

Bangladesh Sociological Studies

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Editorial

Bangladesh is an underdeveloped country where sociology is also an underdeveloped discipline although the first one is not the exclusive cause of, or entailed, the second one. Therefore, development of Bangladesh is not a precondition for development of sociology itself rather development of sociology - for many reasons, is necessary for the development of the country. Sociological knowledge itself cannot play the decisive role of developing the society itself as the sociologist does not have any secret art or tactics for that, but can significantly contribute to find out certain ways and means to propel the country towards development.

In Bangladesh, sociologists are often regarded for their potentials rather than their accentuated achievements, which is partly because the society is a traditional one where ascriptive role is still pre-dominant in almost every sphere of life and where even a professional counts prestige more important than self-contribution to the society. Despite that an emerging trend of transition in the society from tradition to modernity is evident in almost all spheres of life where concomitant variation is also observed in many sectors of the society. Thus sociologists, although once enjoyed a full privilege without pursuing any significant intellectual work, have a reason in coming days to apprehend that they will not enjoy such privileges unabatedly without changing their present trend of marginal accomplishment. With the growing demand for social researches and to keep pace with the demand of the new millennium - the sociologists have to undertake researches in many fields including the fields where needs for applied research are burgeoning day by day. Therefore, the present state of sociologists would not allow the professionals to remain inactive in coming years. And to meet the challenges of the new millennium or post modern society, there should be opportunity for publications of research findings as without that the inspiration for sociologists would not remain strong here, and moreover it will be despairing for them as without that their findings will perish.

Intellectual pursuits without having scope of publication(s) cannot be sustained in a society for an indefinite period, which perhaps also entail a poor performance of the sociologists of the country in addition to causing other major or minor limitations. The present initiative is, therefore, to create an opportunity for and to remove the entrenched disadvantages of the sociologists - disadvantages they have been, as they were facing over the last five decades.

It is not a matter of complacency to have scope for publications of articles prepared on different aspects of social researches, perhaps, it is also equally important to adhere to pursuing high quality research to gradually compete with the changing world, where many other countries have superseded us in respect of number and quality of social researches. Therefore, time has come to wake up and propel social researches with all enthusiasm to cover the lost decades and for that matter to add to the vehicle of the same. I am confident that the trained sociologists of the country are fully aware of the fact and are ready to face the challenges that are ahead of them.

I, therefore, would like to urge upon the sociologists of the country to come up with a mission to undertake social researches here in Bangladesh with paramount quality and increased quantity. Everybody's will and zeal can together bring the success much faster than what one alone can pursue. And time for pursuing anything important for greater social cause never runs out.

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Articles for publication in the journal should be printed, double-spaced on one side of A4 size paper with enough margins at both side.

An article should not be more than 10,000 words except review articles and short notes. Review articles should not be more than 5000 words and short notes should not be more than 3000 words.

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BOOK REVIEW

Government-NGO Interface in Development Management By Dr. Afroza Begum, Dhaka: A. H Development Publishing House, 2003. Tk. 375, ISBN 984-8360-00-X, PP: 1-XIII+178

The recent global development perspective focuses on the fact that the public and the NGO sectors especially play a significant role in the process of development, as the target of both the sectors is to gain development for the public. At the same time their mutual relationship becomes the principal determinant that determines their role in development in a particular country. In the context of developing countries, major donor agencies like The World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. encourage GO-NGO co-operation as well as collaboration as it is treated as a necessity in the present global perspective.

In the present world, GO-NGO collaboration has become a common phenomenon in developing countries and many collaborative programmes are being undertaken there. Meanwhile Bangladesh has already experienced some successful GO-NGO collaborative programmes in the field of health and family planning, education, agriculture, employment generation, environment etc. Generally, the NGOs in Bangladesh enjoy some advantages over Government and donors for their ability to deliver health care and family planning services towards the poor. Playing a catalyst role in health and family planning sector, the NGOs have become able to influence government's policies in the country.

Considering the importance of collaborative programmes of GO and the NGOs in health and family planning sector, an important book entitled "Government-NGO Interface in Development management: Experiences of Selected Collaboration Models in Bangladesh" is written by Dr. Afroza Begum. The book is originally a Ph.D. dissertation of Dr. Begum pursued on GO and NGO collaboration models in development management under Dhaka University. The main focus of the book is on the collaborative programmes of GO and the NGOs in health and family planning sector of Bangladesh. Besides, the study aimed to get overall knowledge of the Bangladesh Government policies regarding the role of NGOs in development management. And to examine the existing modalities of collaborative programmes between the Government and the

NGOs and to see whether those models are viable for the development management in Bangladesh and an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of those models.

In the light of the above-mentioned objectives the book discusses features of Government and NGO administration in Bangladesh and Government's view regarding NGOs. It tries to explain and differentiate the core concepts like development administration, development management etc. Besides, it discusses institutional strategies of NGOs and GO-NGO relationship. It focuses mainly on the structure and process of development management in Bangladesh. The reasons for poor performance of development management of public sector and other alternative institutional frameworks are also highlighted. Moreover, the book focuses on the emergence of NGOs in global as well as Bangladesh context and analyses different contributory factors for their emergence. It highlights the strengths as well as the weaknesses of the NGOs. Besides, it focuses on the approaches and scope of NGO operations in Bangladesh and functional coverage of them. The book also explains the controversial role of NGO sector all over the world with special reference to Bangladesh. It evaluates the existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations applicable to the NGO operations in Bangladesh and attempts to assess the relevance of the legal framework to the present-day situation. It concentrates on and highlights GO and NGO consultative council and the establishment of NGO Affairs Bureau. Likewise, it also highlights GO and NGO collaboration, especially on different opinions, types and prescribed mechanism of collaboration and advantages as well as the problem of GO and NGO collaboration. The book also discusses different collaboration models operating in South Asian and African countries. It focuses on the institutional features and viability of GO-NGO collaboration programmes in Bangladesh. With this view two collaboration projects in health and family planning sector run by both GoB and two NGOs (BRAC and CARE) constitute the scope to the author to take these as a case study. Here an attempt has been made to analyze the views of the participatory agencies towards the projects. At last the book indicates that the Government of Bangladesh has accepted the NGOs as development partners. But till now there is no specific rule and policy of the Government regarding NGOs involvement in development activities.

Overall, the book may fulfill the need of the time, but it seems to be burdened with subject matter. Too many subjects have been included in it at a time, which may bore general readers. Besides, chapter setting of

the book is not done systematically and no specific procedure has been followed in formatting bibliography. Ignoring the above, it may be considered as a significant book on GO-NGO collaboration programmes in development management of Bangladesh. The policy-makers, planners, development workers, NGO workers as well as Government may be benefited from the book.

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