus on its ‘potential’ factors of poverty reduction, rather than focusing on “barriers” to poverty reduction.
- It is important to take poverty reduction measures targeting the rural population.
- In Bangladesh, poverty reduction would be mainly possible through agricultural development and remittance.
- The utilization of land and labor could bring a transformation in the rural economy of Bangladesh which is essential to poverty reduction.
- Individuals here can escape poverty largely through their own effort where a proper policy support from the government is necessary. The state needs to play the facilitating role rather than the instrumental in the case of poverty reduction.

### ***1.3 Livelihood Mapping to Expand the Reach of Microcredit***

- Livelihood mapping is a concept to identify viable income generating activities to increase the effectiveness and reach of microcredit programmes.
- Focusing on financing production of one or few goods and services is less effective in a circular economy where people consume a range of goods and services. The livelihood mapping approach suggests that one has to survey the existing activities and map them with a view to diversify the occupation of the microfinance borrowers.

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<sup>1</sup> For the relevant publications by BISRT researchers see the links:

- Livelihood mapping approach capture the signals in the local market in the planning approach and thus bridge planning with market. This is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the market.

### ***1.4 Monetary and Fiscal Policy***

For most socio-economic goals a corresponding monetary and fiscal response is necessary. Following recommendations refer to some contemporary as well as perennial issues requiring monetary and fiscal response.

- Size of the budget speech should be not more than 50 pages which has been practiced by other countries
- Must follow the needs based budget system by ministry and department what has been once developed and practiced in the Bangladesh Water Development Board.
- Rationale of the increase and decrease of tax should be explained in the budget.
- List of works which does not require fund but which can give huge benefits to the people should be prepared and included in the budget, for example, seat allocation for women in the bus and persons in confinement without committing any crime.
- Strengths and weaknesses of the macro-economy should be discussed in the budget very clearly.
- To increase revenue collection private sector may be engaged.
- Government should increase revenue collection and need to increase expenditure in health, education, communication, poverty reduction, etc. Instead of depending on limited number of people for tax, the tax base should be widened. For expenditure, a priority list should be prepared, otherwise, both misuse and corruption will increase. Numeric and quality of income and expenditure should be increased.
- Innovation for poverty reduction should be made and implemented.
- Government should conduct research on different sectors to determine the scope of employment and to give policy support to those and encourage investment in those sectors.
- Allocation for research should be increased to develop appropriate technology and socio-economic policy.
- For the children of Dalit and Adibahsi there should have provision in the budget for skill development and small business. A separate budget for their education in their own language through preparing teacher of those languages should be in place.
- Only that amount should be kept in the budget which can be spent in that financial year.
- A list of efficient persons' list should be prepared for the position of the Project Director (PD) from whom the PD should be appointed. At least 30% PDs should be appointed from the women who are more serious and sincere than their counterpart males.
- Some strategic changes in the preparation of ADP should be brought in.
- Local level people should be involved in the case of implementation of small and medium projects.

- Public-private partnership should be promoted so that it creates less pressure on government fund.
- A website can be developed where the potential employer can put their advertisement and job-seekers can make best use of it.
- In the case of duplicate product sells, the government should cancel the trade license.
- A help desk should be there round the year at the revenue office for collection of taxes.
- In the introductory part of the budget speech it should be clearly mentioned about the attempts made for improving the condition of people's lives.
- In order to use public fund in an effective and planned way, the government departments should adopt a smarter budget framing approach on the basis of current need of a department. In this regard, they should rethink revisit methods of framing budget that would reflect efficiency in allocation and proper use of the allocated funds.
- This method of budget framing had reaped better result to budget implementation for the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in 1993-1994 periods.
- There should have clear-cut assessment of how much fund do they need for completing particular tasks. Government officials of respective department should have sufficient knowledge about project management/implementation in a given year.
- Cost of trade license should be half for female and bank interest rate should be 3% less for them.
- A fund can be allocated to the Ward Committee of each Union for reducing the Violence Against Women (VAW). By allocating BDT 4-5 lakh for each Union per year crime can be reduced to 90%.

## **Policy Brief 2: Built Environment and Society**

The two-way relationship between the society and the built environment requires careful policy and behavioral understanding. This policy brief covers three contemporary issues related to built environment. Those include road safety, utilization of grade-separated pedestrian facilities and disaster resilience of slum communities.

### **2.1. Road Safety**

- Attention should be paid to management of roads, traffic and vehicles. These include road design, creation of pedestrian facilities, vehicle fitness and licensing, driver behavior, etc.
- Vehicle owners, drivers and staff needs to internalize the concept that they are serving the passengers.
- It is important to work with the vehicle owners to ensure traffic safety. The owners should ensure that the drivers have proper training. Some rules should be applicable to the pedestrians as well. Authorities can impose fines to penalize the violators, as applicable.
- Respective ministers should also be proactive with regard to road safety. Proper procedure needs to be in place. They should bring in all the stakeholders to work together.

- Government should make sure that the suggestions regarding upgrading the road and their safety situation are properly implemented.

### ***2.1 Utilization of Foot Over-bridge and Underpass***

For better management of right-of-way between vehicular and pedestrian traffic the authority has constructed many foot over-bridges at busy roads and intersections in Dhaka. However, the rate of use of the over-bridge is limited. This policy brief recommends ways to ensure better utilization of foot over-bridge.

- Foot over-bridge should be constructed at road intersections and major stops so that people don't need to walk long to access those.
- Foot over-bridge will be more applicable for wider roads.
- The height of the foot-overbridge should be kept at a minimum. It can be done by reducing the level of the road by introducing a ramp near the bridge.
- The behavior of the pedestrians should also be observed closely and future foot-overbridge should be designed and placed accordingly. Local road users, shop-owners and residents should also be consulted to record the preference and behavior of the road users.
- It is important to identify whether for a particular location foot over-bridge or pedestrian underpass is more appropriate. Existing over-bridge which are misplaced and underutilized can be transferred to more appropriate locations.
- In some locations in Dhaka introduction of escalator could not ensure universal use of foot-overbridge. However, that makes the overbridge more friendly for women, children, elderly and the sick road users.
- Underpass may be a preferred option in many places because only 8 feet deflection from the ground. Therefore, the pedestrian has to traverse less against gravity. This is specially comfortable for women, children and troubled pedestrians.
- Facilities such as small shops, toilets, etc. can be housed in the underpass to encourage more use. Management of the underpass can be assigned to some established companies so that it does not create burden to DCC.

### ***2.3. Disaster Resilience for the Slum Communities***

- Concerned agencies can prepare some action plans to disseminate the knowledge, as it can be done with minimum resources. A digital approach like an audiovisual documentary of disaster preparedness can be made and shown in the slum areas.
- Mobile phone apps and games can be developed and distributed among the people. Women and children are the most effective agents, as they share their knowledge with their family members and neighbors through group discussions.

- Department of Disaster Management (DDM), City Corporation, Ward, Upazila can take initiatives to make people at all levels aware. At the end of the day, collective efforts can make slum residents resilient to all disasters.

### **Policy Brief 3: Gender Development**

Gender has long been a distinct policy area in Bangladesh. The following recommendations on gender cover a number of contemporary gender issues in three major areas. They include safeguarding the children and adolescents, social safety of women and broadening economic freedom of women.

#### ***3.1. Safeguarding children and adolescents***

##### *3.1.1. Reproductive Education*

- Union level health and family welfare centers can be utilized to show video documentaries on reproductive health, specially to adolescents. Parents can be encouraged to discuss reproductive health in the families.
- Number of satellite clinics and support staff should be increased. The staff should also be properly trained and sensitized on importance of reproductive health.
- Where NGOs are working on reproductive health, there should be better integration with people from different levels of the community. These activities can replicate learnings from best practice examples.
- Lessons of reproductive health can also be imparted in the classrooms using documentaries and other visual medium. To facilitate relevant training by the teachers in the classroom, reproductive health should be included in the teachers training curriculum.

##### *3.1.2. Curbing Child Abuse*

- Creating awareness about children's rights through interactive popular theatre about child torture, organizing dialogue among people, campaign through billboards, etc. at the grass roots level are some of the ways to bring home the required sense of urgency in mobilizing public sentiments and feelings.
- Besides, awareness among the people about not to take law into their hands, alertness of law enforcing agency (use of fixed cell phone number for immediate reporting), fostering humanitarian values in society are essential to address these kinds of inhuman acts.
- More importantly, some actions need to be taken socially, institutionally and legally.
- Finally, it is time to develop social solidarity with increased sensitization on the needs and sufferings of others.

##### *3.1.3. Gender Sensitive Upbringing*

- Awareness-building during a child's upbringing (the socialization process) is necessary. Men in our society must learn to resist the type of "masculinity" that encourages violence. If children learn from watching their fathers treat their mothers well at home, it will leave a lasting, positive impact.

- Members of the society need to change their culture to change the social mind-set. Sincere attempts should be made to create a social order that promotes social bonding, social attachment, commitment, and involvement.

#### *3.1.4. Children of the Sex-workers*

- There should be specific policy which separately focuses on the protection and development of the children of sex workers. This policy should ensure effective childcare system for them.
- The children of sex workers need psychological therapy from professional psychologists, who have expertise about the specific psycho-social needs of those children. A counsellor can be made available at the Upazila Health Complex of the vulnerable areas.
- Community people, service providers, and law enforcement agency members need to be given adequate knowledge and awareness regarding the rights and vulnerability of these children.
- Local Government Institutes (LGIs) can collaborate with NGOs and other stakeholders to build protective communities for these children; this can include reducing the stigma against these children.

### ***3.2. Social safety for women***

Women are susceptible to numerous fraudulent traps in their work place and elsewhere in the form of love affair, marriage or technology driven traps. One of the biggest demises for working women is their vulnerability to trafficking. Thus, it is imperative to secure women against fraudulent traps and help trafficking survivors reintegrate in the society.

#### *3.2.1. Safety against fraudulent schemes*

- Awareness building program should be taken for women, especially the adolescents and youth who are more susceptible to fraudulent schemes like contrived marriage, trap of love affair in traditional means, over social media or using other technologies. Beside public and private sector initiatives to create awareness, capacity building of law enforcing agencies should also be ensured.
- Steps should be taken to engage the family and the community in monitoring the safety of young women. This includes getting into new relationships especially with people who live abroad. Print and visual media along with social media can be useful in creating awareness regarding fraud.
- To ensure safety in workplace, women should be empowered in workplace. State should also come forward in protecting women in this case.
- Since Saudi Arabia does not have any law regarding protection of immigrant working women many countries have stopped sending female worker there. For sending Bangladeshi women G2G process can be used.
- Opportunity for working in diverse occupation such as salesperson, packaging, driver, etc. should be opened for women, both in Bangladesh and abroad.

- Government can arrange accommodation for care workers in different zones in a town so that they don't have to live in their employers' residence overnight.
- Care workers abroad should have access to telephone to get support from police and respective Bangladesh embassies.

### *3.2.2. Reintegration of human trafficking survivors in the society*

- In Bangladesh, steps need to be taken from all sides to re-integrate those women into society. Although some NGOs are providing some particular services such as medical treatment, legal advice, psychological counseling, social awareness among community people, those are not always lasting due to the limited duration of the projects. Their priority should be to go to the local level coordination with multiple stakeholders so that they can keep their impact sustainable. They can also conduct studies to find out an effective and long-lasting means.
- For psychological counseling, regular expert, psychologist/ counselor can be made available at Upazila Health Complex of the vulnerable areas, who can provide proper care to the survivors and enable them to combat negative issues confidently.
- Community people, service providers, and law enforcement agency members need to be provided adequate knowledge and awareness regarding the rights, trauma and vulnerability of these suffering women.
- More significantly, Local Government Institutes (LGIs) in trafficking prone areas can integrate some NGO incorporated activities, which have already been successful in the area. For example, legal advice, local level coordination and regular courtyard meeting with community people, etc., may be effective to change the people's attitudes towards the survivors by increasing social awareness.

## **3.3. Broader Economic Horizon for Women**

Creating new, exclusive and preferential opportunities for women can be instrumental for their development. On that account, three areas of intervention as suggested in this brief including, gender development through digital financial services, creating scope for women in national budget and introducing women only market.

### *3.3.1. Digital Financial Services for Women*

- ICT ministry, with the help of banking officials and mobile operators, can inaugurate a new training project for promoting e-literacy among the disadvantaged women in both rural and urban areas. Both tech-savvy and unemployed educated female can engage in these programs as trainer/facilitator.
- Developing a native language (Bengali) orientated menu bar smart phones can encourage more female users to take advantage of new technology. Pictorial menu will also be helpful for women who even cannot read Bengali.

- A new digital knowledge integrated toolkit can be developed to educate the women population about e-literacy so that they would be able to minimally learn how to interact with the digital devices for financial transaction.
- Bank/non-bank financial institutions need to assure those women who don't have any ID proof to open a digital account. It would increase the number of P2P transactions among women.
- New services need to be integrated in the DFS such as, provision of access to small credit on a short-term basis. More comprehensive program on IOT ('Internet of Things') can be undertaken to promote the user friendliness of internet devices among the women who solely rely on traditional banking rather than internet banking/digital banking.

### *3.3.2. A case for women Friendly Budget*

BISR recommends creation of preferential provision for women in the budget to facilitate gender development.

- Women get some facilities at preferential rates such as lower cost of trade license, lower interest rate for bank loans.
- Local governments should get budgetary allocation for forming and maintaining local level committees for resisting violence against women.
- Government can appoint baby-sitter for working women. This will not only help working women in general, but will also create opportunities for additional women's employment.
- There should be allocation for rehabilitation of acid survivors and victim of sexual violence. Training for home based employment such as outsourcing, small and cottage industry can be funded with that allocation.
- To encourage more employment opportunities 30% quota for women for project directors can be enforced. For contractual projects certain percentage of women employment can be made compulsory.
- Parity in allocation in sports for male and female should be ensured.
- If increasing rate is applied on property, male members will be encouraged to register more property in the name of female. This will help reduce inequality in the society.
- For second or subsequent marriage, tax can be imposed at an amount of the *Mahr* or at comparable amounts.
- Allowance for destitute widows without children should be made.

### *3.3.3. Women only Market*

- Growth Center Markets (GCMs) may include a day as 'BouBazar' (market by women) a week. Women from the neighboring areas need to come with their goods and products; all the sellers will be women but the buyers can be both women and men.
- The 'Bou Bazar' can continue from 7:00 a.m. to 12 a.m. where women will come with their produce or collected products, sell those and return home early.

- These markets can be established by combining local initiative with support from NGOs. Involvement of women Union Parishad members, women social workers, Upazila Parishad woman vice-chairman and the Upazila women and children affairs officer will make this process easier.

## **Policy Brief 4: Human Resource Development**

Over the last two decades, the working people have proved that they are the main strength of the economy. The ‘population problem’ has now become a potential of growth and the demographic dividend has now taken a special place in the policy vocabulary of Bangladesh. The readymade garments sector and flow of remittance bear testimony to this. This policy brief looks into various aspects of turning the higher ratio of the working population into an advantage for economic and social development.

### ***4.1. Mainstream Education***

- Ranking of public and private university should be conducted on a regular basis by some independent research organization.
- Need based and plan based budgetary practices for the public universities should be introduced. Universities should prepare annual research and publication plan and submit budgetary requirements to government authorities accordingly. Universities should be encouraged to raise fund from other sources as well. Proper utilization of the fund should also be ensured.
- Promotion of the faculty members should be based on performance rather than automatic age based promotion, as practiced in many developed countries.

### ***4.2. Vocational Education***

Vocational education is equally important as mainstream education, for employment both within Bangladesh and abroad.

- To develop the quality and certification of all courses offered by training institutes operated by recruitment agencies for departing migrant workers in Bangladesh:
- Training design, materials and curriculum should be updated maintaining the global standard.
- Language training should be introduced during the training period according to the respective countries.
- Providing more soft skilled training (i.e. including safety, security, law and orders, cultural and behavioral practice, labor rights and communication skills, etc.) could be fruitful to the trainees for getting better jobs and better salary abroad.

- Enhancement of the training duration could be an effective measure to the trainees for ensuring quality and capacity of trainees to be skilled and efficient for the job.
- Creating training friendly environment, practical oriented and better management could be developed in a more organized way.
- Experienced and qualified trainers who have a ToT certificate from in country or abroad could be recruited and provided regular refresher as well as advanced training for the trainers that would be more effective.
- Willingness to train by the trainers must be ensured by providing better salary and others facilities.
- Raising awareness and encouraging to undertake technical and vocational education should be promoted throughout the country and publicity on the benefits of receiving trainings should be made through campaign, discussion, workshops, seminar, TV and satellite advertisement, etc. for both the trainees and the recruiting agencies.
- Taking more care of the weak trainees, ensuring quality rather than quantity for sending migrant workers and investing more by the government could be more effective and fruitful for getting more returns and for maintaining good will abroad for better employment.
- Training on values, views and benefits of honesty could be ensured by providing information on the legal procedures and orders, cultural practices of the respective countries.
- Maintaining the minimum level of education of the trainees, at least J.S.C pass could be more fruitful for receiving training to be skilled and efficient.
- Providing sufficient raw materials, tools, techniques and other necessities (i.e. handbook, pad and flipchart, etc.) to the trainees could be more effective for practicing more and more.
- Updating training design and curriculum regularly as per global requirements and ensuring that no migration workers can go abroad for employment without technical or related trainings.
- BMET and other government bodies could have facilities to examine the technical skills of migrant workers before allowing them to go abroad for employment.
- BMET, BAIRA and ILO could facilitate training to train the trainers, monitor and evaluate the performance of provided trainings to the trainees from respective TTCs ran by the recruiting agencies.
- ILO can undertake another technical assessment study on the quality of the trained persons or TO ranking may be made based such study.

### ***4.3. Policy on Care Work***

- All the family members need to sit together and talk about care work at least once in a month. Participants argued that such discussion among family members can create a

mutual understanding among them. It will also be a significant medium of learning or enculturation for the children.

- Care work need to be discussed in the religious institute so that social beliefs like “the divine for the wives remains under the legs of husbands”, can be changed. Youth participants stated, religious leaders like Imam, Thakur, are one of the most influential people in the society. People usually take their speech/command seriously. So if they focus on such issues in their routine discussions, the distribution of care works will be easy.
- Children should not be allowed to use mobile phone except emergency need since they likely to watch bad thing in mobile and get diverted from the right path. Using mobile phone too much causes children likely to stay alone which made them unable to participate in real life activities and realize the bonding of relation at household level. Rather, they should be given knowledge on helping people and family members.
- Who will do what type of care work should be included in the text book. Participants argued that including such issues in textbook can bring a significant positive impact. If children can read it in their book, they will take it very seriously and help their parents in care works. Therefore, many problems will be solved in future.
- Some awareness program need to be presented in the media especially in radio and television. They argued that success of such program have already been achieved in the case of AIDS, Acid, etc. Therefore, it will be another success if such program can be continued.
- Need some sort of information center closer to their areas, where they can access the information about their required services. For example, information on where to take a pregnant women in emergency, where to get legal advice if required, where to accuse in case of any unexpected situation, etc.
- Need to have access to advanced technology. For example, gas stove, rice cooker, blender, etc. can save their valuable time. Nowadays, they need a major portion of the day to process food and prepare it but if they can do it quickly they will be able to do some other works.

- Childcare center can be a big solution of many problems but childcare center itself may bring some crises in some areas. Therefore, first of all, community people need to learn why childcare center is required and how it can help them.
- Local leaders and teachers can play significant roles to increase awareness regarding the recognition and distribution of care works. If the representatives of local government institutions take step for coordinated activities with different stakeholders, it will bring some solution.
- They also mentioned that in order to attain all these, good governance is necessary.

#### ***4.4. Resolving Labor Unrest in Bangladesh***

Labor unrest is a recurring phenomenon which hinders productivity and trust of production schedule.

- There should be more female members in the police forces, management staff, rights-based female workers and stakeholders to facilitate better communication with female workers. Proper counselling program that helps the workers to understand their rights and responsibilities needs to be in place.
- Role of industrial police should be spelt out to all involved groups so that they treat industrial police as their friend. Headquarters of industrial police need to conduct research on unrest and maintain regular log (e.g. news clip) of incidence of unrest. They should also help maintain friendly environment through effective collaboration among the workers and owners.
- It is needed to collect and preserve photocopy of NID of all workers for ensuring better safety and crime prevention in industrial areas.
- Private industry owners can take a policy to keep skilled labours in their job for long period which can increase the total domestic product of Bangladesh.
- Industry management can encourage and facilitate those workers who want to continue their higher education and can provide training in concerned field.
- Industry management should give priority to recruitment of trained managers on HR, compliance, workers and production management.
- It is necessary to formulate a long-term policy to remove and reduce all sorts of reasons behind growing dissatisfaction among the common workers against the factory authority.
- Periodic open-day session/ sharing with the workers can be organized to know about their problems and needs.

- Must check validity of safety equipment and technical machineries regularly especially boiler in two times per year.
- The government of Bangladesh can take a recruitment program of the third gender in manufacturing industries to prevent extortion in public transport.
- Government of Bangladesh can give a special attention on future of state-owned industries and its workers.
- Needs to revise minimum wage for industrial workers especially garment workers.
- Management must have one person having a degree in industrial psychology.
- Need to ensure provident funds and workers' welfare funds following the rules mentioned in labour act, 2006.
- Must have a strong monitoring system about the regular payment of salary to workers.
- Ensure basic facilities to all industrial workers of all factories of Bangladesh.
- Role of industrial police can be extended to the preventive measures such as giving orientation to workers and management rather than reactive measures. Success has already been reported in the case of prevention of unrest during Eid Festival and on other occasions.

## **Policy Brief 5: Managing Environment and Combating Climate Change**

Bangladesh is one of the most climate change vulnerable countries. Lately a number of Bangladesh cities have ranked high in the list of most critical in terms of air quality index. Economic growth, on the other hand, requires industrial development and energy generation that pose further threat to environmental degradation and aggravation of climate change impact. This policy brief addresses pollution control, climate fund management and utilization of local knowledge for climate adaptation.

### ***5.1 Environmental Management***

- Department of Environment (DoE) should be more vigilant in curbing air pollution for the major cities in Bangladesh. The air-quality monitoring cell of DoE and related organizations has to work on to ensure better air pollution control.
- Policies, plans and projects should be implemented properly with adequate account for environment. Existing environmental laws should also be enforced.
- High pollution industries and outdated motor cars need to be banned.

- Creating and ensuring provision to establish treatment plant in each industry.
- Stopping deforestation and planting more trees can be fruitful solutions for beating the pollution.
- Encourage and support research on environments and to ensure implementation of researcher's offered real-time suggestions to beat pollution in the long run.

## ***5.2 Climate Risk Management***

- Local knowledge of indigenous communities can be useful in Climate Adaptation. Hence institutional measures should be taken to integrate them with mainstream knowledge on climate adaptation.
- As regard to climate-fund, Bangladesh should pay more attention to responsiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the distribution and management of it.
- The government also should address criticism regarding misappropriation of climate fund.
- A continuous effort should be made by the government to mobilize both international and national fund for addressing the climate change and disaster.
- Initiatives that are more preventive in nature need to be taken rather than over curative initiatives only.
- More participatory planning is needed at the local level to ensure efficient utilization of fund.
- Government also should develop a monitoring framework for the NGOs to prove their investment, accountability, transparency, seriousness in action and best utilization of fund efficiently.

## **Policy Brief 6: Crime abatement and Ensuring Human Rights**

Bangladesh's unique geographical location, changing technology, more ties with the rest of the world and distinct socio-economic context creates a dynamic crime scenario. Policing is not enough to tackle the emerging challenges. This policy brief covers crime abatement in general and a number of emerging and contemporary issues related to crime prevention.

### ***6.1. General Recommendations to Crime Abatement***

- Drug related crime can be prevented more effectively by controlling the supply and trading of drug.
- Crime related to cell phone and internet can be prevented by adopting user registration and use of latest and customized technologies.
- If law enforcing response to crime at a faster pace the rate of occurrence will reduce. This was demonstrated in case of eve-teasing and acid violence. The motto should be to annihilate crime not criminals.
- Members of neglected social groups such as transport workers, agricultural labors should be engaged in creative enterprise for better social cohesion.
- Social means of preventing crime such as family ties, social cohesion, cultural activities, promotion of altruism and religious norms should gain priority over upscaling the police department or judicial organizations.
- Widening the reach of legal education through community, family, educational institutions, TV and print media and social networking sites would also help people to understand the boundaries of acceptable behaviors.
- Special attention should be given to the distressed groups such as rohingya or to the excluded and marginalized group such as Hijra both in terms of handling their distress in a acceptable means. Also appropriate counseling should be arranged so that they can combat their distress.

### ***6.2. Prevention and Reduction of Rape***

Prevention of rape requires multi-pronged action and the measures should be taken at various levels targeting both the potential victims and perpetrators.

- The value system of the male should change towards understanding that rape is not a crime from legal perspective alone. It should be established that the society also consider it to be a serious crime.
- Enforcement of the law should be easier and simpler.
- Women and girls should exercise caution and avoid risk to the extent possible. Newer means of communication due to the advent of information technologies are introducing new vulnerabilities. One has to exercise caution in sharing contact to these strangers.
- Rape and harassment should be brought to justice more effectively and recurrently, and where applicable new technologies like DNA test should be used. News of justice should

be disseminated widely so that it reaches to the potential perpetrator. This may help deter further rape.

- Rapes in public vehicles became common nowadays. Women and girls should be careful in traveling in these vehicles as the only passenger or in traps where perpetrators are present in disguise of passengers.
- In case of traveling later in the night, one should be get idea about the status of safety of particular route, service or road segment.
- One should have proper knowledge regarding the legal provision for the victim (e.g. in case of attempt of rape causing death of perpetrator is also allowed if warranted to save the victim)
- When attacked, the victim should shout and call the national help center (at 999).
- Increase more petrol, particularly in the night.
- Enforce use of transparent glasses in the vehicle.
- Encourage the citizen to protest more often to deter the perpetrator.

## **Policy Brief 7: Institution and Governance**

One essential requirement of successful state making is putting efficient institutions in place. Institutions are vehicles to ensure proper governance.

### ***7.1. Better Ministerial Performance***

Quality of public service depends largely on the performance of the ministers. The following recommendations are suggested in this regard:

- Ministers would ensure that the mandate of respective ministries reflect the expectations of the citizen. The work programs and their implementation should also commensurate with that.
- Concerned ministries should identify the gaps in working in line with the mandates.
- A need-based budget and frugal spending program for the ministry will help to overcome misuse of public money. It is also important to ensure allocation for projects.
- Ministries need to align their activities in line with the electoral manifestos by altering the workings of respective ministries, as applicable.
- Ministries should engage the citizen more in the ministerial activities by introducing ‘complain box’ and ‘meet the people’ system.

- Ministries can try to implement some programs without spending public money (e.g. by relying on circulars).
- The plans should include activities for short, medium and long term in line with FYPs, SDGs and other policies as appropriate.

### ***7.2. Giving the businessman their due recognition***

- Government should declare more businesspersons (up to 1000) as CIPs and the status should last for 3 years.
- Government can bear the cost of a private vehicle, chauffeur and personal assistant for the CIP.
- Government can involve them into government activities more and include them in more committees. This will encourage the businessperson to focus on business more and thus help the economy and country grow.

### ***7.3. Curbing Corruption by Developing Workable Procedures***

- Fixed time limits for service delivery and standardizing process in each sector and introducing e-tendering system will be helpful.
- Review of wealth statement can help portray the income status of workers. Only the honest officers after proper certification from the service recipients should be rewarded with increments and promotion.
- Government officers should be assigned task to ensure quality hours. Underutilized officers can be assigned for sectoral monitoring.
- Government should involve citizens in the effort to curb corruption and ensure public oversight in the planning and monitoring of development programs.
- Anti-corruption commission should be allowed to investigate or file any charges against government officials without prior permission, and push for prompt trials of accused officers.

### ***7.4. Bringing the governance agenda to the ADP***

- For proper implementation of the agenda of good governance, there should be targeted strategies in the five-year plans (FYPs).
- The annual development plans (ADPs) need to reflect strategies from FYPs for detail implantation at the project level.

- The project documents in the prescribed form of Development Project Proposal (DPP) should also outline project related governance requirement to ensure good governance at the project level.

### ***7.5. Curbing Hazardous Child Labor through proper Governance***

- Eradication of hazardous Child Labor should be in the national agenda.
- Government programs should identify those vulnerable children and their families and work out detail plan for their proper upbringing and training.
- Adequate budget should be made available for implementing this agenda.
- Steps such as community based problem solving, helping parents to secure livelihood, eradication of child marriage, supporting relevant GOs and NGOs, implementation of child right, etc. should be included in the said agenda.

### ***7.6. Strengthening Local Government (LG) Bodies***

- Strengthening of local government bodies has long been a part of mandate of all governments.
- Legislative and executive (bureaucratic) control of central government over LG needs to be transformed into supervision and cooperation to achieve its objectives.
- Centralized political imposition should be converted into guidance and direction in terms of LG and grass-root policies.
- Otherwise LG will become more defied by the rising conflict of interests among unsought but emergent actors in LG arena day by day.
- Before going for good governance, establish the self-governance first.