



1st CenRaPS Conference on “Bangladesh in the 21st Century”

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Editors

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Preface

1st CenRaPS Conference on “Bangladesh in the 21st Century”, which was held in Istanbul, on 22 August, 2020, was a very initial phase of scientific gathering on Bangladesh Studies. Although the conference was a small-scale organization, in fact it brought together a group of over 25 early career researchers from multiple countries, many of them are Master’s and PhD candidates, and conducting multidisciplinary studies from a variety of research areas including sociology, archaeology, history, anthropology, education, media studies, gender studies, international relations, and philosophy. A majority of these young scholars are conducting their major and partial research on Bangladesh or different international issues related to Bangladesh. Therefore, I believe the conference has been a vital event that based a platform where the early career scholars had wider scopes to exchange their new ideas, learn and share knowledge on key issues related to socio-culture, history, economy, foreign policy, security, education, media, gender and politics of Bangladesh.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the keynote speaker for his excellent presentations and providing valuable insights for the future of Bangladesh. Special thanks should also be addressed to the members of the Scientific Committee who helped and guided our organizing team with their knowledge and expertise. I am also very grateful to the members of the organizing committee for their enthusiasm and voluntary efforts, without which this very first scholarly gathering would not be a success.

Finally, I thank all session chairs for their cooperation and efforts. I also thank all participants for their active participations, cutting-edge studies, and delightful discussions on many significant research areas related to Bangladesh. It was only because of the participants’ great effort and hardworking research that the day-long scholarly gathering was able to open up some surprising facts and bring new sheds of lights in Bangladesh Studies. I would like to remind the participants that you are very welcome to submit and publish your contributions as full research papers to our peer reviewed journal: CenRaPS Journal of Social Sciences.

I wish all of you safety and good health on these very difficult days,

Rahmat Ullah

August 2020, Istanbul

1st CenRaPS Conference on “Bangladesh in the 21st Century”

22 August 2020
Istanbul, Turkey

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Opening Session

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ayhan Nuri Yilmaz, Assistant Professor, Akdeniz University, Turkey

7.50-7.59 (GMT)

Session-1 Title: Bangladesh: History and Culture Session Chair: Asst. Prof. Dr. Abu B. Siddiq Time: 8.00-9.25 (GMT)	
Presenter	Title
Abu B. Siddiq	Bangladesh: A Potential Prehistoric Corridor between South and Southeast Asia
Ahsan Habib Abu B. Siddiq	New Insights on the Ethno-religious Diversity in Bangladesh
Tahmina Akter Dipu Al- Amin	War Heroines of 1971 of Bangladesh: How They Treated in our Society
Abu B. Siddiq	Importance of Studying Society and Culture in Medieval Bengal
Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan Khan	Role of Stakeholders in Heritage Management in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Mahasthangarh

Session-2 Title: Foreign Policy and Security of Bangladesh Session Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sultan Mahmud Rana Time: 9.30-10.55 (GMT)	
Presenter	Title
Niloufar Baghernia Ebrahim Meraji	Understanding China’s Relationship with Bangladesh
Md. Rahamatullah	Climate Change and Blue Economy: Challenges and Possibilities Towards Sustainable Development of Bangladesh
Shamsul Haque	Impact of Climate Change in Bangladesh: An Ethically Defensible Framework for Policy and Decision Making
Michal Tengeri	Security Risks of Rohingya on National Security of Bangladesh

Session-3	
Title: Economy and Policy	
Session Chair: Assoc. Dr. Omar Faruque	
Time: 11.00-12.25 (GMT)	
Presenter	Title
Abdul Mahidud Khan Adib Ahmed	Remittance Inflow and Foreign Exchange Reserve in the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Bangladeshi Economy
Syed Magfur Ahmad Abdullah Al Mamun	Opportunities of Islamic FinTech: The Case of Bangladesh and Turkey
Nasruzzaman Naeem Zobayer Ahmed	Globalization and the economy of Bangladesh in the 21 st Century: Opportunities and Challenges.
Md. Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan	Combating covid-19 in Bangladesh: Analyzing from policy perspective
Kahkashan Khan	Role and Major Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality

Session-4	
Title: Education	
Session Chair: Assist. Prof. Rafiq Lone	
Time: 12.30-13.40 (GMT)	
Presenter	Title
Rafiq Lone Mushtaq Lone	Factors that make Bangladesh an Attractive Destination for Aspiring Medical Students from Kashmir
Muhammad Salahuddin	Progress and Problems of Primary Education in Bangladesh: A Snapshot of 50 Years
Md. Ramizul Islam Md. Omar Faruk	Qawmi Madrasa Education in Bangladesh: An Overview on the Past and Present

Session-5	
Title: Media, Gender and Politics	
Session Chair: Assist. Prof. Dr. Md. Aliur Rahman	
Time: 13.45-15.10 (GMT)	
Presenter	Title
Halimatus Sadia Md. Arman Sorif Jibon	Media Advertisement Representation of women's Body Image and its Impacts of Society on Violence Against Women in Bangladesh
Moshiur Rahman	Struggle against Fake Newsmakers and Publishers on Social Media, Measures against Fake News
Md. Aliur Rahman Adnan	Right to Information Act 2009 to Tackle Corruption in Bangladesh: Citizens' Perception
Md. Hamza Kamal Mostafa	Cultural Politics of Censorship: Socio-political Ethos of Bangladesh
Md. Shamim Md. Aliur Rahman	Gender Representation in Media: An Analysis of Select TVCs of Bangladesh

Closing Session
15.11-15.30 (GMT)

Bangladesh: A Potential Prehistoric Corridor between South and Southeast Asia

Abu B. Siddiq¹

Abstract

Bengal Delta has been a favorable land for dense vegetation and diverse fauna, which were vital for the survival of prehistoric human groups. Although there is a lack of large-scale archaeological exploration, records of stone tools from a series of locations including Sitakunda hill of Chittagong, Chhagalnaiya of Feni, Lalmai-Mainamati region of Comilla, Wari-Bateshwar area of Narsingdi, and Chaklapunji of Habiganj indicate the movements of prehistoric people along the elevated topographic lands of Bangladesh. There are also records of a large number of prehistoric locations in Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Bihar and West Bengal of India, some of them are very close to and often share equal palaeo-geographical settings with Bangladesh. Particularly over forty prehistoric locations in the neighboring Garo Hills and Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, and over two hundred Palaeolithic locations in Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia and Midnapur districts of West Bengal signify the busy movements of archaic human groups across Bengal Delta. Besides, the prehistoric tools of east and southeastern Bangladesh demonstrate strong techno-typological resemblances with prehistoric assemblages of the Irrawaddy valley of Myanmar. Presenting some vital palaeo-environmental and archaeological records, this study primarily aims to present the hypothesis that, during the sea level fluctuations in the Pleistocene, the deltaic arcs of Bengal Basin were parts of a possible route for archaic human groups' dispersal across South and Southeast Asia. It also highlights the importance of large-scale systematic explorations and recording of prehistoric locations in Bangladesh, particularly to understand its potentials in world prehistory.

Keywords: Bengal Delta, Palaeolithic, Stone tool, Hominid, Southeast Asia, South Asia

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New Insights on the Ethno-religious Diversity in Bangladesh

Ahsan Habib¹

Abu B. Siddiq²

Abstract

Bangladesh has been a favorable land of human habitation because of the abundance and easy access of natural resource. People groups of diverse ethnicity and religious background migrated into Bengal since prehistoric period. Several waves of force migrations also occurred during colonial time, particularly to supply a large number of indentured laborers (bonded slaves) in newly developed tea estates. Consequently, Bangladesh has a population diverse in color, morphological trait, ethnicity and religious practice. However, while the majority of them are recognized as Bengali, some unique people groups are living with their distinct ethnic identities and religious beliefs, officially known as tribal people. In most of the cases these distinct people groups live side by side with the mainstream Bengali people and repeatedly presented to be the witnesses of ethno-religious harmony.

Till date, about 30 of such isolated tribal groups were official reported and narrated in academic literature. However, a total of about 50 other people groups of distinct ethno-religious identities were recently documented as part of ongoing ethnographic explorations across Bangladesh. This research aims to introduce some of these people groups including Malpahari, Lohar, Paharia, Turia, Kol, Pahan in the north; Kowl, Shobor, Sinteng, Retra, Kanu, Bhar, Kharia, Koch, Pashi, Bindi, Turia, Rawtia, Lalong, Bagdi, and Ghashi in the northeast; and Pankho, Khushi, and Usheyi in the southeastern part of Bangladesh. Discussing some new aspects, it also aims to bring some new sheds of lights in the study of ethno-religious diversity of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Tribal people, Nature worshiper, Force migration, Ethnography

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War Heroines of 1971 of Bangladesh: How They Treated in our Society

Tahmina Akter Dipu¹

Al- Amin²

Abstract

The aim of our paper is to explore how the war heroines of Bangladesh were treated during the post war periods, and what can we do for them now. In 1971, women played a very important role during the liberation war of Bangladesh. They sacrificed a lot of things for the independent of Bangladesh. About 3 million people were brutally killed and about 450 thousand women were raped by the Pakistani Army and their collaborators. However, during the war, women made history and liberated their motherland. They had sacrificed their dignity, beloved son, husband, and their own life. Some of the brave women joined the frontal and guerilla war, some provided food, shelter and medical treatment. Unfortunately, their unplayable sacrifices were not recognized. They also remained in darkness during the post war period, and their war did not stop even the war ended in the battlefield. They had to fight against their life, family even society. Although father of the nation Bangabandhu recognized them as a 'Bironggona' (Brave women), only two women were awarded 'Bir Partik'. But in fact the women who fought and sacrificed for their country did not get any facilities or the basic support they needed. Some faced severe financial problem, some exploited by their society, and some died without proper medical treatment. In this circumstance, we should think about proper initiatives so that the war heroines of Bangladesh will be given proper honor and facilities they deserve.

Keywords: Bangladesh, War heroines, Post-war, Women, Independent

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Importance of Studying Society and Culture in Medieval Bengal

Abu B. Siddiq¹

Abstract

Due to the scope of comfortable human habitation and easy access to the rich natural resources Bengal Delta attracted many people groups of different ethnic and religious backgrounds since prehistoric period. Like many other ancient migratory groups, a large number of Central and West Asian people groups also settled down and established new political rules in medieval Bengal. Although they brought new cultures and religious trends, because the common trend in the Delta, medieval Bengal experienced momentous cultural adoptions and admixtures, providing the scope of multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies living side by side for centuries and eventually helped formation of the final stage of Bengali Civilization. However, the legacy was systematically diminished through the propaganda history produced by Anglocentric colonial scholarship. The excessive success of the colonial ‘divide and rule’ policy further destroyed socio-cultural harmony in the region and ultimately ended up creating severe social fractions, cultural complexities, and ethno-religious conflicts. So much so that Bengali Hindus started to see Bengali Muslims to be some unwelcomed foreigners while the Bengali Muslims continue blaming the Brahmanical tradition to be a devil migratory force that vanquished the long lasting Buddhist tradition. Consequently the socio-cultural divisions reached at its worst condition possible and often encouraging religious extremism today. In this context, this study proposes that intensive studies of the medieval socio-cultural traditions following a well-planned academic framework beyond the Anglocentric tradition can help wane the veritable pain of social divisions and religious detestations Bengal experiencing today.

Keywords: Bengal Delta, Medieval period; Anglocentric scholarship, Cultural conflict, Ethno-religious extremism, Bangladesh

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Role of Stakeholders in Heritage Management in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Mahasthangarh

Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan Khan¹

Abstract

The notion of stakeholders is becoming increasingly significant in planning and management of heritage. It is commonly argued that individuals, groups, organizations, environs, societies, institutions, and even the natural environment can be the potential stakeholders. It is commonly argued that individuals, groups, organizations, environs, societies, institutions, and even the natural environment can be the potential stakeholders. However, most of the case heritage sites are impacted and concerned by particular stakeholders such as local community, regional government, and NGOs. Every project has stakeholders who can influence or be influenced by the project in a positive or negative manner.

Mahasthangarh and its environs are considered to be a potential heritage site of South Asia that helps understand chronological history and cultural development of Bengal Civilization. Like many other heritage sites in Bangladesh, Mahasthangarh faces serious threats and challenges which are damaging and waning its outstanding universal value of tangible and intangible heritage. Since site managers involve potential key stakeholders to enhance the sustainable heritage management, planning, reduce the possibility of conflict, increase the stakeholders' ownership through regular communication, raising awareness, educational activities and building campaigns, and to augment the community's trust in heritage management; without the effective role of stakeholders, the outcomes are precarious and can be catastrophic. The paper will demonstrate the possibilities of using the roles of stakeholders as potential tools for safeguarding and managing the heritage site by using Mahasthangarh and its environs as a case study.

Keywords: Stakeholders, Heritage management, Mahasthangarh, Bangladesh

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Understanding China’s Relationship with Bangladesh

Niloufar Baghernia¹

Ebrahim Meraji²

Abstract

China as an emerging global power has sought the strategy of expanding ties with many countries across the world. Bangladesh situated in a critical region has been regarded by the country as a regional partner in South Asia. Meanwhile, China’s rise has coincided with India’s growing power in the region, thus China’s relationship with countries such as Dhaka implies regional and international implications, further challenging India’s rise. Such partnership in one hand allows Bangladesh to alleviate economic difficulties, and it guarantees China’s influence and a stronger presence in South Asia to monitor India’s activities. As such, by drawing upon the concepts of realism theory such as the balance of power, this study elaborates an analytical framework that presents a novel analysis of how the nature of Sino-Bangladesh partnership can be explained? In response, the authors believe that China attempts to balance the power of India and secure its national interests via developing ties with Bangladesh. Given that Bangladesh has tilted toward China these days, Beijing endeavours to enhance relations with the country to achieve its objectives. The current project becomes significant when one supposes that China’s ties with South Asian countries will not be related only to the region and China. It can have both regional and international impacts in the world affecting South Asia and, then, creating a new form of balance of power. Hence, the present research attempts to analyze the nature of Sino-Bangladesh relationship using library resources in a descriptive-analytical manner.

Keywords: Balance of power, Bangladesh, China, India, South Asia

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Climate Change and Blue Economy: Challenges and Possibilities towards Sustainable Development of Bangladesh

Md. Rahamatullah¹

Abstract

Bangladesh is one of the Southeast Asian countries enriched with enormous potential. Human resources are the key to the density populated country and advance economy as well. In lying with human resources, the geographical location also has blessed the land with other resources. The economic opportunities have been open for Bangladesh by the International Maritime Court verdict on the delimitation of its marine boundary. Now the blue economy is a window of many possibilities. This paper provides a wide-angle framework for climate change and blue economy and its challenges and prospects in the direction of sustainable development of Bangladesh. This framework is based on four stairs (i.e., mark out the issue, focus on climate change resilience blue economy upliftment, determine the goal, and attain the goal). This paper has been conducted from secondary data for obtaining research objectives. An extensive literature review has been done from the context of multidisciplinary aspects of some renowned databases on peer-reviewed journal articles. Climate change makes vulnerable the country's coastal and marine resources, which make impede the sleek sustainable development of Bangladesh. However, the coastal and marine areas and its resources are introduced many challenges for the sake of climate change blow like sea-level rise, ocean acidification, extreme weather events, and so on, which is lead to transfer species diversity, species migration, decrease economic development and so on. We need proper environmental management and extensive plan, skill human resources, and a modern outlook for sustainable development. The government must need to focus on structural collaboration and holistic approaches to attain a sustainable blue economy in the future.

Keywords: Climate change, Blue economy, Challenges, Possibilities, Sustainable Development, Bangladesh

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Impact of Climate Change in Bangladesh: An Ethically Defensible Framework for Policy and Decision Making

Shamsul Haque¹

Abstract

Global warming and climate change are impacting all spheres of the globe and climate change, therefore, has become one of the most widely discussed issues throughout the world. In Bangladesh during the past few decades, the effects of climate change have been available evidenced that one of the most critical issues due to its geographical position, low-lying coastline, floodplain ecosystems, high density of population, poverty and dependence of some major livelihoods on climate sensitive sectors; such as agriculture, fisheries. Bangladesh is recognized internationally as one of the chronically exposed countries vulnerable to climate change. One of the most alarming news for Bangladesh is that as a result of rising sea levels (SLR), the lower southern part of its may one day goes under water. Bangladesh is an innocent victim of climate change as the country has no contribution for carbon emission that causes climate change. Ethics has profound implications for the immediate and future well-being of a large number of present and future generations who are the victims of global climate change. Global climate change is an issue of justice. Considering all the alarming reports of climate change on Bangladesh, this study makes an attempt to examine the review of literature focusing on climate change induced adverse effects on Bangladesh and urge the government of Bangladesh to address the issue in the international arena. This paper also endeavors to highlight a framework for ethical decision making.

Keywords: Climate change, Framework, Ethics, Global warming, Future generation, Ecosystem

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Security Risks of Rohingya on National Security of Bangladesh

Michal Tengeri¹

Abstract

The main research interest of this paper will be the security impact of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and the region. It will explore the situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and the role of the Bangladeshi government to protect its country from radical movements and terrorist organizations. A large amount of Rohingya, who fled into Bangladesh over a short time, became a big burden for Bangladesh. Two years after, Rohingyas still live in Bangladesh, however, there is no solution for this crisis yet. Even more, their living conditions and situation in the host country are not adequate. Regional and international terrorist organizations are operating in the region, such as Al-Qaeda, Islamic states and others. They could take advantage of the situation and recruit new members among Rohingya. This paper will focus as well on the linkage between the conditions of refugees in the host country and the ability of countries to secure their own country on the radicalization of refugees. It indicates that refugees and their activities have a significant effect on the security of the hosting country. The willingness of refugees to join radical movements and terrorist organizations is pushed by insufficient living conditions and persecution of refugees by hosting country and failure of national forces to ensure national security over its territory.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Rohingya Security, Radicalization, Refugee

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Remittance Inflow and Foreign Exchange Reserve in the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Bangladeshi Economy

Abdul Mahidud Khan¹

Adib Ahmed²

Abstract

Like most of the countries in the world, the economy of Bangladesh has also suffered a setback due to Covid-19 pandemic. The numbers are depressing for majority of the sectors, whereas the foreign remittance inflow and foreign exchange reserve have shown the positive trend. In July 2020, Bangladesh has attained its record high remittance inflow and reserve from its independence. Due to the high density of population, policymakers of this country incentivized migration and considered remittances inflow of the workers abroad as a source of income for the economy. But remittance increases the foreign reserve and Bangladesh’s historically negative trade balance make use of this extra foreign reserve to help the balance of payment. This paper has analyzed the reasons behind this high remittance in the period of Covid-19. It has checked the argument whether remittance causes foreign reserve to grow using Engel-Granger causality. Then to see if there is such a relationship between remittance and reserve persists in the short run and long run this paper has also used Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model. Based on the results, found from ARDL model, this paper endorsed several policy directions that Bangladesh can take to excel in the 21st century and cope up with the post-pandemic challenges.

Keywords: Economy, Covid-19, Remittance inflow, Foreign reserve, Causality, ARDL

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Opportunities of Islamic FinTech: The Case of Bangladesh and Turkey

Syed Magfur Ahmad¹

Abdullah Al Mamun²

Abstract

This paper aims to study Islamic FinTech operations in Bangladesh and Turkey. FinTech is now extensively used in different countries around the world. It is known to be financial products of the twenty-first century. FinTech applications are pervasive in the Islamic finance industry, whose assets today amount to 2.4 billion dollars in different operating systems. Both Turkey and Bangladesh emphasized more in FinTech after the 2008 global financial crisis. Both countries banks prioritized in regulations and compliance with innovation. The rise of Islamic FinTech in Turkey and Bangladesh starts with the main banking applications. The use of shariah-compliant Islamic FinTech in both countries is increasing significantly to carry out financial transactions and processes more efficiently through technological innovations. Qualitative methods and secondary data have been used in this study. Data collected from various official reports, annual reports, papers, studies, websites, government report, and other sources. Turkey practically became a hub for Islamic financial technology in recent years, considering its operational activities. Asian countries, particularly Turkey and Bangladesh, are expected to show their highest growth potential for Islamic FinTech in 2020. This study also attempts to unearth the possibilities of Islamic FinTech in Bangladesh and Turkey. Modern technology-based services are now the demand for time. Islamic finance, based on Islamic Shariah, benefited significantly by using financial technology (FinTech) in recent years. Bangladesh and Turkey can be a potential destination for Islamic FinTech with the help of financial technology.

Keywords: Financial technology, FinTech, Islamic FinTech, Financial services, Bangladesh

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Globalization and the Economy of Bangladesh in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges

Nasruzzaman Naeem¹

Zobayer Ahmed²

Abstract

Globalization is a continuous process through which the entire world is becoming like a global village day by day. It has effects on all aspects of social life in developing countries. Such as Bangladesh, with delicate geopolitical positions, vulnerable political situations, and a growing economy, are now looking forward to globalization to boost the economy to counter all possible threats. This paper aims to study the momentum of the globalization process affecting the overall economy of Bangladesh. The latest accessible data has been used to study the effect of globalization on the economics of Bangladesh, where graphical analysis covers a substantial part of the investigation. The study includes a review of the findings of some prior studies as well. The study concludes that globalization has both a positive and negative effect on the economy of Bangladesh. A closer look at the impact of globalization wind-ups that, despite being in the face of probable economic danger, the economy Bangladesh has shown continuous economic development in the past decade and may also continue to develop in the future as well. However, to utilize the strength of globalization to develop its economy, a detailed understanding of the impact of globalization is essential. Additionally, the analysis shows that with a more market-driven, globalized, and urbanized regional economy; Bangladesh is now becoming one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia. In the end, the study also includes some recommendations and suggestions to get better of the current negative impacts of globalization and measures to be taken in the face of possible challenges of economic globalization.

Keywords: Globalization, Economic globalization, Bangladesh, Economic growth, Effects of globalization

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Combating Covid-19 in Bangladesh: Analyzing from Policy Perspective

Md. Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan¹

Abstract

Apparently, around 213 countries and territories all over the world are facing severe challenges posed by the corona pandemic (COVID-19). The world has witnessed 5,62,888 deaths around the globe to the date and the death toll is skyrocketing each and every day. To lessen the loss of human lives, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. From the economy to business, international relations and social norms, the impact of the corona virus pandemic has become more drastic than we had imagined. All of the countries in the world are responding to combat against corona. Most of the developed countries have faced drastic attack of COVID-19 while developing countries like Bangladesh struggling severely to control the outbreak of corona. WHO has announced some directives including six points protocol to fight against the deadly virus. Following the directives of WHO, almost all of the countries have been made some public policy to combat against this virus. Most of the developing countries like Bangladesh have followed testing and isolation as well as lockdown policy to combat against corona. But the question is how much the lockdown policy is effective to control the deadly virus? New Zealand, Japan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Sweden and some other countries got the benefit of lockdown strategy. It is evident that, one policy may work very well in one country but it may not work in another country due to its local circumstances. The policy taken by developed countries may not work in developing countries like Bangladesh due to its size of population, people's behavior, their expectation, their education level, level of awareness, leadership commitment and local cultural perspective. Considering the density of population, economic condition, and citizen's behavior Bangladesh government has taken to slow down the strategy of lockdown. A total of 43 committees, 444 public policies and regulations have been taken so far by the government of Bangladesh in the last four months to control the outbreak of coronavirus. The success of policy depends on policy implementation and policy evaluation. The study emphasizes on analyzing the effectiveness of public policy taken by Bangladesh government to counteract COVID pandemic in the light of the policy process model. This paper also figures out the challenges and impediments of implementing public policies Bangladesh taken by the government. In this regard suggest some doable recommendations to evaluate the policies properly.

Keywords: Public policy, COVID-19, Policy process, Bangladesh

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Role and Major Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality

Kahkashan Khan¹

Abstract

The fiscal downturn realized by the current COVID-19 erupt has noteworthy repercussions for sex fairness, both during the downturn and the subsequent recovery. Stood out from "standard" downturns, which impact men's work more genuinely than ladies' business, the work drop related to social isolating measures generally influences divisions with high female work shares. Likewise, closure of schools, colleges, and childcare centres have tremendously extended youth care needs, which have a particularly colossal impact on working mothers. The impacts of the emergency on working mothers are probably going to be steady, because of exceptional yields to involvement with the work showcase. Past the quick emergency, there are contradicting powers which may eventually advance gender equality in the work showcase.

To start with, organizations are quickly embracing adaptable work courses of action, which are probably going to persevere. Second, there are moreover various fathers who by and by need to expect fundamental obligation for youth care, which may break down typical practices that starting at now lead to an unbalanced scattering of the division of work in house work and child care.

Keywords: COVID, Pandemic, Equality, Emergency, Working Women

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Factors that Make Bangladesh an Attractive Destination for Aspiring Medical Students from Kashmir

Rafiq Lone¹

Mushtaq Lone²

Abstract

Bangladesh is one of the important countries of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) that consists of seven other countries including India. Under SAARC quota many students from member countries join government medical colleges in Bangladesh. Many students from various states of India go to Bangladesh for pursuing medical education in private institutes. A large number of them are from Kashmir. Though many parents send their children to other countries like Kazakhstan, Ukraine and China, but Bangladesh continues to be the favorite destination. BMC, DNMC and Holy Family are some prominent colleges offering MBBS course to foreign students under self-financing category. New colleges like the US Bangla Medical College & Hospital also holds promise as it is fast emerging as one of the most sought after medical colleges in Dhaka. The data for this study has been collected from secondary sources and interviews with medical students and consultancies that offer admission assistance. Observations reveal that there are various attributes that make Bangladesh a preferable destination. Comfortable fee structure and lower living expenses are not the only reason. Similarity of syllabus as per MCI (Medical Council of India) is one reason. Bangladesh being a Muslim dominated country provides a comfortable social environment to the students from the valley. In terms of distance too, Bangladesh is easily accessible via air and road connectivity.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Medical education, Kashmir

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Progress and Problems of Primary Education in Bangladesh: A Snapshot of 50 Years

Muhammad Salahuddin¹

Abstract

Bangladesh, a South Asian country will celebrate his golden jubilee of independence in 2021. It has been straggling for ensuring equitable, compulsory, and free primary education since 1971 though now looking for quality. The main objective of this paper is to explore the progress and constraints of primary education in Bangladesh for the period 1971 to 2020. This study conducted following the documentary research method described by Scott & Marshall (2015). The secondary data was collected from different personal and official documents which analysed to follow the data-driven thematic approach suggested by Braun and Clarke (2006).

The numerical progress of primary education in Bangladesh has occurred rapidly in the last 50 years. The number of schools has enlarged 349.9% and the numbers of teachers have also boosted 515.5% in last five decades to meet the demand of overpopulation. In 1971, 2.2% of teachers were female though now it is 60.4%. Similarly, the number of female students was improved by 19.3%, the enrolment rate has increased by 65.8% and the dropout rate has decreased by 44.3% at the primary level. The financial allocation has increased by 2.8% to 4.4% of the total FY budget of 1971 to 2020.

In the last 50 years, a total of seven education commissions/policies were introduced in Bangladesh where the main debate was to set the aims and objectives of primary education based on fundamental principles of state policy. These policies suggested introducing eight years of primary education, recruit meritorious and motivated teachers, and comprehensive assessment policies though these suggestions have not implemented yet.

Keywords: Primary education, Bangladesh, Trend analysis, Progress of education

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Qawmi Madrasa Education in Bangladesh: An Overview on the Past and Present

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Abstract

Madrasa education is the oldest formal education system in Bangladesh. One of the main streams of Islamic education in Bangladesh is the Qawmi Madrasa education. In Bangladesh, a great number of students are acquiring knowledge through studies in Qawmi madrasa and at the end of their studies they play the role as religious leaders in the society. But the present education curriculum prevalent in this madrasas had been framed in the context of the British rule in the then subjugated India. It had been launched in the world-reputed Darul-Ulum-Deoband of India in 18th century with the aim of religious awakening of the subjugated Muslims of India and attainment of true religious knowledge. The curriculum was timely in the context of the religious, social and political settings for the Muslims of India at that time. It is basically developed emphasizing on the holy Quran and Hadith ignoring worldly knowledge and modern life. In response to the long-standing demand of Qawmi teachers and students, the government has given their Daura Hadith the equivalent of master's degree. An official notification in this regard was issued on 13 April 2017. But the changing of time and social expectation, they did not develop their curriculum, syllabus, teaching-learning method, infrastructures and overall education system with adjusting national and international demand. There is a significant role and influence of this education in our society but this education system lags far behind the general education system. So, by this study, researcher tried to explore the past context and present status, and to identify the challenges of reformation and standardization of the Qawmi Madrasa education. The results of this study will help governments, policy makers, education experts, various development agencies and NGOs, and individual researchers to study more on this education for reforming and renovating.

Keywords: Qawmi Madrasa education, Bangladesh, Past context, Present status, Challenges, Reformation

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Media Advertisement Representation of women’s Body Image and its Impacts of Society on Violence against Women in Bangladesh

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Abstract

In most societies, women are victims of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. Sexual abuse is the main obstacle to the achievement of their rights. Most of the advertisements on national TV channels and newspapers in Bangladesh were the depiction of a women body as a sexual thing. The present comprehensive study aimed to examine the impact of the media portrayed by women in Bangladesh, which were influencing young generations towards violence against women. This quantitative study conducted, through 80 male and female students were randomly selected from the two reputed universities at Khulna in Bangladesh. This study found that about 90 per cent women and more than 75 per cent of women were accordingly victims of sexual assault and facing body shaming. Women are always conscious about to be being a thin-shaped body; consequently, they were dissatisfied with their body shape; it was calculated by almost about 70 per cent of girls. Most of them (81.7%) men and their families looking for a bride consider girls with bright looks. This research observed that viewpoints on women were all about the reflecting of the media’s advertisement on society.

Keywords: Women, Media, Advertisements, Sexual harassment, Bangladesh

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Struggle against Fake Newsmakers and Publishers on Social Media, Measures against Fake News

Moshiur Rahman¹

Abstract

The world is fighting the balance sheet of the new corona virus (Covid-19), which first emerged from Wuhan, China and spread all over the world. During the fight against this virus, which negatively affected and keeps affecting the lives of millions of people, citizens, as always are also struggling with numberless fake news about Covid-19 on social media. While fake news spread from a country to another, almost every country received its share of fake news in this process. Social media, which has always been the platform where fake news spread the most, has brought citizens to another balance sheet different from Covid-19's real balance sheet. However, even though not everyone makes fake news on social media, which is used by billions of people, it is a fact that everyone is exposed to the lies produced and emitted most of the time. Social media organizations also took various steps in this process to prevent the spread of fake news. Citizens started to be sensitive. On the other hand, with the researches, the profiles of those who make and spread fake news the most have been determined. Within the scope of this study, makers and publishers of fake news and the reasons for this phenomenon have been pointed out and the ways for citizens to recognize and avoid them have been investigated. In addition, the study aims to teach the reader ways to use from now on social media in a more sensitive and careful way.

Keywords: Social media, Fake news, Lie generators, Facebook, WhatsApp, Social media institutions

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Right to Information Act 2009 to Tackle Corruption in Bangladesh: Citizens’ Perception

Dr. Md. Aliur Rahman¹

Adnan²

Abstract

Bangladesh is a democratic country and to ensure the democratic system in its administrative organs, the presence of good governance is a must. One of the most colossal hinders on the way of ensuring such governance is corruption. Breaking the prolonged chain of secrecy is much needed to prevent corruption that can ensure transparency and accountability in the government’s organs. Right to Information Act, 2009 in that case is an effective weapon. To fight against corruption, this law has created scope for citizens to cooperate with the public officers and other government and non-government players to keep a vigil on the activities of different types of institutions. This paper examines the effectiveness of the Right to Information Act, 2009 as a tool for combating corruption in Bangladesh and citizens' perception on this Act. In this regard, content analysis, case study, and survey method have been used. The findings show that the RTI Act can be an effective weapon in the battle against corruption in Bangladesh. Respondents have also agreed that ratification of the RTI Act in Bangladesh is a bright sign which is dedicated to set up transparency and accountability in the public sectors and other institutions. It is also found that there is still lacking in terms of awareness about the RTI Act among the citizens. The more worrying scenario is that those who have knowledge about the right to information also don’t know how to use this law properly.

Keywords: Corruption, Secrecy, Right to information, Transparency and accountability, Citizens’ perception

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Cultural Politics of Censorship: Socio-political Ethos of Bangladesh

Md. Hamza Kamal Mostafa¹

Abstract

Censorship is generally considered the repressive mechanism by the power structure of the state. Is it the singular way of thought to consider the censorship as a way to repress the diverse ways of expression? Considering the etymological meaning of censor that comes from the Latin term *censere* meaning "to appraise, value, judge", censorship is not just a state affair, rather it has a greater avenue and multiple agents of application that draws the trajectory of the socio-political ethos of the country. The paper aims to examine the contested historiography of media censorship of Bangladesh to trace the socio-political intrigue within and beyond the censorial practice of the cultural domain like media traversing from visual media to virtual space. Equipped with historiographical analysis of the relevant literature and state policies, and interviewing the film censors in oral history style, it attempts to understand the cultural politics behind the censorial culture of the country that is *de jure* introduced as a democratic state with frequent interruption of autocratic intervention. Significantly while the country over a decade experiencing the constant ruling by the claimed 'progressive and secular' party Awami League-led alliance with the motto of 'Digital Bangladesh,' this study attempts to explore the character of the power structure through the ways the censorship is exercised, by not only the state agency but also other socio-cultural stakeholders in this age of globalization with the open access to the cyberspace.

Keywords: Media, Censorship, Bangladesh, Politics

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Gender Representation in Media: An Analysis of Select TVCs of Bangladesh

Md. Shamim¹

Md. Aliur Rahman²

Abstract

Despite recent rapid rise of awareness regarding gender sensitivity in Bangladesh, the stereotyping of gender role still persists and TVCs as the most frequently viewed stories for promoting assigned message on particular product showcase as well as promote some representations of masculinity and femininity. This consumerist mode of desperate marketing is still projecting particular gender role through assigning some characters and attaching some images. This reaffirms some norms as well as negates some reformations. And the women are the commonly commodified and their portrayal is generally stereotyped. This paper will investigate some popular TVCs of Bangladesh and analyze the stories to find out how the representations of masculinity and femininity are done assigning and reaffirming some gender roles and representations

Keywords: Portrayal, Representation, Stereotyping, Gender role

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