

## **Bangladesh: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Status Report**

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## BANGLADESH

### **Preparation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper: A Status Report<sup>1</sup>**

Prepared by the Government of Bangladesh

July 14, 2004

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Having prepared the I-PRSP in March, 2003, the Government has set itself to a well-rounded process of preparing the full-blown PRSP by December, 2004. That would entail a time span of 21 months compared to the average time of about 26 months reported to have been required by the I-PRSP countries to complete their full PRSPs.

The Government adheres to the core principles of PRSP that it should be country-driven, results-oriented, comprehensive in scope, partnership-oriented, long-term in perspective and fully participatory in nature.

Further, the Government subscribes to the contention that the PRSP process has opened up new spaces for dialogue on public policy and representatives of civil society have had access to policy debates that were hitherto entirely closed to them. We have been trying to ensure consultations with as broad a class of participants as possible including the socially excluded people. The aim of the government is to elicit views, share experiences and understand the expectations of the stakeholders.

#### **II. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREPARATION OF PRSP**

##### **A. The National Poverty Focal Point and the National Steering Committee**

The General Economics Division of the Planning Commission was declared as the National Poverty Focal Point (NPF) in July 2003. To guide and assist the NPF, a National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed in September, 2003. The Principal Secretary to the Honorable Prime Minister chairs the Steering Committee. The NSC has 21 members. The NPF and the NSC carry out their duties under the direct supervision of the Honorable Minister of Finance and Planning.

Between October, 2003 and April, 2004, the NSC has met seven times in regular meetings and twice for special meetings. The NSC has adopted, among others, the following important decisions to accelerate the process of preparation of PRSP:

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<sup>1</sup> As of end-April, 2004

- The Committee will meet at least once in a month.
- The monthly meeting of the Committee will be held during the first week of each month and the members of the Committee will have to be present personally in the meeting. Special meetings will be held as and when felt necessary.
- The implementation of policies mentioned in I-PRSP and the main task of preparation of PRSP will be financed from out of government's own resources.
- The priority development programs of the Honorable Prime Minister will be appropriately reflected in the PRSP.
- Some important issues which have not been adequately dealt with in the I-PRSP or left out completely, will be adequately reflected or included in the PRSP.
- Two milestones in the road-map are preparation of draft PRSP by September, 2004 and finalizing the PRSP by December, 2004 respectively.

### **B. Thematic Groups**

The National Steering Committee undertook threadbare discussions to form 12 Thematic Groups (TGs). The subjects and the participants of the Thematic Groups were given a final shape in February, 2004.

To facilitate their work within a uniform framework, the Thematic Groups have been provided with detailed guidelines regarding their composition and plan of action, expected output, interfacing between the Groups and a time-table for completing the assigned task.

The Thematic Groups were established under the leadership of various relevant Ministries to ensure full participation of all concerned Ministries/Divisions and independent experts in relevant fields in the process of preparation of PRSP. In choosing the thematic areas, emphasis has been given on all major cross-cutting issues, macroeconomic and real sector issues and a number of special topics which have direct bearing on poverty alleviation. Attention was also given to the thematic areas mentioned in the Joint Staff Assessment Report of the Bank and the Fund as well as those in the Bangladesh Development Forum Meeting 2003.

The Thematic Groups are to address, in their respective areas, gaps and lapses identified to have been remaining in I-PRSP, provide a brief account of the current developments, identify strengths and constraints to pro-poor growth, draw up and recommend strategies and policies, develop poverty reduction indicators and formulate criteria for selecting programs.

The twelve Thematic Groups have submitted their preliminary draft reports to the National Steering Committee on April 24, 2004. The National Poverty Focal Point has been examining the preliminary draft reports and is in the process of providing feedbacks to the

Ministries so that they can take these feedbacks into account while finalizing the reports by end-June, 2004.

The first Thematic Group is on Macroeconomic Stability and pro-poor growth. Like other Groups it has submitted the first draft, covering the main messages from part I<sup>2</sup> of the report, which appears to be relevant in designing pro-poor growth strategy for Bangladesh's PRSP:

- Message 1: Poverty (including the incidence of extreme poverty) continues to decline, but vulnerability persists
- Message 2: The problem of the poorest (especially the hungry-poor) cannot be neglected in designing anti-poverty strategy.
- Message 3: Inequality matters as a factor retarding the pace of economic growth and poverty reduction
- Message 4: Linking the poor with the growth-seeking sources is a way of reducing inequality and accelerating the rate of pro-poor economic growth
- Message 5: Bangladesh is "On Track" in respect of most social MDGs
- Message 6: The poor benefited from the average social progress in the nineties, but high inequality in social MDGs still persists
- Message 7: Adverse distribution dynamics can act as a factor of long-term slow-down
- Message 8: Gender inequality in social MDGs is persistent
- Message 9: Not by growth alone, all routes need to be explored"

### **C. Participatory Consultation: The Process**

The Government has instituted an elaborate arrangement to undertake participatory consultation with a cross-section of stakeholders both at the national as well as at the regional levels. Such participatory consultation meetings, one at the national and six at the divisional headquarters, generating almost unprecedented enthusiasm among the participants, have just been successfully concluded. The NFPF will soon start another kind of participatory consultation where it will directly organize dialogues with small but uniform groups of the poor and the vulnerable.

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<sup>2</sup> Part I is titled "A Macro-Assessment of Poverty and Social MDGs in Bangladesh".

The consultation at the regional level involved participants from assetless people, human rights associations, research organizations, environmental groups, members of civil societies, women's and children's groups, local NGOs, private entrepreneurs, professional groups and last but not the least the local government officials. The structure, framework, characteristics, contents and guidelines for participation as well as for actual consultation were so designed that the NFPF could generate a free and fair discussion. In addition to their own subjects, each Group also held deliberations on the general subject of poverty. The following were the twelve discussion groups at the regional levels:

1. Infrastructure (roads, rail, inland water transportation, information and communication technology (ICT) and telecommunication);
2. Power, petroleum, and energy sector;
3. Good governance (civil service reform, judicial reform, improvement of law and order, and strengthening local government);
4. Health (including population planning, nutrition and sanitation);
5. Education (including primary and mass education, women's education, technical and vocational training);
6. Women and children and their rights;
7. Rural development (including food security, disaster management and social protection, micro-credit and expansion of rural non-farm activities, employment generation and development of growth centers);
8. Agriculture (including crops, special cash crops such as tea, rubber, etc., fisheries, livestock, agricultural and bio-technology);
9. Environment (forestry, bio-diversity, land reforms and land use and supply of safe water);
10. Water resources;
11. Tribal groups and disadvantaged people (physically, mentally, and socially); and
12. Housing.

The quintessence of the participatory consultation was to collect the unhindered and unalloyed opinion of the people regarding the various routes to poverty reduction. The process of consultation preceded by pronouncement from the NFPF that the poor, the women, the private sector, the NGOs and the members of the civil society should be allowed to speak out unhindered by the government representatives present in the group meeting.

From the consultation-meetings, the NFPF has obtained a set of comprehensive recommendations on the general subject of poverty and more importantly on twelve pre-designed topics. Most important, the regional dimension of poverty in Bangladesh has also been captured. The NFPF hopes that the extracts from these recommendations along with the reports of the Thematic Groups will undoubtedly enrich the contents of Bangladesh's PRSP.

#### **D. Participatory Consultation: Selected Issues**

As mentioned above, in each region, in addition to their own subjects, the twelve Groups also deliberated on the general subject of poverty. Appendices A and B provide outcome of such deliberations for Barisal and Chittagong divisions respectively.

Outcome of discussions held at six divisions on (a) health, population planning, nutrition and sanitation, (b) women and children, and (c) good governance are provided in appendices C, D and E, respectively.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

**PRSP Status Report: Appendix A**

**Consultation at Regional Level  
Barisal Division**

**March 11, 2004**

**PARTICIPATORY DISCUSSION ON POVERTY**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
GENERAL ECONOMIC DIVISION  
(NATIONAL POVERTY FOCAL POINT)**



### **1. Question-1. Definition of poverty**

Most of the participants of the Regional Consultation Meeting at Barisal Division generally defined 'poverty' as lack of income to meet basic needs (food, cloth, housing, education, health and security). Some of them referred poverty as the inability to have 1850-2221 kilo calorie intake per person daily. The participants also provided other definitions of poverty. These are as follows:

- ❖ Poverty refers to a situation where people are deprived of fundamental rights to lead a normal life.
- ❖ Poverty refers to poor access to fundamental rights, economic wealth, social wealth and cultural and environmental aspects of life.

### **Question-2. Causes of poverty**

Participants think that Barisal Division has some special disadvantages over other divisions because of its geographical location. One critical problem of this region is that the incidence of natural calamities (river erosion, cyclone, tidal surge, excessive rain) is very high. Another problem is that the region has a very weak communication system within and with other parts of the country. There are inadequate supply of electricity, energy and gas in this region. These are the reasons why poverty in Barisal is very distinct in nature. Causes of poverty mentioned by the participants are as follows:

- ❖ Rapid growth in population.
- ❖ Lack of employment opportunities.
- ❖ Natural calamities (tornado, cyclone, tidal surge, hail storm); a high degree of river erosion.
- ❖ Lack of industries and factories; particularly of agro-processing industries;
- ❖ Under-developed communication system;
- ❖ Lack of education; lack of skilled labour;
- ❖ Lack of capital;
- ❖ Faulty land management system;
- ❖ Traditional agricultural practices.
- ❖ Mono-crop agriculture and salinity of land;
- ❖ Lack of initiatives to develop the tourists sites of Kuakata, Sona Kata and Harin Ghata;
- ❖ Lack of public sector initiatives to develop fishery of Borguna and Bhola and the water transport industry.
- ❖ Negative attitude to work and people are generally idle;
- ❖ Land disputes;
- ❖ Less participation of women in development activities;
- ❖ Agricultural commodities do not get fair price; non-availability of fertilizer, seeds and insecticides at a 'reasonable' price;
- ❖ Inadequate supply of agricultural loans; and
- ❖ Child marriage, polygamy, divorce and superstitions.

**2. Question-3. What are the reasons behind the following group of people in your division are poor?**

*Answer:*

Sl. No.	Group of People	Reasons of Poverty
1.	People who live in the rural areas in different districts of this division.	Lack of capital; inadequate agricultural equipment and their high price; natural calamities (cyclone, tidal surge, excessive rain, river erosion); undeveloped communication system; lack of alternative employment opportunities; inadequate supply of agricultural loan / micro credit; agricultural commodity is under-priced; traditional agricultural system and dependency on single cropping; lack of social justice; red- tapism in the settlement of cases at courts; child marriage, polygamy, lack of social awareness and superstitions; unskilled, semi-skilled labour; labour does not get appropriate returns; faulty land management system; lack of education and training; lack of health facilities;
2.	People who live in the urban areas of this division.	There is no medium or large scale industry; lack of employment opportunities; unhealthy environment; river erosion and migration from the areas; high birth rate; high cost of living; inadequate supply of loans; polygamy, child marriage, divorce; unskilled labour force;
3.	People who live in <i>haor-baor</i> areas (wetland areas).	Undeveloped communication system; disadvantages of marketing the products; illiterate and unskilled labour force; lack of cultivable land; inadequate supply of loans; natural calamities; lack of employment opportunities; huge population; declining fish population in wetland areas;
4.	People who live in char areas (areas surrounded by water).	Most char areas are captured by the local influential people; tendency of natural calamity is very high; lack of employment opportunities except agriculture; lack of education and social awareness; inadequate supply of loans and capital; lack of communication with the main land; lack of security; lack of health facilities;
5.	People who live in hilly areas.	Not applicable.
6.	People who live in the coastal areas and in islands.	High prone to natural calamities; single profession employment, lack of alternative employment opportunities; non-availability of fishery resources for which the fishermen-community suffer most, lack of education and awareness; oppression by terrorists and robbers; poor access to communication system, under developed infrastructure; weak enforcement of fishery laws; disadvantages of marketing the products and failure to obtain fair price; lack of opportunity to run economic activities; insufficient number of GO and NGO programmes; salinity; oppression by pirates; lack

		of security;
7.	Boat people, floating people and those who have migrated from other places to the division.	Cannot participate in development activities due to lack of permanent residence; tendency to take the professions of ancestors and reluctance to engage in other occupations; people who use mystical methods for curing patients are losing their jobs due to increasing awareness among the masses; lack of employment of the floating and migratory people; lack of education, awareness and skills; high birth rate; instability of own profession and physical insecurity;
8.	Women and children of the division.	Presence of more <i>lathials</i> ( <i>stick-wielding people who are hired to work for others</i> ), <i>mastans</i> ( <i>musclemen/extortionists</i> ), extortionists and terrorists in this division is more than those of other divisions; women and children suffer from insecurity due to presence of these peoples and are discouraged to participate in income generating and economic activities; lack of integration of women and children into economic activities, development as well; poverty is inherited; lack of education and awareness and religious superstitions; family and social barriers; lack of employment opportunities suitable for women; physical insecurity; child marriage, divorcee and abandoned women; giving birth to many children; women receive low wage and their work is not recognized; girl child facing discrimination; children's rights are not properly considered; low budget allocation for women and children's development activities; lack of legal support to protect women from violence; inadequate health facilities; malnutrition;
9.	Other people (please specify) e.g. indigenous and religious groups, people doing menial jobs and the people with disabilities.	<u>Rakhain community of Patuakhali and Bargona:</u> Handloom and weaving industries are gradually on the wane due to lack of government patronization; physical insecurity; decay of own culture; land properties are occupied forcibly by the miscreants; failure to integrate with the mainstream of the state activities.

**Question-4. Why poverty is high at certain particular district/upazilla/location in your division?**

*Answer:*

High Poverty Prevailing Zilla/Upazilla/ Location	III. CAUSES OF POVERTY
Monpura, Charfashon, Bhola, Kathalia, Dawlat Gha, Betagi, Taltoli region, Hizla, Mehendigonj, Ujirpur,	Undeveloped and poor communication system, lack of employment opportunities; natural calamities and river erosion; lack of general, technical and vocational education; insufficient

	factories and industries; severe problems in marketing agricultural products and goods are under-priced; child marriage, polygamy, divorce tendency; prevalence of extortion, terrorist activities; decline in the availability of natural resources (such as fish); and above all, physical insecurity;
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**Question -5. Major impediments to poverty reduction in Barisal Division:**

- Inadequate physical infrastructure including roads and communication system
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Poor supply of electricity, gas and energy.
- Inadequate industrialization
- Unskilled manpower
- Natural disaster/calamities
- Farmers are not getting appropriate prices for their products
- Inadequate marketing infrastructure for aquatic and agro-products
- Presence of landlords and oppression of agro-labors by the landlords
- Lack of good governance
- Lack of investment friendly environment
- Political unrest, terrorism and lack of security of lives and wealth
- Lack of accountability and transparency in administration and local government bodies and stagnation in development process due to change in political regime
- Early marriage, dowry and religious superstition
- Inefficient management of local resources
- Insufficient healthcare and medical facilities

**Question -6. The following programmes were suggested for reducing poverty in Barishal Division:**

- Provision for adequate physical infrastructure including communication facilities
- Undertaking long term projects for poverty reduction
- Establishment of small and cottage industries and revitalizing the sick industries
- Modernization of agriculture and adequate provision for agro-machineries and equipment
- Ensuring maximum and efficient utilization of land and encouraging crop diversification
- Ensuring better participation of women in implementing development programmes
- Creating investment friendly environment in productive sectors
- Development of appropriate marketing infrastructure to ensure fair price for agro-products
- Ensure continuous and uninterrupted supply of gas and electricity
- Promoting tourism industries to flourish
- Introduction of agro-technology suitable for saline water and shrimp culture adopting modern technique
- Minimizing the role of middlemen in agro-trading
- Extension of vocational and technical education and training
- Undertaking integrated large scale fish culture project on commercial basis in rivers, marshlands ,canals and other water bodies
- Coordination between government and NGOs to facilitate easier credit schemes
- Rehabilitation of people affected by river bank erosion
- Provision for adequate credit and simplification of credit disbursement process
- Introduction of community-based hospitals

**Question-7. Prioritization of proposed programmes/projects:**

- Sweeping reforms in agriculture including crop/product diversification
- Management of natural calamities and awareness building
- Developing adequate physical infrastructure including communication networks
- Establishment of small and cottage industries, agro-processing units in suitable regions
- Emphasizing development of sea beaches and other support infrastructures to facilitate tourism industries in Kuakata
- Extension of technical, vocational and general education
- Special programmes for rehabilitation of people affected by river-bank erosion
- Provision for cheap credit for landless and other vulnerable groups
- Ensuring better healthcare facilities

**Question-8. Resources and opportunities for development:**

All the groups were quite aware of the natural resource endowments and opportunities for development of this division. The following suggestions/recommendations came out of detailed and exhaustive discussions:

**I. Water Resources**

- a. extensive fish culture in different water bodies, establishment of fish preservation and processing industries
- b. keeping the water ways navigable through dredging and canal digging
- c. introduction of modern irrigation system
- d. reducing use of underground water and increasing the use of surface water including rain-water
- e. undertaking arsenic mitigation programmes and
- f. improved management of sluice gates and dams

**II. Land**

- a. introduction of integrated farm management system including multi-cropping arrangements
- b. distribution of khas (abandoned) land among the landless
- c. bringing the arid land into irrigation coverage and promoting fish cultivation

**III. Forest**

- a. introduction of integrated social forestation programs on participatory basis
- b. extension and protection of coastal forest
- c. plantation of medicinal and fruit bearing trees

**IV. Agriculture**

- a. introduction of integrated farm management system and diversification of crops/agro-products
- b. introduction of scientific methods in agriculture
- c. provision for subsidized seed, fertilizer, pesticides and machineries
- d. ensuring fair price for the farmers through better marketing facilities
- e. concession loans/credit for the farmers and financial aid in time of natural disasters

**V. Tourism**

- a. development of Kuakata sea beach into a world class one
- b. developing support infrastructure facilities like construction of roads, bridges, hotels etc.
- c. improving the law and order and security measures

**VI. Small and Cottage Industries**

- a. establishment of agro-processing industries including locally produced fruit processing units
- b. supporting technically as well as financially to flourish inland water transport industry

**Question-9. Empowerment and participation of poor in development process:**

- Awareness building among the poor and enlightening them about rights
- Ensuring representation of the poor, landless, daily labors, low income people in decision making process
- Organizing the poor and the vulnerable and other professionals into cooperatives and enhance their socio-economic capability
- Reducing undue political intervention and partisan views

**Question-10. Please give an account of the progress so far made in terms of poverty reduction and socio-economic development in other areas of the country:**

- Noticeable increase of enrollment rate in primary education including expansion of secondary education
- Reduction in child mortality rate, improved public health through EPI, sanitation and diarrhea disease control
- Development of agriculture specially through extensive poultry, fish culture, nursery and forestation
- Discernible progress in transport and communication system particularly in areas of roads construction and telecommunications
- Success in micro credit programs specially in disbursement
- Increased women's stake in garments industry
- Extensive training programmes on agriculture, healthcare and education
- Enhanced awareness in socio-political life
- Women's participation enhanced in various fields and noticeable reduction in gender discrimination

**Question-11. Please mention some of the areas where situation in terms of governance and socio-economic development has deteriorated:**

- Deterioration of law and order situation
- Extreme sense of insecurity in terms of life and wealth
- Pervasive corruption, nepotism and undue lobbying for favor
- Increased presence of bureaucracy, dismal situation in terms of transparency and accountability
- Time consuming, lengthy and increasingly distorted judiciary
- Increasing trends of harassments against women (acid throwing, fire burning, mental and physical oppression)
- Squeezing out employment opportunities and nepotism for new employments
- Price hikes for essentials and reduction of real income/purchasing power
- Mobilization of domestic resources is becoming problematic and drying up opportunities for productive investment
- Political unrest and confrontational politics and non-functioning of parliamentary system sinking it to one party show.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

**PRSP Status Report: Appendix B**

**Consultation at Regional Level  
Chittagong Division**

**April 15, 2004**

**PARTICIPATORY DISCUSSION ON POVERTY**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
GENERAL ECONOMIC DIVISION  
(NATIONAL POVERTY FOCAL POINT)**

## **1. Definition of Poverty**

Poverty is the extreme discrimination in terms of balanced diet, clothing, education, health, housing, achieving wealth, enjoying equal right of social and political activities and in getting justice.

Poverty means the deprivation of basic needs acknowledged by constitution.

## **2. Causes of poverty**

The reasons of poverty cited in this division are as follows:

- Natural calamities, river erosion;
- Lack of proper education and employment opportunities;
- Inadequacy of capital;
- Lack of cooperative attitude;
- Lack of right decision making;
- Landlessness;
- Terrorism and corruption;
- Unequal distribution of resources;
- Reluctant to work;
- Over population;
- Prejudice;
- Exploitation;
- Low rate of wage/salaries;
- Lack of agrarian land;
- Lack of proper planning;
- Industrialization Stagnancy;
- Undeveloped communication system;
- Not getting the fair price of product;
- Unawareness;
- Political instability;
- Problem of easy terms credit facilities;
- Gender inequality;
- Less participation of women in development activities;
- Poor health and malnutrition;
- Deterioration of law and order situation;
- Less enjoying of government service ;

**3. Reasons behind poverty of the following group of people in Chittagong division.**

Sl. No.	Group of People	Reasons of Poverty
10.	People live in the rural areas	Lack of education, Over population, Unemployment, unequal distribution of resource, Limitation of Resources, Corruption, Disguise unemployment, Prejudice, Unawareness of health care, Lack of arable land, Non profitable agriculture system, Undeveloped communication, Natural calamities (river erosion), Landlessness, Lack of capital, Traditional cultivation system, Deprivation of farmers from fair price, Lack of alternative employment opportunity.
11.	People live in the urban areas.	Lack of labor intensive industry, Illegal ransacking and terrorism, Low wage, Corruption, Faulty and inadequate credit system, Illiteracy, Insufficient employment opportunity, Over population, Drug abuse, Lack of modern technological knowledge, Reluctant to work, Exorbitance of unskilled man power, Lack of own homestead, Incapability of minimum income, Unplanned migration, Lack of vocational education, Rising price level, Unequal distribution of income.
12.	People live in bill, haor-baor areas.	Undeveloped communication system, Seasonal unemployment, Lack of education, Insufficient employment opportunity, Low irrigated area, Less awareness regarding health, Natural disaster/river erosion, Occupational conflict of sandy strip(char), Landless, Low wage of worker, Instability, Oppression of pirate, Violence, Less availability of Fisheries-main source livelihood, Inadequate operating capital, Presence of intermediaries, Dependency on nature, Insufficient credit facilities.
13.	People live in char areas.	Undeveloped communication system, Seasonal unemployment, Lack of education, lack of employment, Early marriage and polygamy, Natural calamities, Problems regarding actual ownership of land, Inadequacy of capital, Lack of proper planning, Oppression of char terrorist, River erosion, Terrorism, Less effective government administration, Over population .
14.	People live in hilly areas.	Inadequacy of cultivable land, Land ownership problem, Problem of proper marketing and fair price of product, Undeveloped communication system, Lack of education, Unavailability of agrarian land, Unplanned zoom cultivation, Problem of getting work round the year, Lack of skill, Uneven land, Lack of industry, Lack of capital, Lack of market facilities, Lack of planning, Less co-operation of administration, Poor land management, Terrorism, Minority problem,

		Problem of zoom cultivation based agriculture, Political instability, Limited employment, Low productivity of agriculture, Non-cooperation between hilly and Bengali people.
15.	People live in the coastal area and islands.	Undeveloped communication system, Natural calamities/river erosion, Lack of education, Inadequate capital, Oppression of pirate, Exorbitance of population, Problem related to usury interest, Problems regarding actual ownership of land, Problems related to allocate Khash/fallow land among landless, Lack of planning and adequate capital, Inadequate government assistance, Lack of Proper planning for disaster management, Insufficient training and extension services, Unavailability of agrarian land, lack of employment opportunities.
16.	Nomad, floating people and migrated from other places.	Lack of education and efficiency, Reluctant to work, Unawareness, Temporary settlement, Poor health, Lack of employment opportunities, Isolation from main stream of society, Low level of income, Leading nomad life, Prejudice.
17.	Women and children	Pious and prejudice, Lack of education, malnutrition, Social discrimination, Giving birth more child, Lack of healthcare, Economic insolvency, Housing problem, Poor health, Inadequate employment opportunities, Disfavorable social environment, Lack of awareness, Death/separation of earning members, Polygamy, Discrimination of wage rate, Insecurity; Women oppression and trafficking , Male dominancy , Inability to pertain decision making.
18.	Other people (please specify) e.g. Disabled, Cobbler, Coaster belt, Shaotal, Horizon, Sex worker, Hermaphrodite, Fisherman, Salt farmer.	<b>Disabled:</b> Lack of education and employment opportunities, prejudice. <b>Cobbler:</b> Temporary settlement, Lack of employment.

#### 4. Why poverty is high at any particular district/upazilla/location in your division?

High Poverty Prevailing Zilla/Upazilla/ Location	IV. CAUSES OF POVERTY
Hilly area, Hatia.	Lack of education, Undeveloped communication system, Marketing problem, landlessness, Lack of production and investment.
Khagrachari, Bandarban, Rangamati, Bashkhali.	Lack of education ,Natural calamities, Inaccessible hill, undeveloped communication system, Lack of agrarian land, Lack of investment, Inadequacy of capital, Unawareness.
Ramgoti, Nandipur, Luksham, Nasirnagar & Haimchar.	Illiteracy, Dependency on agriculture, Lack of industrialization, Undeveloped communication system , Over population .
Ramgar,	Natural calamities, Promlem of land ownership,

Bashkhali, Alikadom, Chandpur, Nasimnagar.	Lack of education, Lack of capital, Undeveloped communication system.
Hilly Districts, Chars of Nandipur and other islands	Lack of employment opportunities, Low per capita income, Marketing problems of commodities, Lack of training and education, Inadequate communication system.
Meghna Upazilla, Mahesh Khali Kutubdia, Urirchar, Buarchar, Char Jabbar, Nijhum dwip	Lack of own land, Undeveloped education and communication system, Lack of plane and cultivable land, Lack of unemployment, Too much dependency on fishing, River erosion, Lack of government patronage, Lack of proper politics, Vindictive politics,
Haimchar, Lakhmipur, Chandpur, Khagrachari.	Natural calamities, Lack of employment opportunities, Inadequate resources, Undeveloped communication system, Insecurity.
Neazpur UP	River erosion, Homeless and workless.
Sandwip, Sitakand, Mirsarai, Ramgati-Noakhali	Zoom dependency agriculture, Natural calamities, Insufficient food supply, Ineffective administration, Lack of education and health service.

## 5. Major impediments of Poverty Reduction in Chittagong Division

- Lack of agro- based industries;
- Unemployment;
- Terrorism and corruption ;
- Undeveloped communication system;
- Lack of general and vocational education;
- Lack of social security;
- Over Population;
- Lack of generating new employment opportunity;
- Not introducing modern agricultural system;
- Low per capita land holding;
- Lack of proper coordination in development activities;
- Deterioration of law and order situation;
- Low rate of education;
- Inadequate capital for industrialization ;
- Inadequacy of agricultural land;
- Fragmentation of agricultural lands;
- Lack of technical education;
- Absence of proper foreign investment environment
- Rising price level of essentials ;
- Hartal and strike;
- Low savings
- Lack of investment;
- Inadequate communication system;

- Improper and delayed implementation of the development projects;
- Deprivation from health service;
- Lack of technology ;
- Lack of coordination;
- Lack of infrastructural development;
- Lack of finance;
- Nepotism and biasness in providing assistance ;
- Harassment and corruption in disbursement of bank credit ;
- Lack of poverty identification system ;
- Political instability;
- Lack of security;
- Lack of transparency and accountability in administration;

**6. The following programs were suggested for reducing poverty in the Chittagong Division**

- Improvement of law and order situation ;
- Establishment of agro- based industries;
- Generating employment opportunities for all;
- Development of communication system ;
- Development of education for all/ technical education ;
- Control of Population growth;
- Establishment of small and cottage industries ;
- Providing capital on easy terms for employment generation ;
- Entry corruption ;
- Disbursing credit on easy terms amongst landless and marginal farmers ;
- Ensuring HYV seeds and modern cultivation system in agriculture ;
- Direct involvement of the poor in formulating plan ;
- Introducing effective cooperative system for production and consumption ;
- Creating micro savings and investment opportunity;
- Make the fellow land cultivable ;
- Make the unemployed manpower efficient by formulating effective plan ;
- Expansion of information technology ;
- Land reform and land distribution among the landless;
- Ensuring equal distribution of resources;

- Enhancing skill of the poor for challenging the natural disaster ;
- Extending health service among the poor;
- Ensuring social security for all;
- Take initiative against violence and vindictive politics;

#### **7. Prioritization of proposed programs/projects:**

- Development of Communication system;
- Control population growth ;
- Improvement of law and order situation;
- Ensuring proper utilization of land;
- Development of skill human resource and export ;
- Introducing standard, Unique/indiscriminate and job oriented educational system;
- Poverty alleviation through enhancement of goat raring;
- Housing project for homeless ;
- Entry corruption;
- Generation of employment opportunity;
- Raring dairy and poultry;
- Improvement of health care;
- Introducing micro credit and modernization of agriculture;
- Improvement of electricity supply and establishment of industries;
- Increasing government investment in agriculture and industrial sector;
- Expansion of micro credit projects in various sectors;
- Strengthening the supervision of loan disbursement program;
- Control population explosion;
- Domestic seasonal fruits cultivation projects;
- Development of entrepreneurship ;
- Providing adequate capital;
- Land reforms and distribution of land among landless ;
- Skill enhancement and employment generation for the poor;
- Fisheries, livestock and poultry development projects;
- Small scale weaving projects in hilly areas ;
- Family based small tea cultivation projects ;
- Rubber plantation projects ;
- Financial assistance for the disables ;
- Sealed toilet sanitation projects;
- Forestation projects;
- Food for education and work program ;
- Stipend program for secondary and higher secondary female students;
- Old age allowances program;
- Assistance for distressed ,widows and landless women;
- Providing credit at low interest rate;

## **8. Recommendations for development of resources and opportunities in Chitagong Division**

### **Water:**

- Undertake small scales hydro electric project ;
- Development of crop industries through establishing small water reservoirs;
- Make the Chittagong sea port more dynamic by using water flow of turbine system between the Matamuhuri and Feni river of Chitttagong
- Get arsenic free water, storage of fresh water (by increasing in navigability of rivers and connecting cannels);
- Modernization and expansion of Chittagong sea port ;
- Procurement, preservation and marketing of sea resources like sand, Snails, seashells , stone chip and green moss.

### **Forest:**

- Establishment of forest-based industries through extensive afforestation in participatory basis;
- Creating new forests and proper application of existing forest laws for procurement of wood products;
- Forestation of hilly areas and stop hill excavation ;
- Proper utilization of forest resources and preservation of forest;
- Forestation in coastal belt;
- Cultivation of fruit in fellow land;

### **Tourism:**

- Establishment of tourism center by creating lakes in hilly areas ;
- Identification of new tourism spot ;
- Development of communication system;
- Encouragement and motivation of mass people about tourism ;
- Get media coverage for publicity;
- Improvement of law and order situation ;
- Stop terrorism;

### **Agriculture:**

- Development of preservation system of agricultural products;
- Promoting investment for processing in EPZ;
- Ensuring irrigation system;
- Adopting integrated pest management (IPM) policy;
- Proper marketing ;
- Bring the hilly areas under cultivation;
- Introducing modern technology in existing agricultural system ;



- Undertaking effective program through cultivation and preservation of honey and herbal trees;
- Introducing multi-cropping system in vast areas;

**Fisheries:**

- Encouragement of dried fish industry
- Development of fisheries and organic resources through research ;
- Encouraging cultivation of fish, shrimp and salt in coastal areas and enhancement of investment ;
- Undertaken planned program in fish cultivation ;

**Land:**

- Arresting unplanned use of land;
- Formulation of laws relating to unplanned establishment of mills and factories and homestead ;
- Accommodations of homeless using unused lands;
- Modern cultivation in recovered land and land received by island research;

**Small and medium Industries:**

- Reducing rate of interest of micro credit;
- Political encouragement to this industry;
- Creating employment opportunity by expansion of small and medium scale industries;
- Expansion of handicrafts and cottage industries ;

**Others:**

- Strengthening the expansion of poultry and livestock ;
- Generation of oil and electricity from gas and enhancing the use of CNG in transports;
- Proper survey of mineral resources
- Ensuring of proper utilization of resources ;

**9. Recommendation for ensuring the empowerment and participation of decision making process of the poor in development activities:**

- Identify problems and solutions locally;
- Ensuring participation of the poor in poverty alleviation activities through cooperative society;
- Introducing easy credit disbursement program;
- Ensuring involvement and participation of the poor people in local government system, local industry , NGO and in other activities;

- Involve poor of their participation in empowerment and decision-making process and also help them attain self-awareness;
- Giving emphasis on the opinion of the poor in formulation of plan;

**10. An account of the progress so far made in terms of poverty alleviation and development.**

- Agriculture Sector ( including poultry, fish cultivation, Forestation, tree plantation )
- Growth of ready made garments
- Introduction of widow allowances
- Extension of micro-credit program
- Women empowerment
- Improvement of communication and transportation
- Female education and their employment
- Food for works
- Canal digging
- Free education for female
- Immunization program
- Reduction of child death rate
- Noticeable reduction of population growth
- Improvement of education and health sector

**11. Areas where situation in terms governance and development has been deteriorated.**

- Deterioration of law and order situation
  - Corruption, terrorism and nepotism
  - Failure to control terrorism
  - Trend of increasing price level of essentials
  - Discontinuation of implementing development project
  - Lack of co-ordination and co-operation among different government sectors
  - Slow growth of privatization
  - Politicization
  - Deterioration related to good governance in every sector
  - Illegal ransacker and smuggling
  - Widespread Drug abuse
  - Increasing robbery/murder
  - Harassment in judiciary
- 
- Common people and Government servants are discriminated in opportunities
  - Political instability
  - Erosion of morality
  - Lack of friendly investment environment
  - Increasing hortal/strike
  - Increasing unemployment

- Lack of accountability and coordination in public sector
- Ineffective agro-based economy
- Bureaucratic complicacy
- Conflicting politics
- Terrorism in educational institution
- Quality deterioration in education
- Extreme deterioration of judicial system
- Judicial Procrastination

#### Summaries of Question-4

<b>High Poverty Prevailing Zilla/Upazilla/Location</b>	<b>V. CAUSES OF POVERTY</b>
Hilly area, : Khagrachari, Bandarban, Rangamati, Alikadam, Bashkhali, Sitakand, Mirsarai, Ramgar.	Lack of education and training, Undeveloped communication system, Marketing problem, landlessness, Lack of production and investment, Zoom dependency agriculture, Inaccessible hill, Unawareness. Lack of employment opportunities, Lack of agrarian land, Inadequacy of capital, Insecurity, Natural calamities.
Hatia, Sandwip, Chandpur, Neazpur UP	Lack of education and Health, Natural calamities, River erosion, Lack of employment opportunities, Inadequacy of resources, Undeveloped communication system, Insufficient food supply, Ineffective administration, Homeless and workless.
Sandy strips (Chars) of Nandipur, Nasirnagar, Ramgati & Haimchar and other islands	Lack of employment opportunities, Low per capita income, Marketing problems of commodities, Lack of training and education, Inadequate communication system, Insecurity, Problem of land ownership.
Meghna Upazilla, Mahesh Khali Kutubdia, Urirchar, Buarchar, Char Jabbar, Nijhum dwip	Lack of own land, undeveloped education and communication system, Lack of plane and cultivable land, Lack of unemployment, Too much dependency on fishing, River erosion, Lack of government patronage, Lack of proper politics, Vindictive politics,
Lakhmipur, Luksham, Nasimnagar.	Natural calamities, Lack of employment opportunities, Inadequate resources, Undeveloped communication system, Insecurity, Lack of industrialization, Dependence on agriculture, Over population.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

**PRSP Status Report: Appendix C-E**

**Participatory Consultation Meetings for PRSP  
Formulation at Six Divisional Levels**

**March-April, 2004**

**SUBJECT ORIENTED DISCUSSION AND  
GUIDELINES**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
GENERAL ECONOMIC DIVISION  
(NATIONAL POVERTY FOCAL POINT)**

## ***PRSP Status Report: Appendix C***

### **HEALTH**

#### **POPULATION PLANNING, NUTRITION, SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

##### **Introduction:**

The existing problems and constraints in Health and Family Planning services are the outcome of non-satisfactory performance. Participatory Consultations Meetings at the national and six divisional levels (Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet) on 'Health (Population planning, Nutrition, Safe food and drinking water and Sanitation)' have identified the following problems, constraints in this regard and also recommended some remedies. The constraints and the problems can be classified into three categories, which are as follows;

##### **Problems and constraints in Health and Family Planning services:**

###### *A) Managerial problems*

Lack of specific and up to date policy for 'Health and Family Planning' is mentioned as a fundamental problem in the meetings. In addition, following problems regarding this issue also been related:

- Lack of manpower;
- Lack of coordination between health, nutrition and sanitation services;
- Lack of independent and satisfactory working environment for the officers;
- Insufficient logistic support for development and maintenance of existing infrastructure;
- Lack administrative continuity;
- Lack of appreciations for good services and vice versa;
- Lack of attendance of doctors and officers in their working place;
- Lack of monitoring, supervision and accountability;
- Lack and misuse of necessary equipments/medicines in the health centers;
- Lack of associations of public representative and people in the health service;
- Lack of cleanliness;
- Lack of proper educational support and housing facility for officer's/worker's family;
- Lack of service providing attitude;
- Lack of budget and its inconveniency.

###### *B) Natural and Infrastructural constraints*

Geographical condition and insufficient infrastructure in the remote areas been stated as a crucial natural and infrastructural constraints. Specifically the constraints in this regard can be stated as follow:

- There are not enough transportation, equipment, and other health service related outfits in the islands, strip of sandy lands and remote areas;
- There is no 'Community clinic' in the strip of sandy lands (*Char areas*);
- Improper placement of 'Community clinic' in many areas;
- Lack of field workers;
- Lack of coordination between different divisions in the *Upazilla* levels;
- Improper housing facilities for the officers and doctors;
- Defective medical equipments like x-ray machines.

### C) *Other problems*

Besides the administrative and managerial problems and the natural and infrastructural constraints, health and family planning services face other bottlenecks. Illiteracy, superstitions and lack of proper education cause obstacles for health and family planning services. There are also scarcity of health centers and as well as inconveniencies. Lack of self-sufficient operation theater and aesthesis in the *Upazilla* level also create problems. They're always communication difficulties during natural disaster. There is no expertise to face emergency situation in the village areas. We don't have any ship-ambulance.

### **Recommended actions for Health and Family Planning service for poor people:**

Discussants of the Participatory Consultations Meetings have also outlined recommendations to overcome the hindrances in Health and Family Planning service sectors. The following measures can be taken to improve the service:

- Provide surgeons, medicines, nursing and maternity specialists in the 50 seated *Upazilla Health Complexes*;
- Establishment and self sufficiency of the 5 seated *Union Health & Family Planning Center*;
- Establishment of minimum a Health Center for three wards in the Unions;
- Try to solve the managerial and administrative problems regarding this matter;
- Create awareness among the people for the available services;
- Avoid duplication between government and private health care services;
- Co operations between government agencies and NGO's through local level coordination meetings;
- Appoint one MBBS doctor in the *Union* level;
- Ensure regular attendance of doctors and officials;
- Arrange regular meeting of local health management and advisory boards;
- Decentralizations of health management system and ensure participations of the local governments;
- Provide training to the village doctors and nurses and connect them in the government system;
- Prepare and implement 'National Health Policy';
- Ensure accountability, monitoring and supervision at all levels;

- Make the Community clinics active by providing necessary inputs;
- Appoint new doctors and nurses and health care related workers if needed;
- Ensure continuous electricity and water service in the hospitals and also raise the number of beds in the hospitals and ensure proper diagnosis facilities;
- Conditions of roads and bridges in the rural areas needed to be improved;
- Strict 'transfer rules' must be followed for the government officials;
- Ensure improved information system;
- Ensure adequate supply of required medicines, equipments, machinery, transport facilities and logistical support for all the service centers;
- Formulation of a local committee to identify the poor, classify them and listing them and ensure services to them;

### **Recommended program for special group of people:**

Participatory Consultations Meetings have also come up with some suggestions for special programs for different classes especially for the children under five, fertile women and for pregnant women too. The recommendations can be stated as followed;

#### *A) Children under five:*

Health care service for the children under five has been categorized into two classes in the meetings, which are:

#### **(i) Things should be done for children's improved nutrition**

- The ongoing Nutrition project needed to be conducted in every division of the country;
- Motivation for breast feeding needed to be strengthened;
- Education for nutrition should be strengthened;
- Create more awareness through schools, radio, television and mosques;
- NNP should be launched in each *Upazilla*;
- Kitchen gardening should be encouraged;
- Projects should be taken and monitored to provide nutritious food;
- Generate more awareness through forming different active committees;
- Engender awareness among the pregnant mother and the father for their kid's nutrition and its importance;
- Infrastructural improvement is also required;
- Training should be given to the mothers;
- Establishment of Union Health Center and provide health care service to children;
- Special nutritious food (mixture of rice, pulses and oil) can be distributed between the rural people through the field workers and also maintain a growth chart;
- Integrated government and private nutrition programs;

**(ii) Things should be done to reduce the chance of getting sick**

- Aware parents about their kids health conditions;
- Cover all children under the national immunization program;
- Successful immunization of Hepatitis B to all children;
- Uphold the Vitamin A campaign;
- Antenatal Care (ANC), Pre-natal Care (PNC) projects needed to be strengthened;
- Ensure Tetanus (TT) vaccination;
- Ensure safe injection and blood transmission arrangement;
- Ensure breast feeding for at least 2 years;
- Strengthen the Essential Service Pack, Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Extended Program for Immunization (EPI) program;
- Establishment of service providing center;
- Diarrhea awareness and train people to prepare oral saline;
- Arrange preventives for worms.

*B) Women with fertility:*

Health care service for women with fertility has also been considered into two classes in the meetings, which are:

**(i) Things should be done to improve nutrition for fertile women's**

- Strengthen women's health and nutrition education;
- Encourage cheap nutritious food habit;
- Diet food for mother needed to be ensured;
- Compassionate attitude towards mother by the family member;
- Arrange recreation facilities for the mothers;
- Generate awareness into each class of the society by the professionals;
- Media coverage needed to be strengthened;
- Ensure maternity leave-salary-allowances in the mills and factories;
- Ensure family planning consultation, 20 is the minimum age of giving first birth, 3 years of minimum pregnancy interval;
- Remove superstitions through proper health education;
- Remove social discrimination;
- Provide necessary trainings regarding mother's health care among the field workers;
- A fund should be formed for safe delivery;
- Projects should be taken by different registered social organizations about safe delivery;
- Stamp out child and multi marriages.



**(ii) Things should be done to reduce the chance of getting sick**

- Create awareness about AIDS and other infectious diseases specially among the truck driver, rickshaw-puller and daily workers;
- Ensure rigorous check up on each country's entryway;
- Educate people about AIDS properly through media;
- Encourage people to follow religious prohibition;
- Produce awareness among the floating women and encourage massive use of condoms;
- Ensure safe injection and blood transmission system;
- Ensure TT vaccination;

*C) Pregnant women:*

Participatory consultation meetings mostly came out with some suggestions to improve quality health care services for the pregnant women, which can be categorized as follows:

**(i) Things should be done during pregnancies**

- Enlisted pregnant women and ensure minimum 4 times services by the FWC;
- Ensure ANC service and door step services;
- Provide special care of pregnant women with difficulties;
- Ensure routine check up, 3 times registration and diets during pregnancies;
- Massive awareness creation regarding 5 dangers of pregnancies through distribution of books;
- Aware people about 3 'D';
- Ensure effective hospital/clinic services for pregnant women;
- Increase and train TBA workers;

**(ii) Things should be done for safe delivery**

- Identify pregnant women with difficulties and ensure treatment by the specialists, if needed;
- Ensure institutionalized delivery and also make sure delivery by trained nurses for not interested people;
- Enhance follow ups during delivery;
- Discourage people about home delivery;
- Ensure proper timing, finance and transportation facilities during delivery;
- Put a stop to 3 delays on delivery;
- Provisions for taking paternity leave for at least 7 days;

**(iii) Things should be done after delivery**

- Provide PN counseling;
- Ensure complete breast feeding;

- Ensure taking Vitamin A after 14 days of delivery through routine check up;
- Massive awareness creation regarding 5 dangers of pregnancies through distribution of books;
- Ensure mother's nutrition for preventing child blindness;
- Follow up must be governed by the health and family planning workers;
- Financial help needed to be provided to the poor pregnant women locally;
- Strengthen Family planning division;
- Regular supervision of newborn babies and mothers by both government and private agencies till 45 days after delivery;
- Minimum 2 time check up within 6 weak;
- Introduce pregnancy allowance (only for 2 children) for absolutely poor women.

*D) Old and Physically disabled person:*

In the meetings the discussant suggested some recommendations for the old and physically disabled people, which are mainly;

- Establishment of Old homes;
- Ensure old age allowance as a honorable stipend;
- Special transport and health care benefits should be granted for oldies;
- Special service should be given to oldies in every government departments;
- Make available service to mentally disabled also;
- A hospital for physically and mentally sick people;
- Build sympathetic attitude towards oldies and disabled by the family members;
- 50% discount in every transport facilities and ensure seat reservation;
- Arrange special bed in hospitals and a different unit too;
- More allocation of government grants in Social Welfare directorate;
- Classification of old age people and disabled;
- Ensure medical service with priority;
- Raise the number and amount of old age allowance;
- Introduction of Health card in government hospitals for better service;

**Recommended measures for Safe drinking water and Sanitation for poor people**

In the meetings issues about better sanitation and safe drinking water for poor have specially been given emphasized. Following suggestions are the vitals along with lots of other recommendations;

- Vast campaign for using 'Surface water';
- Subsidies should be given to rural areas;
- Create awareness about safe drinking water and sanitation;
- Coordination of Zilla, *Upzilla and Union* committees;
- Incorporation of private sector and NGO's;

- Arrange Deep tube-wells for ensuring iron and arsenic free water;
- Inform people about 'standard layer' regarding different places;
- Adequate allocation of government funds should be provided to the local governments;
- Ensure use of latrine for all and provisions for strong administrative proceeding for not using latrine;
- Preserve minimum 1 secure pond in each village;
- Introduce rain water preservation;
- Preservation of water to ensure safe drinking water in case of natural calamities;
- Distribution of water purifying tablets in every village;
- Programs needed to be made effective by WASA;
- Enhance water purifying and sanitation awareness among the slum dwellers;
- NGO's should be incorporated;
- Preservation of rain water in the hilly areas;
- Massive awareness about sanitation throughout the country;
- Local government should take initiatives;
- Modernization of drainage and sewerage system in city areas;
- Modernization of water management system;
- Sanitation exhibition can be organized;
- Community based safe water service through people's participation;
- Activating Watson committee in every case;
- Proper utilization of government funds and grants;
- Arrange participatory community latrine for the landless people;
- Availability of sanitary equipments in rural areas;
- Government may construct latrine for the hardcore poor;
- Strict implementation of 'environment policy';
- Ensure safe water and sanitation by both government and private agencies;
- Encourage entrepreneurs (for making economic hygiene latrine);
- Encourage people to clean community latrines;
- Encourage private laboratory;
- Long term planning is needed through a coordinated process between government, NGO's and donors to avoid duplications;
- Allocation of more funds for *Barishal* Division;
- Ensure boil or filtration of pond's water;

**Recommended strategies for an integrated 'Health, Family planning, Nutrition and Sanitation system'**

The meetings lay emphasis on an 'integrated health service' through a proper coordination and cooperation between government agencies, local government, rich people, private organizations, peoples' participation and local youths as voluntary workers. The suggestions are summarized as follows:

- Decentralization of administration and ensure accountability;
- Independency and assistance should be provided to the local government for implementing national programs;
- Originate a committee in *Gram Sarker* or *Union Parishad* level and create a fund where government provide the subsidy;
- Encourage local rich people's participation in fund raising;
- Voluntary clinic can be established by the rich class;
- Enhance participation of private and other associations;
- Rural oriented programmed should be taken by the big NGOs;
- Local community clinics can be directed by the NGOs too;
- Instigate local committees for hospital management and arrange regular meetings and strengthen monitoring;
- Train interested local youths as volunteers and create awareness about STD, AIDS and HIV;
- Local imams may aware people after the prayer;
- Train different professional like TBA, Village doctor and SBA to improve the quality in service;
- Grants can be given by the rich class to the social welfare division;

### **Recommended activities for massive awareness on Health, Family planning and Sanitation**

The meetings also outlined some suggestions on how to create massive awareness among the people on health, family planning and sanitation through programs by educational institutions, media coverage and by others. The recommendations are summarized below:

- Enhance awareness program by schools/mosques/*madrassa* /temples /church;
- Health awareness curriculum should be included in the formal and informal education;
- Teachers training by the field workers and can also form children brigade;
- Ensure proper utilization of information technology;
- More incorporation of radio and television and private sector;
- Provide big signboards in the sandy lands (*Char area*) and ensure essential communication facilities;
- Appointment of physical instructor in every government/non government schools;
- Arrange guardians meetings regularly;
- Create awareness through poster, video and local songs (*Jari, Shari*), newspaper, weekly health bulletin etc.;
- Introduce 'school health program' and ensure accountability of the concerned person;

### **Recommendations for private hospitals, pharmacies and diagnostic centers**

Private hospitals are also providing health services depending on their commercial benefits. The consultation meetings also emphasized on people's welfare by the private health services along with a understandable profit margin. In this regard, the discussant came out with the following suggestions:

- First, it is important to prepare a policy and proper monitoring;
- Help government by providing free medical services for poor and engender awareness;
- Government can fix a reasonable rate and provide a chart for that;
- Private clinic owners can be taxed and the money can be spent on hardcore poor;
- Ensure reasonable medicine price in every pharmacies;
- Rate needed to be fixed by the government specially for diagnostic centers and clinics and strict implementation of rules and regulations;
- Doctors should also be monitored;
- Ensure proper implementation of 'National health policy';
- Implementation of 'medicine policy';
- Reduce tax on health service related machineries/equipments;

#### **Other reasons for non-satisfactory outcomes and the remedies**

The consultation meetings have also identified some hidden impediments in health care service, which are stated below:

- Poor often get harassed by the middlemen working in the hospitals;
- Continuous absence of doctors in the hospitals and inclined with private practice;
- Unnecessary diagnosis consultation;
- Overall hospital mismanagement;
- Insufficient budget
- Insufficient number of doctors against each patient;
- Insufficient number of hospitals bed;
- Lack of ambulance and other health care equipments;
- Misuse of medicine;
- Disturbance by the Medical representatives;
- Lack of quality food;
- Extra fees often been charged to the poor;

The meetings have decided some remedies too, which are:

- Allocation of funds;
- Accountability of the health service provider;
- Discourage doctors for private practices by providing non practicing allowance;
- Prohibit unnecessary diagnosis by law enforcement;
- Political influence should be stopped immediately;

- Raise the number of doctors and beds;
- Special allowance can be provided to doctor and workers who are working in the rural areas;
- Ensure health care services to the identified poor;
- Maintain privacy in treatment for women;
- Government fees should be in a round figure;
- Ensure quality food;
- Appoint skilled workers;
- Remove administrative complexities;

The meetings also discussed about some specific existing problems in health care services which are not only responsible for dissatisfaction but also create more economic vulnerability, which includes:

- Doctors and other health workers often influence patients to transfer in a private clinic from government hospitals. As a result poverty increased and frustration among the poor rise;
- Unnecessary diagnosis also make poor people more poor;
- Doctors, nurses and other health workers in government hospitals are often neglect poor people;
- Incidence of wrong treatment/diagnosis repeatedly happened which also produce frustrations and dissatisfaction;

### **Conclusion**

Besides stated agenda, the meetings also outlined some recommendation for overall health care service. The discussant suggested door-to-door medical service in near future specially to create awareness. A proper coordination between different classes including professionals, doctors, lawyers, politicians and elite grouped is very much needed. Existing community clinics should come into operation so that, it can provide an expected services. Establishment of 'Trauma Hospital' can also provide effective health service during emergencies.

## ***PRSP Status Report: Appendix D***

### **ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS**

#### **Introduction**

On earth men & women are born with equal rights and privileges. In spite of those men consumed more in the name of heredity, customs, and social values. These privileges make them powerful. Since our society is controlled & dominated by men, it is obviously understood that men feel inclined to exercise their power, domination & superiority over women. Statistics shows that women constitute half of the population in the country. But they don't get sufficient advantages or they cannot claim their preferential right to society. Exploitation & discrepancy prevail throughout the country. And poverty as a curse, adds more troubles to it. By this adversity, most of the people especially women are damped. So, women will be victims of oppression.

#### **Nature and magnitudes of women poverty**

a. Income poverty:

It means that the income measure where a critical minimal level of income called poverty line income (PLI) required supporting a predetermined minimum living standard is calculated.

b. Human poverty:

It relates to identifying basic needs in physical terms & measuring the degree of satisfaction of these needs. Usually termed the unsatisfied basic needs index. Three broad dimensions of human poverty are considered: deprivation of health, deprivation in education, and deprivation in nutrition (including food security).

#### **Poverty of female-headed family**

There is a high incidence of poverty among women. Since women are intimately involved in caring children, the economic and social conditions of women deteriorate rapidly in the event of any accident (man made or natural).

#### **Causes of poverty**

The following factors have been identified for widespread incidence of poverty among women:

- Child marriage, polygamy and divorce;
- Giving birth of many child;
- Lack of involvement and opportunity to participate in economic activities;
- Wage discrimination;
- Lack of education and skill;
- Lack of access to and control of assets;
- Natural disasters (tornado, cyclone, river erosion)

#### **Measures of poverty reduction**

The following measures have been identified in the participatory consultation meetings for poverty reduction of women:

**a. Short run:**

- Expanding the scope of VGD and similar other programs for the poor women;
- Creating opportunity of income- generating activities;
- Providing credit support;
- Ensuring wage equity between male and female worker;

**b. Long run:**

- Strict implementation of laws relating child marriage, polygamy and dowry;
- Expanding education and vocational training;
- Increasing opportunities for participation in economic activities;
- Ensuring social security;

**Problems of working women**

- Non suitable working field
- Patriarchal mentality
- Lack of social awareness

**Oppression/violence to women**

The participants in the regional meetings commented that increasing oppression of and violence to women have been acting as a septic wound to disrupt the society on an increasing scale.

**a. Nature & extent of oppression:**

In the opinion of the participants, the natures for women oppression take the form of;

- Dowry
- Rape
- Sexual abuse
- Acid throwing
- Physical and mental oppression
- Teasing by the depraved
- Trafficking of women and children.

**b. Dowry:** dowry is a social curse. In the consultation meeting the participants were expressed that dowry is the Principal reason for women Oppression. Every year thousands of women fall prey to dowry and the concerned families suffer from irreparable economic losses.

**c. Oppression**

- Lack of education
- Lack of Social awareness
- Moral degradation



- Arranging marriage in absence of local public representatives
- Lack of Strict implementation of child marriage prevention laws
- Marriage registration with out photographs.

### **Measures of deducting oppression including dowry**

- Strict implementation of anti-dowry law
- Compulsory marriage registration with photographs
- Creating social opposition against dowry
- Arranging marriage in presence of local public representatives
- Strict implementation of child marriage prevention laws

### **Mother's morbidity**

#### **a. Present situation:**

The status of health and nutrition of women is very poor. The maternal death rate is still very high compared to other developing countries of the world and it is a matter of great concern in the country. Health services aims at improving the health of the women and children. Maternal mortality rate at the national level is 3.2% since 2000.

#### **b. Actions for reducing Mothers morbidity:**

The maternal death rate is still very high compared to other developing countries of the world and it is a matter of great concern in the country. The following factors are responsible for such a state of affairs:

- Improving health care services like antenatal care (ANC) and prenatal care (PNC) services;
- Provide special care in the home at the time of pregnancy;
- Provide available physicians, trained nurses and midwives;
- Improving transport and communication system;
- Creating awareness about health and nutrition.
- Reducing birth of many child

### **Women empowerment**

#### **a. Definition of women empowerment**

Women empowerment is a process of creating confidence and capacity, which enables women to improve and bring positive changes in their lives. In addition, it helps a woman to regulate and manage her life through demonstration of her qualities. It was opined in the division level meetings that the vital aspects of this process are access to education & healthcare services, ability to participate and take decisions in social, cultural, economic and political activities, access to assets and ability to use them.

#### **b. Important aspects of women empowerment are namely as:**

Education, Health and nutrition, Security, Social / cultural rights, Economic rights/Economic activity through active participation, opportunity and ability for decision, Political rights: active participation in politics and capability for decision-making positioning and representation of women from local government to parliament.

**b. i) Education: Status of women in the field of education**

Girl's enrollment at the primary level is satisfactory but it is not satisfactory at the secondary level. In addition, the dropout at the primary level is higher for girls. Consequently, the girls lag behind in becoming skilled and competent future citizens of the country and a situation is created in all spheres where women lag behind men. The reasons for higher dropout rates for girls are;

- Economic insolvency
- School related expenses
- Insufficient number of schools
- Child marriage
- Lack of security
- Religious opposition and superstitions
- Negative attitude towards women.

**b.ii) Health and nutrition**

The status of health and nutrition of women is very poor. The maternal death rate is still very high compared to other developing countries of the world and it is a matter of great concern in the country. The following factors are responsible for such a state of affairs:

- inadequate health care services like antenatal care (ANC) and prenatal care( PNC) services
- giving birth to too many children and strong preference for male child
- malnutrition
- lack of physicians, trained nurses and midwives
- undeveloped transport and communication system
- lack of awareness about health and nutrition

### **b.iii) Security**

Every year thousands of women fall prey to oppression. Security is one of the major issues for a society. Women empowerment is largely depends on security. Security must be ensured for women in every sphere. Social security is also an important factor for reducing poverty. In the regional consultation meeting it has opined to all participants that ensuring security for all.

### **b.iv) Social/cultural rights**

The women participants were very vocal in all the meetings when it came to inheritance of property .It was expressed that women are not getting their property, which they are legally and rightfully entitled to inherit. It is a socio cultural right for every woman following reasons are very much related to non-achievement of inheritance property.

- i. Ignorance of women about the rules for the distribution of wealth. & the law of inheritance;
- ii. apprehension of litigation
- iii. Uncertainty of shelter due to marriage complicity
- iv. hampering relation with parents family
- v. patriarchal attitude / social impediments
- vi. Social vulnerability and lack of power to established their rights.

### **b.v) Economic rights/Economic activity: Active participation, opportunity and ability for decision**

For establishing economic rights, involvement of women is necessary for participating with the economic activities.

#### Economic activity

Economic backwardness of women is one of the important factors responsible for gender differences. The major economic factors are:

- low level of participation in economic activities;
- wage discrimination;
- lack of proper recognition of women's work;

#### **b.v (1) Wage discrimination**

Even if poor women perform the same work, they receive fewer wage compared to men. The prevailing notion that women will get fewer wages than men for the same work is responsible for such an outcome. The participants made the following recommendations to obviate this problem:

- in case of measurable work, paying equal wages for equal work
- organizing the women
- raising social awareness
- creating opportunities of education and training

### **b.v(2) Evaluation and recognition of women's work**

A forceful view expressed in the meeting is that women's work is not properly evaluated though they play important roles in many types of activities (especially household activities). The following factors which are identified in the meetings, account for this situation:

- women's (household/family) work is not measured or expressed in monetary terms i.e., the money value of women's work is not considered
- negative attitude of men
- Low level of participation in economic activities, etc.

### **b.v(3) Measures for recognizing the value of women's work**

- measuring women's (household/family) work in terms of money and include the value of this work in GDP
- raising awareness about their rights
- giving rewards for making important contribution to different activities

### **b.vi) Political rights**

- active participation in politics and capability for decision making;
- representation of women from local government to parliament.

### **b.vi(1) Politics**

The speakers in the consultation meetings expressed that in most cases women are not aware of their political rights. Besides, the elected women union council members cannot play their expected role. The important reasons are:

- lack of education and skill
- lack of interest in risky jobs
- lack of knowledge about government policies and distribution of work
- patriarchal mentality
- absence of job specification

### **b.vi(2) Measures for increasing participation in politics**

Discussions in the consultation meetings opined that the following are important for increasing participation of women in politics:

- increasing awareness for women education/literacy
- providing better scope for more participation in economic activities
- effective implementation of quota system
- fixing quota in political parties
- Ensuring the quota system in the national parliament and holding direct election

## **Recommendation**

- Ensuring participation of women in development activities and in policy making;
- Ensuring wage equity between male and female worker;
- Promotion of job for women in all spheres;
- Expanding women education and increasing awareness;
- Introducing quota system at all levels of government- from the local level to national level as well as in political parties;
- Exclusively women seats reserved in the parliament and arrange direct elections
- Giving nomination by political parties on the basis of competence;
- Implementing policies for women's advancement
- Provide free higher education for women
- Providing freedom or right for expressing opinions
- Creating suitable working field for women and provide them opportunity according to their ability
- Enhancing education, skill and development training
- Increasing women's quota in jobs
- Removing gender discrimination
- Prohibiting child marriage
- Ensuring social security
- Ensuring equal rights to property
- Ensuring active participation for women in social, cultural, economic and political activities and providing opportunities to make policies as well as providing opportunities for decision-making.
- To fix women seats in the parliament and creating opportunities for direct election.
- Endeavoring in doing away with patriarchal mentality in all spheres of life.

## **Children**

### **Introduction**

Now a days Protection of child rights and development of their latent potentials is the most important factor for every children. The government adopted the "National Children policy in 1994" to preserve the rights, interests & welfare of the children .The years 2001 to 2010 has been declared as the decade for children according utmost priority to child rights. Although most of the Bangladeshi children are neglected because of some following reasons.

### **Child health and nutrition**

The child mortality rate in the country, still relatively higher than that of some developing countries. The consultation meetings identify the following factors to be responsible for this:

- Poverty;
- Inadequate health service and lack of effective management in health sector;
- Lack of physicians, trained nurses and midwives;
- Lack of awareness.

### **Child education and vocational training**

According to the members of the consultation committee, despite of increasing child enrolment at the primary level a good number of children are dropping out before completion of their primary education.

Reasons for this phenomenon are

- Poverty;
- School related expenditures
- Lack of awareness;
- Location of schools in distant places,
- Inadequate number of schools;
- Poor transportation system in the villages (particularly in the rainy season);

The notable aspect is that the dropout rate is higher for girls. The consultation meeting identified the following factors to be responsible for child dropout at the primary level.

Then comes the issues such as providing vocational education depending upon their age and demand, ensuring security and arranging safe shelter. In performing these tasks, children are often subjected to torture. There are also reports of death of the children; some may become disabled.

In this situation the following steps are mentioned necessary for prevent the child labor:

- Creating employment opportunities for the concerned families
- Arranging some income from less risky jobs side by side with child education
- Ensuring birth registration
- Finalizing a national policy for children and its effective implementation
- Approving ILO convention 138
- Introducing appropriate monitoring system in the community based organizations
- Formulating policies for reducing child labor in agriculture and non-institutional sectors.

### **Child security**

It has discussed in the meeting with the top most priority. It focuses that the issues such as providing education and vocational training and promote awareness upon their age and demand, ensuring security and arranging safe shelter.

#### **a) Street children**

### **Problems of Street children and significance of existing problems**

A considerable proportion of children are the street children. The members of the consultation committee opined that many children are street children. They have no shelter,

security, education and good health facility. It will be the burden of a country. So, it is necessary to give them proper education, which can help to build their natural development.

### **Actions for street children**

According to the members of the consultation committee undertaking a base line survey for determining the number of street children is a highest priority for bringing them into the mainstream of development with the aim of providing them with education and their natural development.

### **Child labor**

#### *Children engaged in risky job:*

A large number of children in Bangladesh are engaged in risky jobs. In performing these tasks, children are often subjected to torture. There are also reports of death of the children. The meetings gave importance on the following:

- Male Child in lathe machines, helpers in buses and tempos, bidi labour, porter, rickshaw-van puller, tannery worker, construction worker, hotel boys and workers in battery factories.
- On the other hand, female child mainly work as maidservants, in brickfields, as bidi labour, in bangle factories and as child sex workers.

#### *Children engaged as a housemaid*

A considerable proportion of children, particularly female children, work as domestic help in the urban areas. In the absence of relevant law, punitive action cannot be taken against the offending householder/housewife for their inhuman torture of the domestic helps.

### **Emancipation from child labour**

To improve the situation the following measures are recommended in the consultation meetings:

- Creating employment opportunities for the concerned families
- Arranging some income from less risky jobs side by side with child education
- Ensuring birth registration
- Finalizing a national policy for children and its effective implementation
- Approving ILO convention 138
- Introducing appropriate monitoring system in the community based organizations
- Formulating policies for reducing child labour in agriculture and non-institutional sectors
- Undertaking a base-line survey on the domestic helps;
- Determining daily working hours;
- Providing education, and vocational training and building awareness through CBOs;

- Incorporating family violence including inhuman behavior with children in Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2002 and its strict implementation.

### **Women and child trafficking**

#### *Extent of Women & child trafficking*

The main important discussion of the consultation meeting was related to women & child trafficking .In the opinion of the participants; the extent of women and child trafficking is too high.

#### *Prevention of Women & child trafficking*

Discussion on trafficking of women and children is an important part of the meetings. Regarding the measures for prevention of trafficking of women and children and rescue and rehabilitation of already rescued women and children, the meetings mentioned that the following steps are essential for prevention of this dreadful and serious problem:

- All concerned should be made aware of its negative effects through seminar, symposium, movies and leaflets
- Strengthening security patrol at the border areas
- Inter- country agreements with the bordering countries
- Providing special training and motivation to the police
- Exemplary punishment for the persons involved in smuggling of women and children.

### **Rescue and rehabilitate program**

Regarding suitability of organizations for regular monitoring of improvement and deterioration of overall situation of women and children at different levels.

The participants of the meetings mentioned that the existing Directorate of “Women Affairs” would be the appropriate organization for regular monitoring of improvement and deterioration of women's condition, a special cell should be formed under the above-mentioned Directorate. It is essential to strengthen the existing offices under the Directorate at district, upazila, and union levels and their monitoring system. On the other hand, the members of the meeting strongly recommend for establishing a separate directorate for monitoring the relevant matters for protecting interests of children.

### **Inter-country treaty/arrangement**

Measures has to be taken to sign bilateral and in some cases a multilateral agreements for those women and children already trafficked into other countries, making efforts to rescue them through the Bangladesh missions abroad, sending them to their respective families, rehabilitating them in case their addresses and families are not found/they are not accepted or they do not want to stay with their families.



### **Institutional structure building for child development/recommendations**

Regarding poor orphan children it is mentioned in the meeting that it has become necessary to provide them with safe housing, clothing, recreational education, health/medical facilities at both private and government levels. Besides, emphasis was placed on maintaining friendly atmosphere in the existing childcare centers, and strengthening of administrative and monitoring system.

In light of the prevailing child situation, implementation of ILO convention 138 and all other rights as per the children's rights chapter are recommended. It is mentioned in the consultation meeting that creating educational opportunities for the children is very essential. Above all, more emphasis has been given on class-based measures depending upon the age degree and nature of poverty of the children and demand for such training.

The issues, which gained prominence in open discussion at the regional meetings, are:

- Measures to be taken for the female garments workers after the phase-out of MFA
- Issues relating to the problems of the Bangladeshi women working abroad
- Measures to bring the voices of women at international forum
- Issues relating to arsenic affected women and children
- Rest room/toilet facilities for women at bus stations, railway stations, airports and other public places

### **Conclusion**

It is mentioned in the consultation meeting that it has become necessary to provide the children with safe housing, clothing, recreational education, health/medical facilities at both private and government levels. Besides, emphasis was placed on maintaining friendly atmosphere and creating educational opportunities for the children is very essential. In deed, we can say Children is the future of a nation.

## ***PRSP Status Report: Appendix E***

### **GOOD GOVERNANCE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

#### **Introduction**

Governance is accepted by consensus to be the “process of managing public affairs”. “Good governance” is an ever more value-loaded term than governance. It can simply be say “harmony between performance of the state and aspiration of the society.” And the gap between this two is the absence of good governance.

We have entered into a new millennium; the era of market economy, trade liberalization and information technology. The era is emerged with immense opportunity as well as with formidable challenge. Managing simultaneously many interrelated problems, which are global, regional and national in character, represent the most formidable challenge for managing our development in the years to come. So, it is now understandable that traditional system of government cannot do everything effectively and efficiently. Hence, the role of traditional government needs to be redefine to open-up space for the working of other institutions; like, Local government, NGO’s, Civil societies etc. complementary to one another to deliver the services required by people living in rural and urban communities.

In all the divisional/ regional level consultative meeting participants unanimously termed the lack of good governance as the number one impediment/ constraint for poverty reduction/alleviation in particular and over all development of the country in general. About 75-90 percent of the people experienced corrupt practices when they visited government office or service providing organizations. A common people do not receive schedule service let alone desired service from most of the government offices. The reasons are various:

- Lack of accountability and transparency;
- Complex system;
- Political interference;
- Unwillingness to provide service;
- Lengthy process;
- Degradation of moral values and education;
- Lack of people’s consciousness about their rights;
- Weak rule of law;
- Inadequate logistics support;
- Absence of proper complain making system and its feed back/follow-up; and
- Low level of salary.

#### **Situation in government offices and local government organizations**

People stay at the receiving end of the service system. Hence, they need to go to different govt. offices and local government organization to receive service and to pay dues in return. Participants are of the opinion that the multifarious problems they face in this connection are as follows:

- **Revenue Office:** corruption, harassment and deliberate wasting of time;
- **Police Station:** corruption, harassment, and time waste;
- **Administration:** corruption in most cases and unsatisfactory services in all cases;
- **Government Bank:** unfriendly attitude, absence of service providing mentality, complex system and corruption;
- **Social Welfare Office:** corruption;
- **Hospital:** unsatisfactory service, highest priority for private practice, private practice influences in patient admission, underutilized equipment, unhealthy and unhygienic environment;
- **Educational Organization:** teachers are inclined to private tuition/coaching, lack of skilled teacher, ineffective teacher-student relation, high student-teacher ratio;
- **Municipal Administration:** corruption, nepotism and lack of skilled and sincere public servants;
- **Tax and Customs:** harassment and bribery; and
- **Electricity Office:** customer harassment, inflated bill and illegal connection.

#### **Top five noncooperative public offices (in descending order)**

The participants individually identify different offices where they experienced most non-cooperation. Then they form the consensus to rate the top 5 offices according to the magnitude of their non-cooperation. The most non-cooperating offices are;

- Police Station;
- Administration (including land revenue and registration office);
- Court and Judiciary;
- Tax and Customs; and
- Hospital

#### **Reasons for noncooperation**

- Lack of accountability and transparency;
- Lack of skill and motivation;
- Degradation of moral values and weak patriotism;
- Complex system;
- Inadequate number of officers, staffs and logistics;
- Low salary structure;
- Lack of appropriate training;
- Permanent job status indulges non-cooperation;
- Absence of recognition and reward system for better performance;
- Lack of inter and intra-departmental coordination; and
- Political interference.

Although, people in general do not get satisfactory services from most of the government offices but discrimination exists between poor and rich in receiving service. Poor people get much less service than the rich. Here, poor woman are more vulnerable than the male poor. It

needs preference and easy access for the poor and simplification of existing rules to make the government administration/ service sector pro-poor and pro-people. The following issues can be addressed pro-poor service delivery:

- Enhancing transparency, accountability and efficiency;
- Selection of capable peoples' representative at all tiers of government;
- Simplification of bureaucratic complexity;
- Enhancing common people's contact and easy access to the government officers and peoples' representatives;
- Ensuring administration free from political interference;
- Developing pro-people attitudes of local government representatives;
- Preparing white paper for all departments and make it easily available to the people;
- Making government programs easier and pro-people;
- Introducing monitoring and evaluation arrangement of government services/utility organization;
- Reforming judicial system and
- Decentralization of administration.

### **Government service, system of promotion and posting**

In a democratic system the politicians take policy decisions and guidelines. The mechanism for implementing these happens to be disciplined, well-trained and well-organized machinery, which is described as civil service/administration. The participants critically discussed the existing promotion system in the government service. They termed the system is not appropriate. According to their views promotion system in government service should be based on the following criteria (according to importance):

- Honesty;
- Efficiency;
- Merit;
- Devotion;
- Seniority;
- Assessment and examination; and

Right persons are not posted at the right positions in most of the government offices. Existing salary structure is not rational and attractive to motivate the public servants to serve the people in general and poor in particular.

Land is the single largest factor endowment in Bangladesh. Population growth, river erosion, salinity, industrialization and urbanization contribute to deplete the per capita land availability in Bangladesh. All these issues and inheritance, succession, divorce, polygamy, early parent loss etc. lead to a perpetual land related disputes. And the existing land record and land administration system is not favoring the common people. Following steps should be taken to make the land record and administration system pro-people:

- Land revenue collection, record, survey and transfer of land should be brought under one office;
- Immediate realization (payment) of compensation for land acquisition;
- Periodic review and assessment of land valuation to cope with the market price;
- Appointing efficient and qualified officers in land administration;
- Permanent appointment of surveyors;
- Ensure accountability;
- Introduction of modern information and communication technology (ICT) for the simplification of land management system;
- Ensure land recording in the presence of land owner and people's representative of appropriate tier;
- Ensure easy access;
- Monitoring should be intensified;
- Introduction of land ownership certification system; and
- Introduction of personalized recoding instead of khathian based recording of land ownership.

### **Good governance/transparency and media**

Media can play pivotal role in ensuring transparency, awareness building, advocacy and empowering the poor in general and woman and children in particular. But role of the media would be objective, welfare oriented, informative and neutral. Free flow of information could explore good governance.

### **Poverty alleviation, decentralization and revenue mobilization**

Decentralization has a strong relevance in poverty alleviation. Decentralization is essential with appropriate delegation of both financial and administrative authority at different tiers. Income tax and customs administration are not collecting government revenue efficiently and transparently. Revenue collection fall short of targets due to following reasons:

- Corruption and dishonesty;
- Negligence to duties;
- Lack of patriotism and efficiency; and
- Failure to motivate the people to pay tax.

The following steps maybe taken to solve the problem

- Increasing the strength of tax and customs department;
- Increasing salary of the officers/staffs of revenue department;
- Making income tax and customs policy more transparent, simplified and modern;
- Introducing single rate of value added tax instead of multiple rate to help reduce corruption; and
- Initiation of revenue collection through private organization on experimental basis.

- Removing inequality and inconsistency of present tax and customs structure (rule, system);

### **Good governance and gender**

The problem of good governance is acute for the females. To eliminate this problem the following steps should be taken.

- Taking measures for removing gender gaps in all areas;
- Improvement of law and order situation;
- Eliminating religious superstition;
- Expanding the scope of women education and employment;
- Modernizing women's marriage law and ensuring its proper implementation;
- Increasing social assistance and social security of the women;
- Ensuring active participation of women in the decision making process;
- Ensuring women's empowerment.
- Rules and conventions discriminating women should be abolished and widely disseminated;

### **Good governance and judicial system**

Reform of the judicial system is also necessary. Following reforms are required:

- Separation of judiciary from executive;
- Fixing time for ensuring quick disposal of cases;
- Paying 'reasonable' salary and allowances for the judges;
- Appointing adequate number of judges and increasing the numbers of courts;
- Restricting political appointment of judges;
- Simplification of the judicial system;
- Repealing police investigation in criminal cases;
- Reforming present laws, especially criminal laws;
- Restricting political appointments of the PPs;
- Formation of separate cell for investigating cases; and
- Establishing the rule of law.

### **Following steps can be taken to make judicial system pro-poor**

- Activating arbitration law 2001;
- Appointing public prosecutor free of political intervention;
- Introducing instant trial/judgment system;
- Reducing trial cost;
- Modernizing conventional laws and rules;
- Appointing PPs with recommendations of judges and Deputy Commissioners;
- Activating legal aid system;

- Strengthening village court to settle cases at the local level;
- Encouraging mediation; and
- Implementing the verdict of the court quickly.

### **Good governance and local government**

The local government representatives do not always present the problems of the poor to the government. To present their problems to the government properly following steps needs to be ensured:

- Voter identification card should be introduced;
- Representatives have to be selected from the poor population under a quota system;
- Interventions by the members of Parliament in activities of a union parishad have to be stopped;
- Expenditure limit of election have to be enforced; and
- Election commission has to be strengthened.

### **Local government can play major role in poverty alleviation in the following fields**

- Agriculture, rural institutions, law and order, education, health, employment, transport, small and cottage industry; and
- Mediating local conflicts.

### **The local government to play effective role in reducing poverty should take following steps**

- Introduction of poverty reduction and human development programs in the activities of the Union Parishads must be made mandatory;
- Restricting political intervention;
- Identifying sources of local resources to bring it under local government exchequer;
- Assisting in times of natural disaster and expansion of social safety nets;
- Motivating patriotism and participating in law and order related activities;
- Arranging government subsidy and resources for less developed areas; and
- Activating Upazila and Zila Parishad.

### **The local government should take following steps/reforms to mobilize domestic resources**

- Domestic resources should be utilized effectively;
- Ensuring proper coordination between government and private organizations;
- Responsibility to collect tax from mills or factories under the upazilla's jurisdiction should be given to the Union Parishad;
- Tax collection responsibility should be given solely to the secretary of the Union Parishad;
- Income should be generated through afforestation in the government (khas) land; and

- Unutilized ponds should be handed over to the Union Parishad.

**Followings steps should be undertaken for transparent and effective coordination between local and central government**

- Direct connection between local and central governments should be established;
- Power should be decentralized;
- Bottom-up planning should be introduced;
- Competent candidates should be selected in the Zila and Upazila Parishads;
- Monitoring cell should be established by the central government to evaluate the activities of the local government; and
- Local government institution should be made free from intervention of MPs.

**Together with poverty status, followings should be considered in allocating resource to local government**

- Mobilizing matching fund;
- Encouraging local resource mobilization through system of incentives;
- Providing financial assistance to the deprived institutions;

**Law and order**

Law and order are immensely associated with poverty reduction. Law and order situation is the main impediment to poverty reduction and social development. Law and order situation is not in favoring the poor due to the following reasons:

- Bribery and corruption, negative attitude, lack of modern logistics, lack of skills and low salary of law enforcing agencies;
- Corruption, violence, unemployment of economic and political institutions;
- Lack of awareness of the poor about their rights; and
- Political intervention.

**Following steps/reforms should be taken to solve the problems of law enforcing agencies**

- Introducing merit based posting, training, promotion and salary;
- Reducing political intervention;
- Ensuring accountability and introducing the system of reward and punishment;
- Enhancing logistic support of law enforcing agency and ensuring working time of eight hours a day;
- Arranging training for law enforcing agencies on human rights;
- Reorganizing police department in light of some model countries;
- Increasing appointment of police, specially of female police; and
- Forming separate cell for investigation.



**Reasons and sources of violence are:**

- Unemployment, poverty and decreasing moral values of youth;
- Black money, political interference and social unrest;
- Non-punishment of real criminals;
- Activities of extremist and fanatics;
- Lack of social resistance;
- Failure of law enforcing agencies;
- Negative impact of satellite culture; and
- Smuggling, availability of drugs and illegal arms.

**Requirements to ensure good governance**

- The rule of law should be established;
- The judicial system has to be separated;
- Independent anti-corruption commission has to be made functional immediately;
- Ombudsman should be appointed;
- Transparency and accountability should be ensured;
- Government procurement rules which helps in reducing corruption should be followed;
- System should be introduced to ensure transparency and accountability of the NGOs;
- Pre-paid system against public services should be introduced;
- Arrangement should be made for community policing;
- Political consensus has to be established;
- Speedy, and neutral disposal of cases should be ensured;
- Laws of colonial period have to be reformed and modernized;
- Official secrecy act should be modernized;
- Instant action should be taken against the corrupt businessmen and manpower agents; and
- Fees of the lawyers should be fixed.