

**INSEARCH 2021**  
**7<sup>th</sup> International Integrative Research**  
**Conference on Governance in Society,**  
**Business and Environment**



Research for Realization

**PANDEMIC CHALLENGES AND  
CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE**



7th International Integrative  
Research Conference on Governance in  
Society, Business and Environment

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**BARD, Cumilla, Bangladesh**  
**December 18-19, 2021**

**INSEARCH 2021**

**7<sup>th</sup> International Integrative Research Conference on  
Governance in Society, Business and Environment**

December 18-19, 2021

***Organized by***

Netinsearch International– Network for Integrative Research

GAIN International, Melbourne, Australia.

Department of Public Administration of Stamford University Bangladesh

Center for Administrative Research and Innovation (CARI)

of University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

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## Foreword

I am honored to write this foreword for Insearch 2021. This year, the prestigious international conference is going to take place at a challenging time. We all know, we are passing through a difficult time because of the prevailing pandemic situation. Research conferences work as a vehicle to disseminate new findings, ideas and models for development. International research conferences are an important platform for networking and research collaboration. Keeping this in mind, the Center for Administrative Research and Innovation (CARI) of the University of Dhaka, Netinsearch International, GAIN International, Stamford University, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) jointly started organising an Insearch International Conference in 2014.

BARD, a pioneering rural development academy in Bangladesh, has been engaged in rural development since its inception in 1959. BARD has achieved international recognition for its innovative works in the field of rural development. The academy introduced several programmes in the 1960s and onward that have contributed in many ways to the development of rural Bangladesh. The activities of the Academy attracted many scholars from around the world since the sixties. For more than six decades, BARD has been a known place for the academia and the practitioners from home and abroad.

Further, the importance of BARD is enhanced because of its location in a historically important place. The Shalban Vihara (a Buddhist monastery), a famous archeological site, is very close to BARD. As an institution of Buddhist theological learning, it was active during 7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> century. People from across the world feel attracted to visit the place and other surrounding heritages.

BARD is happy to be a partner in organizing and hosting this multidisciplinary conference since 2014. This is the fifth time a good number of world class scholars, academicians, researchers and young intellectuals from different countries are gathering under the roof of BARD. The BARD-Faculty look forward to learning from the conference through the presentation of scores of academic papers on diverse issues relating to governance and development. The great opportunity to develop and expand academic linkages with global academic seats of learning through participating in this conference is not the least important to BARD.

Therefore, I am immensely grateful to Centre for Administrative Research and Innovation (CARI) under the University of Dhaka, Stamford University, Netinsearch, and GAIN International for involving BARD in such an honored initiative.

Prominent local and international speakers, professionals, young intellectuals, researchers and volunteers deserve special thanks for joining hands in making this conference successful. I wish every success of this conference and also continued progress of this endeavour.

**Md. Shahjahan**

Director General

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

Cumilla, Bangladesh

## **Foreword**

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all the distinguished scholars, young researchers and delegates from within and beyond borders on the occasion of the “INSEARCH 2021: 7<sup>th</sup> International Integrative Research Conference on Governance in Society, Business and Environment”.

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, both the global north and the south have been facing unprecedented challenges almost in every sphere of public and private life. This pandemic has taken the highest toll over the health service delivery systems, stalled the estimated economic growth and created chaos within the governance system. With the rapid invention of vaccines by different nations, the hurdle to defeat the novel corona has become a burning question to protect the legacy of human civilization from a crisis never seen before. However, the most effective path to tackle this pandemic i.e. mass vaccination has been put into a limbo due to vaccine nationalism, unnecessary hoarding of vaccines and persistent refusal to waive the intellectual property protection for the vaccine preparation formula to the public domain. This has led to the meltdown of global governance creating distrust among nation states. The growing socio-economic inequality at the national level in terms of wealth distribution has exacerbated even in the face of this ongoing global crisis. While millions of peoples have been grieving the loss of their loved ones in addition to their insecurity over basic necessities, we have seen exponential growth of wealth among the riches. The overall challenges of Covid-19 pandemic has crumbled the governance system functioning within different layers (global, regional and national) and pointed outright to the futilities of profit-driven market capitalism. It is equally important to fight the virus in a united manner and to find the fissure of governance exposed through this pandemic. I am very much optimistic about the success of the underlying philosophy of this Conference in integrating and uniting both the academics and practitioners to serve a common purpose on the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, i.e. doing research for realization.

This conference can play a significant role through facilitating an excellent avenue for research, discussion and knowledge dissemination on effective functioning, problems and prospects of governance in the evolving social landscape triggered by the pandemic.

I wish this Conference a very success.

**Fatinaaz Feroz**

Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Stamford University Bangladesh

## **Prologue to the Conference**

We are living in a world filled with a flux of challenges, opportunities, and surprises, while our ability to manage day-to-day affairs is becoming increasingly intricate and irrepressible. The onslaught of COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation and has been constantly affecting the society, environment, businesses and governments. Meanwhile, the structure and the function of the society have been undergoing significant shift around the world for the last few decades or so where the role of the family and the participation by the community are gradually assuming different meanings and values; where the means of communication is becoming more virtual than face-to-face; where racial and economic disparity and discrimination are becoming commonplace; and social cohesion is transpiring to be more of a lip service than real.

On the other hand, our home, our planet is seriously ill. It cannot breathe properly and is in urgent need of attention and treatment. However, the industrialised developed countries and other emerging economies are not giving enough priority in minimising carbon emission by reducing the use of non-renewables including fossil fuels. They are also allowing indiscriminate clearing of the forests and polluting the environment including the oceans. To complicate the situation further, COVID-19 landed on the planet as a shock with an unprecedented wave of panic, and deaths at the end of 2019. By now it has taken the lives of nearly six million people worldwide with severe impacts on the economy, society and work.

In responding to these issues, businesses, at large, remain self-protecting and self-promoting, whereas the governments and other organisations (including NGOs) are becoming overwhelmed, inadequate and somewhat incapable of remedying the problems faced by society and the environment. Developing countries are in a more vulnerable and dire situation compared to their developed, industrialised counterparts. Especially, in combating the COVID-19 crisis, the disparity between rich and poor countries has become exposed in an ugly fashion. For example, many of the rich countries are buying more vaccines than they need whereas, poor, more vulnerable countries are struggling to get enough doses of vaccines for immunising their people against the deadly virus. In the African continent, the average vaccination rate is not even five percent of their eligible population (except for South Africa and Botswana, where the vaccination rate is just over 30%). In this critical juncture of time, this conference aims to examine these key areas of concern and other associated issues. It also looks into the complex albeit important relationships among governments, businesses, international organisations and NGOs and their roles in addressing these issues.

Please note, we had to postpone our conference last year due to the COVID-19 restrictions. This year we have decided to hold it in a hybrid format allowing a limited number of contributors/researchers to join the conference either in person or online. This would be a unique experience for both participants and us as organisers. In the conference venue, we are committed to maintaining the highest possible standards with respect to health-related measures including social distancing.

This conference is the output of the collective efforts of different individuals and institutions. Besides the hardworking and devoted members of the organizing committee and conference secretariat, the individuals include the scholars who are presenting papers and making their valuable observations on the same. Among institutions, the sponsoring role of Stamford University Bangladesh and all-out - supports of BARD, side by side with the Center for Administrative Research and Innovations –CARI of the University of Dhaka, Asian Conference on Population and Development (ACPD), China, GAIN International, Australia and EquJust of Tampere University, Finland add momentum to the efforts. We are grateful to all of them and thank them all

We are also taking the opportunity to thank our distinguished guests, keynote speakers and all participants for their time and contribution to the conference. We own all the limitations of our efforts that hinder its quality and dignity as well the create inconveniences for you and seek your further cooperation to overcome the unwanted shortcomings

We eagerly look forward to welcoming you to INSEARCH 2021.

Kind regards,

**Aka Firowz Ahmad**

Professor of Public Administration,  
University of Dhaka, and  
Chairman, Netinsearch International

**Sharif As-Saber**

Director, Master of International Business  
Program, RMIT University, Australia and  
President, GAIN International



	<b>Content</b>
	05 Foreword
09	Prologue of the Conference
11	Program Schedule
35	Abstracts of Keynote Papers
49	Abstracts of Conference Papers
101	List of Participants in the Conference
116	Conference Governance

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**



**Program Schedule**  
**INSEARCH 2021**  
**7th International Integrative Research Conference on**  
**Governance in Society, Business and Environment**  
**Main Theme: Pandemic Challenges and Changes in Governance**  
**Date:** 18 & 19 December, 2021  
**Venue:** BARD, Cumilla, Bangladesh

**Arrival and Reporting**

Date : 17 December 2021  
Time : 3:00 pm-5:30 pm.  
Venue : Conference Secretariat, BARD, Cumilla.

**Welcome Reception by BARD**

Time : 6.00 pm-7.00 pm  
Date : 17 December 2021  
Venue : Language Martyred Shaheed Abul Barkat Cafeteria

**Dinner**

Time : 8:00 pm-9:30 pm  
Date : 17 December 2021  
Venue : Language Martyred Shaheed Abul Barkat Cafeteria

**Day 01**

Saturday, 18 December 2021

<b>Time</b>	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Venue</b>
7:00 am-8:00 am	Breakfast	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria
08:30 am -8:45 am	Reporting and Taking Seats	Lalmai Auditorium
9:00 am -10:00 am	Inaugural Session	Lalmai Auditorium
10:00 am -10:20 am	Tea Break	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria
10:25 am -11:55 am	First Keynote Session	Lalmai Auditorium
12:00 am -1.30 pm	1st Parallel Workshop Sessions	4 Different Venues
1:30 pm -2:30 pm	Prayer and Lunch Break	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria
2:30 pm -4.00pm	Second Keynote Session	Lalmai Auditorium
6.30 pm -8.00 pm	Panel Discussion	Lalmai Auditorium
8:00 pm -9:00 pm	Conference Dinner	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria

**Day 02**

Sunday, 19 December 2021

<b>Time</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Venue</b>
7:00 am-8:30 am	Breakfast	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria
9:00 am -10:30 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kenote session	Lalmai Auditorium
10:30 am -10:45 am	Tea Break	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria
10:45 am -12:10 pm	2nd Parallel Workshop Sessions	4 Different Venues
12:10 pm -1:30 pm	3rd Parallel Workshop Sessions	Lalmai Auditorium
1:30 pm -2:30 pm	Prayer and Lunch Break	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria
2.30 pm -5.00 pm	Sight Seeing (On the spot Registration Required)	Moinamoti Bihar & Museum and other Ancient Buddhist temples
7:00 pm -8:00 pm	Concluding Session	Moinamoti Auditorium
8:30 pm -:9:30 pm	Dinner	Language Martyred Abul Barkat Cafeteria

## INAUGURAL SESSION

**Insearch 2021**

**7th International Integrative Research Conference on  
Governance in Society, Business and Environment**

**Main Theme: Pandemic Challenges and  
Changes in Governance**

**Date:** 18 & 19 December 2021

**Venue:** BARD, Cumilla, Bangladesh

### **Details of Program**

#### **DAY ONE**

**Saturday, 18 December 2021**

**Time: 08:30 am -8:45 am**

Reporting and Taking Seats

**9:00 am -10:00 am**

Inaugural Session

**Venue**

Lalmai Auditorium

#### **Welcome Speech**

Md. Mokhles Ur Rahman, Adjunct Professor, North South University, Bangladesh & Former Secretary, Anti-Corruption Commission, Government of Bangladesh & Member, Board of Governors, Netinsearch International .

#### **Introduction to BARD**

Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director (Administration), Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla, Bangladesh

#### **Speech of President**

**GAIN International**

Dr. Sharif As-Saber, Chairperson

GAIN International, Governance and Administration Innovation Network Director, Master of International Business Program, School of Management, RMIT University, Australia

#### **Speech of the**

**Chair of ACPD**

Dr. Xiaochun Qiao, Professor, Institute of Population Research, Peking University, Beijing, China, and Convener, Asian Conference on Population and Development (ACPD)

**Speech of Special Guest**

Ms. Fatinaaz Feroz, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Stamford University Bangladesh.

**Speech of DG, BARD**

Md. Shahjahan, Director General, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla.

**Speech of the Chair**

Dr. Aka Firowz Ahmad  
Professor of Public Administration  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Chairman, Netinsearch International-  
Network for Integrative Research &  
Convener, Insearch 2021

## **FIRST KEYNOTE SESSION**

**Time: 10:25 am-11:55 am**

<b>Title of the Session</b>	Covid 19: Challenges in Governance Development Strategy and Research
<b>Venue</b>	Lalmai Auditorium
<b>Session Chair</b>	Dr. Ishtiaq Jamil, Professor, Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
<b>Speaker of Keynote 1</b>	Dr. Haroon A. Khan, Professor Political Science and Administration, Senior Fulbright Fellow, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia
<b>Speaker of Keynote 2</b>	Dr. SM Abdul Quddus, professor of Business Administration, Western Norway University of Applied Science, Norway
<b>Speaker of Keynote 3</b>	Dr. M. Rezaul Islam, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka

## First Parallel Workshop Sessions

### WORKSHOP SESSION 1.1

#### Title of the Session: Education, Teaching and Learning in Pandemic

Venue : Bir Muktiyoddha Abdul Mannan Majumder Conference Hall

Date : 18 December 2021

Time : 12:00 am-1:30pm

Duration : 1.30 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. M. Rezaul Islam, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka

**Discussant** : Dr. Kamrul Ahsan, Adjunct Professor, Department of Public Administration, Stamford University Bangladesh and Ex-Director, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla, Bangladesh

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Changes in the Undergraduate Students' Career Perceptions due to Pandemic: aStudy from Bangladesh

*Zobayer Ahmed*

*Mohammad Ahsan Habib*

২. বাংলাদেশের করভিড-১৯ অতিমারীকালে উচ্চ শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমে যোগাযোগের ধরণঃ শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থী সম্পর্কের প্রেক্ষাপট বিশ্লেষণ

*শবনম আযীম*

*সাদ্দীদা আফরোজা আহসান*

3. Post COVID-19 Hybrid Learning in Bangladeshi Higher Education: Does Adaptation Matter?

*Anas Al MasudMasud*

*Meherin AhmedRoza*

4. The challenges of ICT based teaching-learning activities at tertiary level in Bangladesh: A study on Rajshahi University

*Md. Saiful Islam*

*Dr. Md. Shafiuul Islam*

## WORKSHOP SESSION 1.2

### Title of the Session: Economy, Trade and Industries

Venue	:	Lalmai Auditorium
Date	:	18 December 2021
Time	:	12:00 am-1:30pm
Duration	:	1.30 Hours
Session Chair	:	Dr. SM Abdul Quddus, professor of Business Administration, Western Norway University of Applied Science, Norway
<b>Discussant</b>	:	Dr. Mehedi Hasan, Assistant professor, Department of Law, East West University, Bangladesh

### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Foreign Direct Investment in Bangladesh (FDI): Stimulating Corruption or Development  
*Md Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan*  
*Ahnaq Tahmid Arnab*
2. Impact of Bank Credit on Agricultural Productivity in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis  
*Md. Sazzad Hossain Patwary*
3. Impact of Covid-19 on Restaurant Business of Bangladesh  
*Sazu Sarda*  
*Rudrendu Ray*  
*Dr. Md. Kamrul Hasan*  
*ShitalSohani Chitra*  
*A.T.M. Shahed Parvez*
4. Impact of COVID-19 on Non-Alcoholic Beverage Sector of India: A Systematic Review of Literature (Online)  
*Farah Naaz*

### **WORKSHOP SESSION 1.3**

#### **Title of the Session: Law, Governance, Crises and Challenges**

Venue : Classroom-1  
Date : 18 December 2021  
Time : 12:00 am-1:30pm  
Duration : 1.30 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Abdul Karim, Director, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla

**Discussant** : Abdur Rahman Zibol, Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court

#### **Title of the papers and presenters**

1. Infodemic during Pandemic: A study of Public Perception on the Initiatives Taken by Government of Bangladesh  
Md. Tanvir Alam
2. Factors Affecting E-service delivery in Union Digital Center: Does innovation matter for sustainability?  
*Md. Robiul Islam*  
*Abdur Rahman*
3. Managing the Crises and Challenges of Covid-19 at Lowest Tier of Local Government: Evidence from Sylhet  
*Jobayda Gulshan Ara*  
*Kanij Fatema*  
*Abdul Basit*
4. Vaccine Policy of India: A Comparative study of Polio and Covid 19 Vaccine Policy (Online)  
*Dr Nahid Hasan*  
*Akash Tawar*

## WORKSHOP SESSION 1.4

### Title of the Session: Local and Educational Governance in Pandemic

Venue : Classroom-2  
Date : 18 December 2021  
Time : 12:00 am-1:30pm  
Duration : 1.30 Hours

**Session Chair** : Mr. Milan Kanti Bhattacharjee, Director  
(Administration), Bangladesh Academy for  
Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla,  
Bangladesh

**Discussant** : Dr. Rabiul Islam, Professor, Institute of Social  
Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka,  
Bangladesh

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Prospects, Concerns, and Strains of Coordination between Elected Bodies and Civil Service Organizations in District Administration during the Covid-19 Pandemic

*Md Shirajis Shadik*

2. COVID-19 Pandemic and Educational Governance to ICT Training Application in the Rural Area of Bangladesh

*Kazi Sonia Rahman*

*Kora Hasan Evana*

*Ira Hasan Surjasha*

3. Governing Citizen Registration in Digital Era: Few Issue From The Grass Roots

*Fouzia Nasreen Sultana*

*Junaed Rahim*

4. Sydney's urban inequality: COVID-19 Adversity and Resilience-Based Governance in the Post-Pandemic Urbanism (Online)

*Khandakar Farid Uddin*

## **SECOND KEYNOTE SESSION**

**Time: 02:30 pm-04:00 pm**

- Title of the Session : Post Covid-19 Governance at National and Local Levels
- Venue : Lalmai Auditorium
- Date : 18 December 2021
- Time : 2:30 pm-4.00 pm
- Duration : 1.30 Hours
- Session Chair** : Dr. Haroon A. Khan, Professor, Political Science and Administration, Senior Fulbright Fellow, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, USA
- Speaker 1** : Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Former Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong and Chairman, COAST Foundation, Dhaka
- Speaker 2** : Dr. Muhammed Asaduzzaman, Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Islamic University, Kushtia, Bangladesh
- Speaker 3** : Dr. Amir Nasrullah, Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong

**DAY-2**  
**THIRD KEYNOTE SESSION**

- Title of the Session : Nature of Governance and Challenges in Population and Development
- Venue : Lalmai Auditorium
- Date : 19 December 2021
- Time : 09:00 am-10.30 am
- Duration : 1.30 Hours
- 
- Session Chair** : Dr. Nakib Mohammad Nasrullah, Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 
- Speaker 1** : Dr. Ishtiaq Jamil, Professor, Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
- 
- Speaker 2** : Dr. Taiabur Rahman, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 
- Speaker 3** : Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam, Professor Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka

## SECOND PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### Workshop Session 2.1

#### Title of the Session: Public Health and Health Services during Pandemic

Venue : Bir Muktijoddha Abdul Mannan Majumder  
Conference Hall  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 10:45 am-12:10 pm  
Duration : 1:25 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Haroon A. Khan, Professor, Political Science  
and Administration, Senior Fulbright Fellow,  
Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, USA

**Discussant** : Dr. Kamrul Hassan, Director, Bangladesh  
Academy for Rural Development (BARD),

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Frontline Health Care and Service Providers during COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Some Alarming Experiences  
*Sanchoy K Chanda*  
*Musaraf H Mollah*  
*Krishna Bhowmik*
2. Relationship between Service Quality and Patient Satisfaction: An Empirical Evaluation of Public Hospitals in Bangladesh  
*Md. Amzad Hossain*
3. Providing Health Solutions in the Rural Communities of Bangladesh during the COVID-19 Pandemic  
*Sharmin Begum*  
*Ekaterina Nemshevich*
4. Mental Health Considerations during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Gendered Analysis  
*Anam Tahir Hashmi*  
*Dr. Mohd Shakir*

## WORKSHOP SESSION 2.2

### Title of the Session: War against COVI-19, Health and Entrepreneurship

Venue	:	Lalmal Auditorium
Date	:	19 December 2021
Time	:	10:45 am-12:10 pm
Duration	:	1:25 Hours
Session Chair	:	Dr. SK Tawfique M. Haque, Professor & Chairman, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University, Bangladesh
<b>Discussant</b>	:	Dr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, Director, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla, Bangladesh

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. The Outbreak of COVID-19 and the War: Assessing Pre and Post Disaster Approach, Khulna City Corporation (KCC), Bangladesh  
*Md. Nazmul Haque*  
*Saima Rahman*  
*Saifullah Bin Ansar*
2. Social Entrepreneurship: A New Venture for Social Development and its Role during Covid-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh  
*Laila Habib*
3. The rise of specific crime waves during the pandemic and the challenges tackled by the law enforcement agency of Bangladesh  
*Maisha Tabassum Anima*
4. COVID-19, Migrant Workforce and Regional Health Infrastructure in North Bengal (Online)  
*Dr. Abdul Hannan*  
*Ms. Farhat Hossain*

## WORKSHOP SESSION 2.3

### Title of the Session:

### Population, Migration, and Change

Venue : Classroom-1  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 10:45 am-12:10 pm  
Duration : 1:25 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam, Professor  
Department of Population Sciences, University  
of Dhaka

**Discussant** : Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun, Director (Agriculture),  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development  
(BARD), Cumilla, Bangladesh.

### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Echelon of Demographic Transition in Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects  
*Fatima Zannat Esha*
2. The Fuel Supply System for Rohingya Refugees: A Case Study on Kutupalong Camp  
*Shaikh Abdur Rahman*
3. Impact of Migration on food Security: A Development vs. Underdevelopment Perspective  
*Kazi Shek Farid*
4. Vulnerable Communities during COVID-19: International labour migrants and their remained behind families in Bangladesh (Online)  
*Sabnam Sarmin Luna*  
*Professor Atul Sood*

## WORKSHOP SESSION 2.4

### Title of the Session: Gender and Development

Venue : Classroom-2  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 10:45 am-12:10 pm  
Duration : 1:25 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Syeda Lasna Kabir, Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka

**Discussant** : Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha, Director (Rural Education and Social Development), Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla

### Title of the papers and presenters

1. National Women Development Policy: Status and Ways Forward for Gender Mainstreaming in Leadership Role  
*Saifun Nahar*
2. Economic Impact and Coping Mechanisms of COVID 19 on Women Entrepreneurship in Sylhet City of Bangladesh  
*Tauhida Chowdhury*  
*Professor Dr Neaz Ahmed*
3. COVID-19 as a Shadow Pandemic: Initiatives to Address the Increased Gender based Violence in Bangladesh  
*Era Robbani*
4. Impact Of Urbanization On Environment: India's Urbanization Challenges (Online)  
*Supriya Chaudhary*  
*Dr. Ashish Kant Chaudhari*

## THIRD PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### Workshop Session 3.1

#### Title of the Session: Agriculture, Environment and Marketing

Venue : Bir Muktijoddha Abdul Mannan Majumder  
Conference Hall  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 12:10 pm-1:30 pm  
Duration : 1.20 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Kamrul Ahsan, Adjunct Professor,  
Department of Public Administration, Stamford  
University Bangladesh and Ex-Director,  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development  
(BARD), Cumilla, Bangladesh

**Discussant** : Kazi Shek Farid, Professor, Department of Rural  
Sociology, Bangladesh Agricultural University

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. The Presence of Pathogens in Organic Manure and their Effects on Health and Environment.  
*Brigadier General Md Sayed Ali (Retd)*
2. Chromium Removal from Tannery Waste Water Using Shorea Robusta Leaf Adsorbent  
*Adhir Chandra Paul*  
*Md. Mojob Ali*  
*Abdul jail*
3. Smart Profiling of Rice Varieties in Disaster-prone Zones of Bangladesh: Application of ICT towards Developing a Web and Mobile Application.  
*Md. Mahfuz Wahab*  
*Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain*  
*Dr. Md. Shahjahan Kabir,*  
*Dr. Moin-us-Salam,*  
*Dr. Md. Ismail Hossian*
4. Agricultural Marketing Reforms: Current Status And Future Directions (Online)  
*Iffat Chauhan*

**WORKSHOP SESSION 3.2**  
**Title of the Session: Media,**  
**Communication and Movement**

Venue : Lalmai Auditorium  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 12:10 pm-1:30 pm  
Duration : 1.20 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Former Professor,  
Department of Public Administration,  
University of Chittagong and Chairman,  
COAST Foundation, Dhaka

**Discussant** : Dr. Mumammed Asaduzzaman, Professor,  
Department of Politics and Public  
Administration, Islamic University, Kushtia,  
Bangladesh

**Title of the papers and presenters**

1. Nexus between Academic Performance and Social Media: A Study on  
Teens of Khulna City  
*Mamunor Rashid*  
*Md. Shariful Islam*
2. Journalism in Onset of COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh:  
Governance and Coping Strategies of Newspaper Journalists  
*Mridha Md. Shiblee Noman*  
*Rakib Ahmed*  
*Uzzwal Kumar Mondal*
3. In the Era of New Media: Fighting against Misinformation Case  
Study: Shahbag Movement  
*Shabnam Azim*  
*Fatema Samina Yasmin*
4. Combating the COVID-19 as Non-Traditional Security Threat:  
Deconstructing the Traditional vs. Non-Traditional Security Debate in  
International Relations  
*Afzalur Rahman*

### WORKSHOP SESSION 3.3

#### Title of the Session: Religion philosophy and World Order

Venue : Classroom-1  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 12:10 pm-1:30 pm  
Duration : 1.20 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Ishtiaq Jamil, Professor, Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

**Discussant** : Dr. Shafiul Islam, Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Presumption of Legitimacy Rule in Islam: Conflict with the Medical Truth  
*Nadia Rahaman*
2. Xiism in the Post COVID-19 World: A Hegemonic Order in the Making?  
*Abu Sufian*
৩. ইতালীয় রেনেসাঁসের আলোকে শিখা-দর্শন  
*Md Abu Baker Siddique*
4. The Positives of the Coronavirus Situation (Online)  
*Rehnuma Bint Anis*

## WORKSHOP SESSION 3.4

### Title of the Session: Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities and Livelihood Strategies

Venue : Classroom-2  
Date : 19 December 2021  
Time : 12:10 pm-1:30 pm  
Duration : 1.20 Hours

**Session Chair** : Dr. Taiabur Rahman, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Discussant** : Dr. Amir Nasrullah, Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong.

#### Title of the papers and presenters

1. Impact of COVID-19 on society: Livelihood Strategies of the Lower Income Communities in Bangladesh  
*A.N. Bushra*
2. Covid 19 Affect in Rural Livelihood: A Case of a Bangladesh Village  
*Dr. Mohammed Kamrul Hasan*  
*Kazi Foyez Ahmed*
3. Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities of Disaster affected Older Persons in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh  
*Md. Rabiul Islam, PhD*  
*Fatema Khatun, PhD*
4. Livelihood Initiatives in the Urban Areas in India: Issues of good governance (Online)  
*Tapas Kumar*

## CONCLUDING SESSION

- Time** : 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
- Venue** : Lalmai Auditorium
- Summing up by** : Dr. SM Abdul Quddus, Professor of Business Administration, Western Norway University of Applied Science, Norway
- Speech by** : Dr. Haroon A. Khan, Professor Political Science and Administration, Senior Fulbright Fellow, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, USA
- Speech by** : Dr. Ishtiaq Jamil, Professor, Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
- Speech of Convener Insearch 2021** : Dr. Aka Firowz Ahmad Professor of Public Administration and Chairman, Netinsearch International-Network for Integrative Research & Convener, Insearch 2021
- Speech of Session Chair** : Md. Shahjahan, Director General, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla



**ABSTRACT OF  
KEYNOTE PAPERS**



## **FIRST KEYNOTE SESSION**

### **1. Covid-19 Crisis: An Analysis of the Challenges of a Unified International Strategy**

**Haroon A. Khan *PhD***

Professor, Political Science and Public Administration, Henderson State University, Arkansas State University System, Arkadelphia, Arkansas USA

The coronavirus outbreak devastated the whole world, uncommon in the history of human being, posing a major crisis to the world leaders. It has shaken up the political, economic, and social life of the people. The coronavirus has affected the whole world, and even a tiny remote place is not immune from the virus. The coronavirus is the worst crisis the world faced surpassing any previous crisis in severity, dangers, and extent. The coronavirus meets all the characteristics of a crisis with its complexity, chaos, ambiguity, stress, and unforeseen consequences. In a crisis, it is crucial to have a unified national and global strategy to combat the virus. But different countries were pursuing different strategies without a unified strategy. In an interconnected world, without a unified strategy, it is difficult to come up with a coordinated plan. The coronavirus devastated the world, and the solution cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the world leaders. Instead of cooperation, the world leaders embarked on a policy of antagonism defying solutions. Globalization has facilitated the transfer of money, products, and services in the world by removing territorial boundaries among the countries. At the same time, it has facilitated the transfer of problems from one country to another, for example, diseases, crime, terrorism, and others. Global leadership must be ready not only to reap the benefits of globalization but also to combat the problems. Global leaders must be prepared to take effective actions to handle any situation that can have serious consequences. The paper seeks to investigate the challenges of a unified international strategy with an analysis of the rivalry between the United States and China, the lack of U. S. leadership, controversies on science, uncoordinated strategies to combat the virus, the failure to respond early, difficulties of opening the businesses, and the problems of the World Health Organization.

## 2. The Relevance of Chinese Development Aids for South Asia in the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Business Model for All Seasons?

**Abdul Quddus *PhD***

Professor, Department of Business Administration, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

**Tom Skauge**

Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

The year 2020 was considered as a remarkable year for China due to the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19 pandemic across the globe which was first observed and reported in Wuhan City, China, in December 2019. The “the Chinese virus” and long-lasting US-China trade war debate have had devastating effects not only on Chinese economic growth, but Covid-19 makes lock-down and shutdown of business and offices a regular phenomenon across the globe. However, IMF showed that all G-20 economies will be in the negative territory of GDP growth in 2020 and only Chinese economy is predicted to expand 1.9% and 8.2% in 2020 and 2021 respectively (Global Development Outlook,2020)

Considering her consistent economic growth and rising superpower strategy, China has long been involved as a development partner by promoting a unique ‘business model’ of development aids with many developing nations specially in South Asia and African regions. Many South Asian nations such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal etcetera are strategic development partners of China. Most recipient countries of Chinese development aids are identical as either ‘hybrid-regime’, ‘semi-democratic’ or autocratic regimes such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Regimes of these countries find Chinese development aids as well fit with their needs and circumstances. China’s long engagement with developing countries by means of providing development aids not only showed China’s commitment to invest in the infrastructure development of poor countries but it also showed her acceptability among developing nations as a reliable development partner. Questions now arise a) What are the nature and characteristics of Chinese business model of development aids for South Asia specially during the Covid-19 Pandemic? Why Chinese business model of development aids is attractive to regimes of South Asian nations and how is it distinct to the aids approach of the West? What are the consequences of Chinese business model of development aids, and will it be the same aids approach to South Asia in the post Covid-19 era? The theory of neo-Granscian approach in development aid architecture will be used as the theoretical underpinning of this study.

**Keywords:** Development aids, Covid-19, Democratic governance, Authoritarian regime, Aid and power

### **3. Pandemic Praxis: Adapting Research Methodologies within Covid-19 Constraints**

**M. Rezaul Islam *PhD***

Professor, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

The outcome of Covid-19 has been catastrophic - across the globe, millions have been repulsed and hundreds of thousands have died. This pandemic radically changed the edifice of our lives and livelihoods, with devastating social and economic consequences that are likely to unfold for years. The pandemic has changed our education system. Social scientists and social researchers are facing enormous challenges in conducting social research during this Covid-19 pandemic due to their physical inaccessibility to the community and glimpses of that transformed system are already emerging. Literature shows that many social researchers stop their research practices; many of them started their research, but could not finish it; some researchers are doing their research using alternative tools and techniques; and research funding has been frizzed due to this pandemic. The main objective of this keynote speech is to look at some alternative strategies that need to adapt research methodologies within Covid-19 constraints. In line with this objective, this keynote speech argues that usage of the tools and techniques of social research is quietly dreadful within Covid-19 constraints include those that involve human interaction (conferences and meetings, interviews, ethnographic research and travel for data collection). This paper is based on the author's empirical observations, and some evidence is obtained from the experts' opinions working in different disciplines in social sciences. Results showed that there are some rooms where researchers can adapt the tools and techniques of research methodologies within Covid-19 constraints to consider the context of community, its culture, research opportunities and practices. These include relocation of community, narrowing of research scope and objective, selection of respondents, use of friendly research instruments and digital platform. Findings would be useful to the social sciences researchers, academics and research students.

## SECOND KEYNOTE SESSION

### 1. A New Approach to the Study of Local Governance: Bangladesh Perspectives

**Tofail Ahmed *PhD***

Former Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong and Chairman, COAST Foundation, Dhaka

The term 'governance' first used in the public administration (PA) literature by Harland Cleveland in the early seventies (Cleveland, 1972). The traditional PA that used to focus on 'government' and hierarchical bureaucratic 'Weberian Model' has been facing challenges from the pluralist political culture as well as from the growing private and voluntary sector agencies that created a giant leap forward with the advent of New Public Management (NPM) and New Public Administration movement. The traditional PA paradigm freed itself from the shackles of structural bureaucratic approaches of 'process-centric accountability'. The public-private dichotomy has been becoming irrelevant and adopted more flexible, decentralized and result oriented integrated and market oriented competitive service management system. The public administration started globally changing its face since the 1990s with the change in the global economic order.

Bangladesh in its economic sphere radically changed its centralized monopolistic public sector domination by bringing widespread privatization and following a liberal open market economy. The voluntary development organizations made inroads to the grassroots in a substantial way. The state in its public administration did not bring required changes keeping phase with the economic and social spheres. The 'government' statically follow top-down rigid bureaucratic approach instead of adopting a participatory governance approach as delineated in 'new public administration' which promotes partnership, networking and sharing. The study attempted to observe the public administration mismatch at the local level of GoB functionary as well as representative LGIs. The private sector agencies and voluntary sector's strong presence at local levels are ignored and public sector agencies operate parallel alongside the private and voluntary sector with poor resources base and less number of staff, still they compete for the same client that in most case, result in wastage of time and resources.

There is need for the change of outlook consider the empirical situation and ground reality. For example, services like health care, education, housing, input supply for broad agriculture sector (which include crop, livestock, fishery, etc.), transportation and all sorts of consumer supply people entirely depend on the private sector. Many of the livelihood development inputs are coming from the private voluntary sector specially credit supply and enterprise promotion. GoB also parallelly manage those with less resources and quality.

The recommendation from the perspective of new public administration is, GoB may reconsider and reconstitute its organization, function, role, policy and strategy by keeping 'good governance' at the central focus. The Bangladesh Public Administration should internalize the notion of 'governance' and limit its direct intervention role in various services and developmental sectorial activities. Rather GOB should strengthen its regulatory role for ensuring the quality and prices of services and also straighten the facilitating role and devise methods and means so that all the stakeholders' i.e. private, voluntary, GO, NGO and LGIs can play their respective roles effectively in a coordinated and integrated manner. The formulation of 'rules of engagement' for all the stakeholders at the local level will promote good local governance in accordance with the principles of new public administration.

## 2. The Values of Partnership Governance and Covid-19

**Mohammed Asaduzzaman, *PhD***

Professor, Department of Public Administration, Islamic University,  
Kushtia, Bangladesh

Although, globalization the advancement of technology and the development of medical sciences have enormously contributed in building the present modern civilization, failed to stop climate change and environmental degradation. Modern civilization enacts a terrifying toll on the planet capitalizing and manipulating everything of nature and thus, the atmosphere has changed due to the bottomless global hunger for resources. It is believed that climate change, water pollution and drivers of biodiversity loss such as deforestation and illegal wildlife trade, wars around the world, the use of chemical and biological weapons have promoted the emergence of infectious diseases in humans in regular intervals. The outbreak of Novel Coronavirus-2019 (Covid-19) is nothing but the consequence of modern civilization.

Countries around the world have been facing extreme and unprecedented situations due to the Covid-19 since late December 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a global pandemic in March 2020. This pandemic has interrupted our regular life extremely. Europe is planning to find an exit strategy but it is impossible for developing countries where political and ethnic conflicts, massive corruption, and extreme poverty are deeply rooted in every sector of society. Besides, the visible and invisible characteristics of poor governance of the developing countries, directly and indirectly, impede the process of addressing and dealing with the challenges and threats of a global crisis. Centralized, elite oriented, and bureaucratic type of governance has failed to handle the global pandemic situation adequately. As a result, governments of developing countries are paying a huge cost of the pandemic due to their malfunctioning governance and administration. The cost of the pandemic in terms of loss of human lives is painful, but the effects on the global economy and sustainable development prospects are also worrying. The Economist already warned that the pandemic could have devastating effects on developing countries if they fail to address the situation properly. It seems that crisis governance is in deep crisis.

Keeping the above grey picture in mind, this paper intends to explain the needs of partnership governance to face the global pandemic from the perspectives of developing countries. According to UNDP, the crisis is global but its impacts are deeply local and government cannot pull this off on their own, and working in silos is not an option. It needs solidarity and coordination among the various actors and levels of governance. The paper assumes that building multi-level governance partnerships is a prerequisite and indispensable to deal with such a global pandemic. This type of governance framework might be a good solution to keep society safe and sustainable for future generations. It is also assumed that sustainable societies are inherently inclusive and resilient. Once again the

pandemic Covid-19 has reinvigorated the interdependence of our world. It has uncovered major weaknesses of governance and administration of both developed and developing countries. It has shown how the prevalence of poverty, weak health systems, lack of education, corruption, and a lack of global cooperation exacerbate the crisis. Integrative actions and solutions are needed to overcome and fight against such a global pandemic. In addition, a healthy ecosystem is vital to protect the world from such a critical situation and multi-level governance partnerships may help in securing a healthy global eco-system. Moreover, the values of partnership promote empowerment, ownership, trust, equal participation and institutional capacity and finally all these contribute to ensuring a sustainable and well-functioning future society.

### **3. New Normal Post COVID 19 World and Challenges of Governance in Bangladesh**

**Amir Mohammad Nasrullah *PhD***

Professor Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong

Unlike other pandemics in history, COVID-19 has come as a big threat to societies, economies and governments worldwide. Amidst extraordinary challenges and uncertainties, governments are under tremendous pressure on managing the immediate impact of the pandemic and its consequences. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is uncovering the governance quality and competence of the governments. In crisis times, most people automatically turn to their governments for protection and support. When governments fail to protect and support their people, they quickly lose credibility and legitimacy. Therefore, extraordinary measures have been taken by the governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The case of Bangladesh is also the same. However, Bangladesh is not new to disasters and other such humanitarian crises. But, the COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis of a completely different nature and one that needs an unprecedented scale of response. The IMF recently reported that in Bangladesh the economic impact of Covid-19 has most notably been felt in three main areas: a fall in remittances; a decline in RMG exports; and a drop in domestic economic activities (IMF, June 2020). The World Bank in its last month's report warned about the risk that the pandemic will trigger a long-lasting rise in poverty, especially in low-income countries, and Bangladesh has already started experiencing that. Moreover, many other experts warned that the current COVID 19 crisis will have lasting impacts on the delivery of public services and uncertainty remains there in the Post COVID 19 New Normal World. Nonetheless, all these problems in Bangladesh lead to two important things: mass unemployment and increased poverty. Side by side, Bangladesh has also many other systematic problems, such as corruption, poor public service delivery, inefficiency of bureaucracy, lack of commitment of the political leaders etc. On the other side, it is not clear yet what the 'new normal' will mean in Bangladesh. It could be a real historic turning point, but it may simply be a faddish cliché. Therefore, in thinking about the 'new normal' we must keep in our mind that we may have to face the unknown and risks are not yet gone away. When things go wrong for the public sector, it can often make front-page news – instantly transforming a management issue into a political problem. Therefore, we now need to think ahead to the new normal if governments and public managers are to avoid simply reacting to events. We need to design different alternatives and test new ways of delivering public services. Different new strategies should be formulated and actions to be taken to face future challenges and problems immediately. Otherwise due to previous systemic problems and issues brought forth by the COVID 19 pandemic could start endangering our entire social structure in Bangladesh. Governance really matters in this type of situation, as governance is particularly important for the generation, transfer, and diffusion of knowledge, which enables governments to improve their performance, mitigate crises and sustain competitive advantage. In this backdrop based on qualitative techniques, this paper aims at examining the current impact of COVID 19 as well as governance challenges and possible ways out in fighting with the post COVID 19 new normal world in Bangladesh.

## THIRD KEYNOTE SESSION

### 1. Governance Capacity and Legitimacy in COVID-19 Management: Evidence from South Asia

#### **Ishtiaq Jamil**

Professor, Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

#### **Akram Hossain**

PhD Researcher, Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

Based on survey data collected from around 3,500 randomly selected respondents in South Asia, the article maps citizens' assessment of COVID-19 pandemic management in their respective countries. It thereafter uses factors pertaining to governance capacity and governance legitimacy to analyze what explains citizens' evaluations of crisis management. The findings suggest that crisis management varies in South Asia and that both governance capacity and, especially, governance legitimacy matter for crisis management. A governments' containment measures and relief support (capacity), the institutional trust it receives, and the trustworthy information it spreads (legitimacy) are among the most significant factors for generating high satisfaction with crisis management. The article contributes to a better understanding of crisis management in South Asia from the perspective of citizens and to identifying the factors that citizens evaluate as crucial in crisis management.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 pandemic, Crisis management, Governance capacity, Governance legitimacy, South Asia

## **2. Informal Governance Systems in Action: Urban Slum Chronicles in Bangladesh**

**Dr. Taiabur Rahman**

Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Lamia Mohsin**

Junior National Consultant, Research for Global Centre on Adaptation Resilience and Inclusive Growth Cluster, UNDP

According to a UNDP report, slum dwellers account for more than 33% of the population of Dhaka, and the government can meet only 7% of the annual housing demand, while the rest are left to the private sector. Where the private sector may be able to cater to the needs of the middle-income or at best the lower-middle income group, the urban poor are left with no other choice other than seeking accommodation in slums. Over the years, reports of fires and gas explosions within slum premises have become commonplace, and the source of such accidents can more often be traced down to illegal and unacceptable utility connections (electricity, gas and water) provided by ruling party musclemen, a.k.a 'slumlords'. Thus, urban slum settlements in Bangladesh give us an insight into the dichotomies between 'formal' and 'informal' structures of governance. By formal, we usually refer to a set of rules, codes of conducts and practices enforced by institutions, and are thereby granted societal and legal legitimacy by the authority in question. On the other hand, juxtaposed to formal rules and regulations, informal governance refers to the normative enforcement of unwritten, unofficial and uncodified norms by institutions which provide a range of goods and services to a certain group of beneficiaries. Today, informal arrangements such as political patronage, rent-seeking and exploitation can no longer be considered as consequences of poor or failed governance, but as components of the multifarious dimensions of public authority and how it functions in society to ensure distribution of limited goods and services.

The question of whether such 'alternative' forms of governance which contrives the rigidity of formal rules and regulations can be considered as a natural evolution of public authority is highly contested however, given our persistent failure to look beyond the façade of formal institutions and infrastructures. This research, therefore, will try to gain a deeper understanding of the informal power struggles and negotiations between various actors in the urban slum context, by looking into the internal framework of political and economic tapestries that exist and the factors which have contributed to their existence so far. By drawing major analytical insights from the secondary sources along with primary data sources, this research, primarily qualitative in nature, will try to define the conception of 'informal governance' as a possible theoretical basis that can be used to define and analyze the existing governance challenge in the slum context. By looking at existing policy arrangements that address the systemic exclusion of informal settlements such as urban bastes (slums), this research will try to analyze the status quo of service delivery mechanisms through the lens of informal governance.

### **3. Bangladesh at 50: Changes and Challenges on Population and Development**

**Mohammad Mainul Islam *PhD***

Professor, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka

**Background:** Between 1971 to 2021, Bangladesh has remarkably transformed from a 'test case of development. From a demographic perspective, this paper aimed to examine the changes in population dynamics in Bangladesh after 50 years of independence and explore key drivers of such changes and critical challenges that lie ahead towards SDGs by 2030 and beyond. This paper provides a concise overview with a summary of population dynamics in Bangladesh concerning the past, present, and future scenarios, which follows the demographic transition model to identify the changes and challenges within the last 50 years. Later, this paper identifies the key drivers of these changes in Bangladesh. We have revisited the past and explored the current and future scenarios of Bangladesh in terms of population and development issues and plans and policies towards 2041-the benchmark year of the country to become a developed country.

**Data and methods:** The study utilizes time-series data from population and housing censuses, various national-level population surveys, population projections, and estimates produced by the United Nations Population Division and the World Bank. Also, this paper reviews substantive secondary literature, including present and past policy documents on population and development through web searching.

**Discussion and conclusions:** Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in population and development areas like reducing total fertility rates, increasing contraceptive prevalence rate, improving infant and child mortality, increasing life expectancy at birth, reducing maternal mortality ratio, ensuring gender parity in schooling, women's empowerment, and overall economic development. However, the critical challenges are reducing the youth unemployment rate, ensuring the quality of education, good health, and good governance. The country has to take urgent action to address the high prevalence of child marriage, high unmet need of family planning, high maternal mortality, and gender-based violence- which are also given commitments at the ICPD25+ and SDGs to achieve by 2030. In Bangladesh, population and development issues must be emphasized and integrated into the development goals, monitored, and evaluated with adequate-reliable data—the real story of development grounds on rights and choices and equality and quality of life.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### **Promotion of Local Civic Activity and Democracy as the Challenge for Free Edification Work. A Case from Finland**

#### **Anja Heikkinen**

Professor (emerita), Tampere University

#### **Björn Wallén**

Chair of Finnish Adult Education Association (Free edification work)

#### **Ilkka Hjerppe**

Provost (emeritus), Tampere Parish; Councillor of Orivesi municipality

#### **Mohammed Asaduzzaman**

Professor, Islamic University Bangladesh

The virtual workshop describes and reflects on lessons learnt in a workshop, held in OrivedenKampus (<https://orivesi.fi/>, <https://www.orivedenkampus.fi/in-english/>) 17.-18.8.2021, in the middle of Covid-19 pandemic. The focus of workshop was “Buzzling villages – what does localness mean in civic activity, democracy and edification work”. (<https://equjust.wordpress.com/2021/09/01/pohinaa-kylille-tyopaja-17-18-8-2021/#more-2069>) With support from experts of free edification work, CSOs, activists, municipal policymakers and using one village from Orivesimunicipality as a case, small groups were analysing problems and potential of local activities and democracy, and how they could be promoted by actors and institutions of free edification work. The outcomes are used for concrete initiatives in Orivesi, and for wider regional and national discussion. The topics and presenters of the virtual workshop are:

1. Contextualizing Orivesi workshop (Anja Heikkinen and Björn Wallén)
  - localness and free edification work in Finland
  - KOSI-project of Freedom and Responsibility in Popular Adult Education-program (<http://www.vapausjavastuu.fi/in-english/>)
2. Qualities and challenges of local participation and democracy (Ilkka Hjerppe)
3. Free edification work facing local, national and planetary challenges (Anja Heikkinen and Björn Wallén)
4. Questions and answers with the audience
5. Commentary from the Global South (Mohammed Asaduzzaman)

**ABSTRACT OF  
CONFERENCE PAPERS**



**FIRST PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS**  
**WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1.1**  
**EDUCATION, TEACHING AND LEARNING IN PANDEMIC**

**1. Changes in the Undergraduate Student's Career Perceptions Due to Pandemic: A Study from Bangladesh**

**Zobayer Ahmed**  
**Mohammad Ahsan Habib**

Since the outbreak began, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the significant displacement workforce of Bangladesh. Eventually, the pandemic created a substantial threat for the undergraduate students, including Bangladesh's future workforce, and are preparing to enter the labor force soon. The purpose of this study is to explore how undergraduate students' career planning got changed because of the pandemic. It attempted to investigate the process of changing careers and its implications based on secondary sources, including extensive content analysis, literature studies, and current theories of job change. However, we used primary data collected through a survey and 15 in-depth interviews, key informant interviews (KIIs), two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and illustrated case studies to meet the study's primary objective.

During the Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, job insecurity is a significant source of concern for many undergraduate students. A substantial number of undergraduate students prefer and prepare for government jobs as the most secure option. Another group of students is preparing for higher study abroad and establishing themselves in a developed country.

The study is unique because it explored the significant shifts in the career choice of undergraduate students in Bangladesh because of the pandemic. Based on the study's conclusions, policymakers in Bangladesh can develop policies to address the unemployment issue resulting from the pandemic.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh, Career, Covid-19, Job Security, Undergraduate Students.

## 2. বাংলাদেশের কভিড-১৯ অতিমারীকালে উচ্চ শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমে যোগাযোগের ধরণঃ শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থী সম্পর্কের প্রেক্ষাপট বিশ্লেষণ

শবনম আযীম

সান্দিদা আফরোজা আহসান

সম্পর্কের প্রকৃতির মতো প্রতিটি যোগাযোগই স্বতন্ত্র এবং অনন্য বৈশিষ্ট্যের অধিকারী। অন্যান্য সকল সম্পর্কের মতো শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থীর সম্পর্কও স্বতন্ত্র প্রকৃতির এবং দৃঢ়। কোভিড-১৯ অতিমারীকালে যখন সকল শিক্ষাকার্যক্রম ছুটির হবার পথে তখন ইন্টারনেটের অপরিহার্যতা প্রমাণিত হয় এবং শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থীর মধ্যে সম্পর্ক নিরবিচ্ছিন্ন রাখতে অনলাইন শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম শক্তিশালী বিকল্প হিসেবে দেখা দেয়। যখন ভার্সুয়াল জগতে ইতিবাচক সম্পর্কেও মিথস্ক্রিয়ার সক্ষমতা নিয়ে বিশ্লেষণের প্রয়োজন তখন প্রতিবন্ধকতায় ভরাবাস্তবতা যোগাযোগের ধরনকে থমকে দেয়। কারণ বাংলাদেশের বাস্তবতায় বিপুলসংখ্যক শিক্ষার্থীর স্মার্ট ডিভাইস নেই, ইন্টারনেটে অভিজ্ঞতা নেই, এমনকি ব্যয়বহুল ইন্টারনেট ডাটা কেনার সক্ষমতাও নেই। অন্যদিকে অনলাইন শিক্ষাকার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য যথাযথ প্রশিক্ষণ, দক্ষতা, ডিভাইস এমনকি ইন্টারনেটের সুবিধা থেকেও বঞ্চিত শিক্ষক সমাজের এক বিশাল অংশ। বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশে ৪৬ টি পাবলিক এবং ১০৫ টি বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় রয়েছে। তাছাড়া দেশের প্রায় ১৫০ টি কলেজ বাংলাদেশজাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অন্তর্ভুক্ত এবং উচ্চ শিক্ষাকর্মসূচি পরিচালনা করছে। অন্যদিকে বাংলাদেশ সরকারের হিসাব মতে ২০২১ সালের আগস্টপর্যন্ত দেশে ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহারকারীর সংখ্যা ১২৫.৪৬ মিলিয়ন আর মোবাইল ফোন ব্যবহারকারীর সংখ্যা ১৭৮.৬১ মিলিয়ন। তবে এই তথ্য দেশের শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নয়। প্রকৃত অর্থে বাংলাদেশের শিক্ষার্থীদের একটি বড় অংশ অর্থনৈতিকভাবে অস্বচ্ছল ফলে বিকল্প শিক্ষাকার্যক্রমে নিযুক্ত থাকা তাদের জন্য নতুন চ্যালেঞ্জ নিয়ে আসে। এই গবেষণা প্রবন্ধের প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য হবে ভার্সুয়াল ক্লাসরুমে যোগাযোগের ধরন বিশ্লেষণ এবং শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থীর সম্পর্কের মাত্রা নিরূপণ করা। এই লক্ষ্য কে সামনে রেখে শ্যাননওয়েবারের মডেলের আলোকে যোগাযোগের মাত্রা এবং কার্যকারিতা বিশ্লেষণ করা হবে। ছাত্র-শিক্ষক সম্পর্কের প্যাটার্ন বিশ্লেষণের জন্য যোগাযোগের মিথস্ক্রিয়া মডেল বিস্তারিত ব্যাখ্যা করা হবে। পাশাপাশি ব্লুমের 'টেস্কোনমি'র আলোকে অনলাইন শিক্ষাকার্যক্রম ব্যাখ্যাকরা হবে। যোগাযোগের কার্যকারিতা এবং শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থী সম্পর্কের গভীরতা মূল্যায়নের জন্য গুণগত এবং সংখ্যাগত উভয় পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগ করা হবে। এজন্য নথি বিশ্লেষণ, জরিপ এবং নিবিড় সাক্ষাৎকার গবেষণাপদ্ধতি হিসেবে ব্যবহার করা হবে। ভবিষ্যতে অনলাইন শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমে উপযোগিতা যাচাই করার ক্ষেত্রে এই গবেষণা প্রবন্ধ সহায়তা করবে।

মূলপ্রবন্ধঃ শিক্ষক-শিক্ষার্থী, কভিড-১৯, যোগাযোগ, সম্পর্ক, উচ্চশিক্ষা, অনলাইন শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম

### **3. Post COVID-19 Hybrid Learning in Bangladeshi Higher Education: Does Adaptation Matter?**

**Anas Al Masud, Sabrina Hussain**

**Meherin Ahmed Roza**

After a long period of maintaining precautions due to COVID-19, universities began to open with guidance from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC). Among other sectors, the education sector is the one that has faced enormous constraints and immobility. Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the education sector has followed the traditional learning method while during the pandemic period, it has adapted advanced technological tools to deliver courses through different online platforms such as Zoom, Google classroom, Google Meet, and other social media. After the pandemic, educational institutions, especially universities, returned to the traditional method of learning. The study examined the adaptability of Hybrid learning in Bangladeshi higher education after COVID-19. The study followed the qualitative approach in which data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The study found that although learning is seen as the central area of focus, university authorities have focused on the physical setting of the classroom. Additionally, resources invested in e-learning during the pandemic were shut down after universities opened. The study revealed some challenges in the traditional learning method that students and teachers do not maintain social distance and administrative authorities are unable to force students to maintain precautions, lack of realization of the use of online resources available in addition to offline courses etc. Without a doubt, the study suggests adopting a strong institutional framework to make the best use of the available resources which will improve the availability of both online and offline teaching and learning for quality education.

**Keywords:** Hybrid Learning, Higher Education, Post COVID-19, Traditional Learning.

## **4. The Challenges of ICT Based Teaching-learning Activities at Tertiary Level in Bangladesh: A Study on Rajshahi University**

**Md. Saiful Islam**

**Dr. Md. Shafiul Islam**

Higher education institutions are compelled to modernize their systems and practices because of the competitiveness of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In today's fast-paced world, it is considered that education is incomplete without using technology in teaching-learning activities because it helps improve the teaching-learning activities of a country. The use of ICT in higher education has dramatically restructured the teaching and learning process all over the world. It enhances the teaching-learning environment. It serves as an important medium for promoting advanced teaching-learning methods. And, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, higher education is also available through distance in almost every country. However, the instruments of ICT-based teaching-learning activities include web-based learning, computer-based learning; virtual classrooms and digital collaboration. The activities are delivered via the internet, intranet/extranet, audio or videotape and satellite TV and so on.

Bangladesh is advancing in ICT to keep pace in the changing world. It was almost unexplored the status of ICT based-teaching learning activities at the tertiary level in Bangladesh. But it is unveiled during the pandemic COVID-19. Due to the lack of ICT infrastructure and ICT based-teaching learning environment, tertiary level education has been shuttered in Bangladesh. Both the teachers and students of the country are suffering from low technological advancement due to their poor economic condition. The higher education institutions have insufficient technical and structural capabilities to implement ICT based-teaching learning activities in the country. So it is very difficult for the tertiary level education institutions to implement ICT based-education ignoring the challenges.

This article investigates the present status and challenges of ICT based-teaching learning activities at the tertiary level education in Bangladesh. A mixed-method research approach is followed, using both primary and secondary sources of data, to prepare it. Primarily, it is revealed that the ICT based-teaching learning activities at the tertiary level in the country are not satisfactory. During the pandemic COVID-19, the public universities could not run their teaching-learning activities for more than three months. In the first week of July 2020, the public universities resumed their teaching-learning activities but have been facing a lot of challenges, including limitation of ICT infrastructure, uninterrupted internet connection, price of the net package, the affordable capacity of the net for students, socio-economic condition and ICT-based learning environment of the universities. However, it puts some suggestions for the improvement of ICT based-teaching learning activities in the country.

**Keywords:** ICT, ICT based-teaching learning, Tertiary Education, Bangladesh

**WORKSHOP SESSION 1.2**  
**ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRIES**

**1. Foreign Direct Investment in Bangladesh (FDI):  
Stimulating Corruption or Development**

**Md Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan**  
**Ahnaf Tahmid Arnab**

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is frequently claimed with conviction to have helped host economies thrive. In the context of Bangladesh, this paper is designed to explore the costs and benefits of FDI and analyze if it is a victim to either corruption or a means of sustainable growth for the country as well as this study seeks to go into the valley of economic and political abyss. FDI contributes to the creation of new jobs, the increase of export income, the advancement of technology, the extension of managerial expertise, the improvement of living standards, and the reduction of poverty. The strengths and weaknesses of FDIs are examined in this study, along with recommendations for resolving FDI-related difficulties. Opportunities for Bangladesh include the fact that FDI contributes to GDP growth, but every year a large amount of foreign capital leaves the country due to the shortcomings of our policies. To achieve its economic development and poverty reduction goals, Bangladesh should be able to attract the largest share of FDIs and to secure the country's balance of payments, the authorities need to take suitable economic policies to stimulate it scientifically. The paper suggests that by eliminating corrupt culture and creating inclusive, democratic and progressive ideals for all – Bangladesh should be able to take advantage of foreign direct investment to speed up its development process.

**Keywords:** FDI, Corruption, Development, SWOT, Bangladesh

## **2. Impact of Bank Credit on Agricultural Production in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis**

**Md. Sazzad Hossain Patwary**

Sustainable agricultural productivity must be ensured for the rural development and the overall development of Bangladesh. This study is aimed to assess the impact of the banking sector's agricultural credit on agricultural productivity in Bangladesh. Secondary data from 1981-2020 were collected from Bangladesh Bank, World Bank, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Finance. In this study, ADF Unit Root Test and Johansen Co-integration Test have been performed and further analyzed with VAR and OLS estimation. ADF test revealed that the variables are integrated at their first difference, and Johansen Co-integration Test indicated that no co-integration equation exists among the variables. VAR estimation confirms that short-run causality is running from some independent variables to the dependent variable. Finally, OLS estimation suggests that bank credit's impact on agricultural production is strong, positive and significant. Thus, Bangladesh Bank is advised to promote more agricultural financing to the agricultural sector.

**Keywords:** Agricultural Productivity, Bank Credit, Agricultural Credit, Bangladesh

### **3. Impact of Covid-19 on Restaurant Business of Bangladesh**

**Sazu Sarda, Rudrendu Ray, Dr. Md. Kamrul Hasan  
Shital Sohani Chitra, A.T.M. Shahed Parvez**

The main purpose of this study is to assess the effects of Covid-19 on the restaurant businesses of Bangladesh. It examines the socio-economic impacts of the compassionate disaster COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the restaurant owners. The study also provides some recommendations to mitigate the impacts on the restaurant business. A qualitative research approach was adopted to explore the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 22 in-depth interviews were conducted with the top-ranked restaurant owners in the Rajshahi City Corporation area of Bangladesh. Thematic analysis technique was applied for analyzing the collected data.

The study found that the restaurant owners were compelled to reduce their number of employees, forced to ensure social distancing and proper sanitization which increased more expenses for them. Although online orders and home delivery services have been increased significantly, the operating restaurant business is gradually turning critical owing to the lack of financial support. Thus, the owners of the restaurants urged for financial assistance to the government for mitigating the negative effects of Covid-19.

This research only focused on the only one sector of the tourism and hospitality industry. But the industry is associated with several sub-sectors which are also affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. This study will help restaurant owners and policymakers in formulating contemporary business policies and strategies. Thus, it will be supportive to improve the present condition of the restaurant businesses in developing countries like Bangladesh. This paper identified the truculent scenario of the restaurant business during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Restaurant Business, Thematic Analysis

#### **4. Impact of COVID-19 on Non-Alcoholic Beverage Sector of India: A Systematic Review of Literature**

**Farah Naaz**

The paper aims at providing information on different types of non-alcoholic beverages and the impact of coronavirus outbreaks on the non-alcoholic beverage sector of India. The review of literature has been done using an electronic database. The articles were reviewed from Elsevier, Emerald, Pro Quest and Chadwyck-Healey, Scopus, Springer, Taylor and Francis, Web of Science, and Wiley. Search words; COVID-19, non-aerated drinks, fruit-based drinks, Juices, energy drinks, tax on non-alcoholic beverages, marketing strategies by the soft drink industry were used for this review.

The Result of the study shows that the Industry has suffered huge losses due to the limited shelf life of the products. The industry has also suffered due to the change in indirect tax structure, i.e., Goods and services tax implementation, which came into force in July 2017. However, the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages has been increased after the coronavirus outbreak, although in a very slight way. The main reason behind the increase in consumption of drinks is the different marketing strategies adopted by the industry. The COVID-19 outbreak has affected the non-alcoholic beverage sector of India, but the industry has managed to minimize the losses with its effective strategies.

**Keywords:** Non-alcoholic beverage, COVID-19, Tax, Marketing strategies.

## WORKSHOP SESSION 1.3

### LAW, GOVERNANCE, CRISES AND CHALLENGES

#### 1. Infodemic during Pandemic: A study of Public Perception on the Initiatives Taken by Government of Bangladesh

**Md. Tanvir Alam**

From 26 March 2020, Bangladesh experienced different initiatives taken by government as a response to tackle COVID-19 the response includes lockdown, quarantine, shut-down, and finally vaccination program. During this time Bangladesh first experienced the horror of misinformation on social media. According to Roland Berger's Digital Inclusion Index, Bangladesh ranked 59 in digital literacy, demonstrating how frail is Bangladesh regarding the use and knowledge of ICT as part of digital readiness. The objective of this study is to find out the perception of public pertaining to the initiatives taken by the government to fight the misinformation during pandemic. This is a cross sectional research where both primary and secondary source of data will be collected using mixed method. Primary sources of data will be collected from individual where the study population is anyone above age of 15 and with a social media account. The sampling style will be self-selection with n=50, a semi structured questionnaire will be used to collect the data. While the secondary source of data will be collected from reports, news article and journal. The study finds out that public think that government initiatives to tackle infodemic were inadequate and late response. The study also finds out that non-governmental initiatives to tackle infodemic was might effective than governmental initiatives.

**Keywords:** Governance, Pandemic, Infodemic, Public Perception

## **2. Factors affecting E-service Delivery in Union Digital Center: Does Innovation Matter for Sustainability?**

**Md. Robiul Islam**

**Abdur Rahman**

Union Digital Center emerged as an innovation at the rural level to provide a public service within the reach of citizens. The study examined the political, social and economic factors that influenced the E-service delivery of the Union Digital Center in Bangladesh. The study is designed using qualitative methods through a questionnaire survey and interview as well. The study reveals that the importance of the Union Digital Center has diminished day by day due to the unsuitable location and increased competition among private entrepreneurs. Although there has been no significant innovation in the service and hence entrepreneurs are intending to be permanent employees at Union Parishad to fulfil the role of Computer Operator. Having widened the digital divide, the ability of citizens was enhanced to avail e-service via smartphone, computer/laptop, etc. The study recommends rethinking our government for how long the UDCs will operate and how they will continue to exist without any innovation.

**Keywords:** UDC, E-service, Innovation on, Sustainability.

### **3. Managing the Crises and Challenges of Covid-19 at Lowest Tier of Local Government: Evidence from Sylhet**

**Jobayda Gulshan Ara**

**Kanij Fatema, Abdul Basit**

A radical ambiguity has been acknowledged in all sectors operations of the Government of Bangladesh in this Covid-19 pandemic. As protective measures, the country gives many policies from time to time containing maintaining social distancing, lockdown, quarantine, isolation and finally shutdown. These language expressions are unfamiliar to the citizens as well as the local representatives and officials therefore the local impact of Covid-19 is awful. This paper aims to explore and analyze the challenges and crises of Covid-19 and correspondingly identify the effectiveness of managing strategies to reduce these challenges at the Union level.

Crises and Challenges of the lower tier of local government is the dependent variable of this study and depend on different social, health, economic and psychological issues, which are the independent variables of this study. A mixed research approach with 21 in-depth interviews has been conducted purposively in 4 Union Parishad including Chairman, Members, Women members, Union Secretary and UNO of Sylhet Sadar Upazila, and 100 survey data has been collected from the citizen of these concerned Unions by using accidental sampling method to support the qualitative data.

Thematic analysis and descriptive analysis specifies that the main challenge of this period is to make the people conscious and alarmed about this virus and make them accustomed to the named appeared from this pandemic, many middle-class families are deformed into lower class because of work loss, job loss, or business loss and poor become poorer, Government relief and rehabilitation programs are contemporaneous but the volume not adequate with the proportions of deprived people. Making people stay at home is a battle in this outbreak. Finally, the paper proposed a forward-looking perspective to discuss the crisis' consequences at the local level as well as points for policy-makers to consider as they build a strong local government for the future to cope with post-pandemic time.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Union Parishad, Social Distancing, Isolation, Quarantine

#### **4. Vaccine Policy of India: A Comparative study of Polio and Covid 19 Vaccine Policy**

**Dr Nahid Hasan**

**Akash Tawar**

The paper has assessed how far the government of India has succeeded in securing the lives of the people by developing immunity against the two contagious diseases, namely Polio and Covid 19. The paper intends to analyze the government's vaccine policy for reaching this end. The Paper will review how far the vaccine has immunized the targeted population. It has made a comparative analysis of India's Polio and Covid 19 vaccine policies. It has critically examined the shortcomings of government policy in reaching out to the targeted population. The paper has adopted analytical and statistical methods using data and diagrams for this purpose.

**Keywords:** Government of India, vaccine policy, polio vaccine policy, Covid 19 vaccine policy, contagious diseases, immunization policy

## WORKSHOP SESSION 1.4

### LOCAL AND EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE IN PANDEMIC

#### **1. Prospects, Concerns, and Strains of Coordination between Elected Bodies and Civil Service Organizations in District Administration during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Md Shirajis Shadik**

District Administration works as the commanding power-house in the local governance dynamics. The debate surrounding the coordination process between the elected representatives and appointed officials of District Administration (DA) is well-argued over time. The yet ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has further battered the controversies all over the country. Most of the districts of Bangladesh have two or more types of or urban local government bodies which are elected by popular mandates. Again, these districts also have all the departments of the line ministry organizations in place. The question that looms large is whether the bilateral relationship between elected representatives and appointed bureaucrats remain as it was articulated the laws or injured over time, especially in the time of this unprecedented pandemic. This paper intends to examine the issues of policymaking and executions processes on the field level using empirical research tools and techniques. The primary objective of this paper is to identify and assess the concrete picture of the Coordination processes between the District Administration and the elected Zilla Parishad with other elected bodies at the district level. Both primary and secondary data is used to conclude the aftermaths using scientific analyses of the data. Different districts namely, Barishal, Jhalokathi, and Khulna was taken as the research field of the study. Heard and unheard voices of the citizens, inhabitants, employees of different sectors, bureaucrats, and the elected bodies were taken in close concerns for further betterment of the relationship through building newer concepts and theories from the prevalent rehearses.

**Keywords:** Coordination; Local Government; Bureaucracy; District Administration

## **2. COVID-19 Pandemic and Educational Governance to ICT Training Application in the Rural Area of Bangladesh**

**Kazi Sonia Rahman, Kora Hasan Evana**

**Ira Hasan Surjasha**

The education system of Bangladesh is broadly divided into three stages. These are primary, secondary and higher education. To meet up the demand for education in the country, the government of Bangladesh has taken the highest responsibility since its inception. It is said that in the modern age of the 21st century, the present time is the blessing of Information Communication Technology (ICT) which is one of the latest techniques around the world including in Bangladesh are in use in the field of education and training. Moreover, COVID-19 pandemics repeated waves with changing variants over the last two years have pushed the entire human society into uncertainties and unprecedented sufferings in all the sectors of a country like Bangladesh. Now a day's education, training, health, agriculture, business, travel, industry etc. We can't work properly with expected outputs without the use of technology. Many methods, techniques and applications are now being used to provide education and training in all those sectors. Recently, ICTs are playing an important role in the learning process, offering powerful tools for expanding educational access and improving skills and knowledge. The ability to connect PCs (Personal Computer) to local area networks, various e-learning tools and the internet makes remote information access and knowledge sharing possible.

The objective of the paper indicates the overview of educational governance and ICT Training management strategies during pandemic followed in the higher secondary and above level of two government educational institute as well as two training Academy/Centre and socio-economic background of the different personnel and ICT based online teaching Application, learning achievement, Examination with problems and prospects of those selected institutions situated in rural areas. Both quantitative and qualitative methodological techniques have been used to collect the primary data. This study is based on survey findings conducted on institutional executives and Governing body /committee members and administrative personnel, training facilitators and students, parents, teachers to assess the management strategy of different stakeholders of these institutes. The respondents (n=04X30=120) have been selected for KIIs (key informant interviews). Furthermore, eight Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and four case studies along with best practices have been made.

Findings revealed that nearly 24% of students attended online classes on an average of 08 classes in a month due to COVID-19 crisis where 56% of students were forced by parents to attach with their study and 22% of students were involved in mobile games or recreational events. The study also critically analyzed that the existing situation of ICT application prevailing in the

education and training sector, some recommendations have been made. In order to survive, Bangladesh should have to take immediate measures, all educational institutes should be facilitated under high-speed internet connectivity through which quality of education and finally It is necessary to increase the number of trade based skill development training along with follow-up and refresher courses for enhancing IGAs for poverty reduction and scope for potential youth employment opportunities should be increased in the rural areas through ICT services as per the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs') indicators. The popular slogan of 'Digital Bangladesh' could be possible to establish sustainable development in Bangladesh.

**Key Words:** Quality Education, Governance, Participatory Management, Micro Entrepreneurship, Social Media, Networking, Rural health and service

### **3. Governing Citizen Registration in Digital era: Few issues from the Grassroots**

**Fouzia Nasreen Sultana**

**Junaed Rahim**

This article explores whether the introduction of digital identity benefits citizens in a developing country like Bangladesh or not. Governments in developing countries are increasingly adopting advanced information and communication technologies to provide citizen identity. Bangladesh is no exception to this. The government introduced digital identity to improve service delivery and governance. Unfortunately, the process of digital identification has created some unexpected situations for citizens. Citizens are facing unexpected problems, especially, fixing the national identity if something is wrong or re-issuing if someone lost it. The covid-19 situation reveals the worse situation on the ground regarding the national identity card. Some even experienced not being a citizen of the country or learned about their own death while registering for Covid vaccination. Based on a piloting project for registering families in a union for better service delivery this paper argued that the enrolment for ID is at the center of all the challenges. Bangladesh government converted voter ID to national ID which was not a smart idea. The main gap in the voter ID was the correct information of the eligible. There was negligence from both the service provider and the service receiver part. None took the ID seriously, there was no in-depth or rigorous campaign for awareness for voter ID and its further use. There is limited or no involvement of local government officials or local administration. Other gaps include lack of engagement of local service providers including local government representatives, recruiting low skilled personnel for ID issuing work, lack of coordination with birth registration, etc. However, there is scope for improvement. This paper recommends a coordination mechanism to solve the overall problem of citizen digital identification.

**Keywords:** Digital Identity, Civil Registration, Service, Delivery & Digital Era

#### **4. Sydney's Urban Inequality: COVID-19 Adversity and Resilience-based Governance in the Post-pandemic Urbanism**

**Khandakar Farid Uddin**

The global city Sydney, Australia's prime and attractive metro polis is socio-economically divided. The higher socio-economic affluent people are concentrated in the Northern and Eastern part of Sydney, and the low and medium earning residents are concentrated in the Western part of Sydney. The COVID-19 pandemic global crisis has overwhelmed the whole world. However, the coronavirus epidemic's socio-economic effects are different considering people's socio-economic conditions. Though Australia performed well in combatting COVID-19 contamination, the outbreak has brought a massive challenge for the disadvantaged residents of the Western part of Sydney. This research explores the geographically segregated socio-economic effects of COVID-19 in Sydney by applying qualitative content analysis and interviews. Besides, cities' success depends on the ability to adapt to the changes and challenges. It is being predicted that urban life and livelihood will be very different in post-COVID-19. Even though the cities are still in a precarious state and the public health matters and economic recovery are the foremost concern; however, cities require resilience-based governance in post-pandemic urbanism. The research also explores the post-COVID-19 resilient urban governance needs in Western Sydney. Considering the existing challenges and shifts faced by COVID-19, this research contributes by emphasising the necessity to progress a post-pandemic resilient Western Sydney.

**Keywords:** Sydney, COVID-19, Impacts, Disadvantaged, Resilient Governance

## SECOND PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### WORKSHOP SESSION 2.1

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES DURING PANDEMIC

## 1. Frontline Health Care and Service Providers during COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Some Alarming Experiences

**Sanchoy K Chanda, Musaraf H Mollah**

**Krishna Bhowmik**

Violence against healthcare providers (HCPs) have reached considerable levels worldwide, and the World Medical Association has most recently defined violence against health personnel as “an international emergency that undermines the very foundations of health systems and impacts critically on patient’s health”. The prevalence of violence against HCPs is particularly high in Asian and North American countries, in Psychiatric and Emergency departments, and among nurses and physicians .According to the World Medical Association, all medical practitioners have the right to work in a safe and secure workplace, one which is free of violence. Meanwhile, globally there is a stark contrast in reality wherein 75 percent of the doctors encounter certain types of abuse, with 68 percent of the occurrences involving assault by patients’ families.

Most recently, the World Medical Association has condemned the increasingly reported cases of HCPs being attacked because of the fear that they will spread SARS-CoV-2. The situation in the subcontinent is particularly shocking, with HCPs are stigmatized, ostracized, discriminated against, and physically attacked, but incidents have been reported across the world, for instance from France, Mexico, Philippines, Turkey, UK, Australia, and USA .WHO had announced a global emergency on January 30, 2020, considering the severity and fast spread of COVID-19, and officially called the outbreak a pandemic on 11 March 2020 .The pandemic has created a puzzle of fear, anxiety and uncertainty among the patients; nevertheless, the frontline health care providers during this havoc have tirelessly worked as warriors saving millions of lives while putting theirs at risk. Since the pandemic began in Bangladesh, over 157 doctors have selflessly sacrificed their lives only to find themselves standing at a threshold where even though they are the frontline brigade battling this healthcare crisis .Like the rest of the world, the overall system in Bangladesh has collapsed to some extent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, violence in health care setting has increased remarkably, as reported in different media.

**Keyword:** COVID-19, Doctors, Nurses, Violence, Stigmatization

## **2. Relationship between Service Quality and Patient Satisfaction: An Empirical Evaluation of Public Hospitals in Bangladesh**

**Md. Amzad Hossain**

Health is considered the root of all happiness, which is a fundamental right for every human being. The majority of the population in developing countries are deprived of basic health care services. Bangladesh has made a significant improvement in the health sector by spending substantial amounts of resources on the public health sector, but there is still dissatisfaction in the service quality of the government hospitals. Poor people and low earning people have to depend upon public hospitals, as they have no ability to take treatment from private hospitals. Many studies have been conducted to measure health care service quality, but most of them were in developed countries, especially in Europe and the USA; the results may not be applied to the developing country context due to differences in culture, environment, and facilities accessibility. By improving quality services in the public hospitals of Bangladesh, most needy people will be benefitted. The study attempts to figure out the factors related to the service quality of the health sector in Bangladesh. SERVQUAL model was used to analyze the relationship between service quality and patients' satisfaction. Five variables were used to assess the SERVQUAL model includes; tangibility, responsiveness, reliability, assurance and empathy. This study used quantitative data, which has been collected through face-to-face interviews using semi-structured questionnaire from Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH). 396 respondents were selected purposively from 22 in- patient departments in CMCH. The collected data were analyzed by Microsoft Excel, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Amos and STATA. The method of Structural Equation Modeling was used to test and confirm the hypothesized model. SEM results indicated that, out of five hypotheses, four were supported. It is also found that mainly middle-income family members and people who were involved in the informal sector took their treatment from government hospitals. The researcher also found that people expect more quality service relative to existing service in the health care facilities. This study did not consider employees who provide the health care Service to patients. Applying the model to other government hospitals in Bangladesh with a larger sample sizes might give different or more precise results.

**Key words:** SERVQUAL model, Structural Equation Model, Patient satisfaction, Service quality.

### **3. Providing mHealth Solutions in the Rural Communities of Bangladesh during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Sharmin Begum**

**Ekaterina Nemsheich**

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting worldwide; likewise other developing countries, Bangladesh needs to tackle the issue while it is experiencing the scarcity of health professionals and population growth. As Bangladesh is the world's 8th largest populated country with a poverty rate of 29.5 percent, where 63.37 percent of the total population live in rural areas, it is always a challenge for the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to provide healthcare services to the marginalized individuals and communities. Due to the existing healthcare divide between the urban and rural areas, the GoB is focusing on mHealth to ensure the provision of the healthcare services remotely. mHealth is one of the significant initiatives taken by the GoB aimed to achieve SDG Goal 3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the GoB implemented mHealth solutions for tracking, identifying the hot spots, and improving remote health services efficiency. This study aims to identify how mHealth could be a better solution for the inclusion of rural people in healthcare services during a pandemic. This study followed the exploratory research design and implied the qualitative method to investigate the prospects and challenges of mHealth in rural communities in Bangladesh. The findings showed that inadequate human resources, lack of relevant skills and knowledge about the digital platforms among rural people and the gender gap are the barriers to providing services through mHealth. Scaling up mHealth, formulating the operational guidelines, recruiting, and training the health professionals and enhancing community readiness are the areas where the GoB can intervene to strengthen the health services in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** mHealth, COVID-19, Rural Community, Healthcare Divide

## **4. Mental Health Considerations during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Gendered Analysis**

**Anam Tahir Hashmi**

**Dr. Mohd Shakir**

The objective of this paper is to provide a gendered analysis of mental health considerations during the spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has caused an acute health crisis accompanied by various psychological, social, educational and economic ramifications. During this crisis issues like poverty, unemployment, academic stress and social evils such as domestic violence, sexual abuse by an intimate partner have constantly been on the rise. Additionally, the Covid-19 induced lockdowns and self-isolation measures have deteriorated the mental health of people. From the existing literature, it may be said that disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have affected the mental health of women more profoundly than men. The situation is quite similar in the academic world too. There may be various social, economical and health related factors contributing to the deteriorating mental health of women. Therefore, based on the available literature the paper tries to put forward the probable causes of declining mental health of women and suggest plausible measures for developing good mental health. The paper also discusses the prevalent gender based mental health situation in the academic world. Thus, the present study is an attempt to provide a view of mental health conditions through a gender lens during the Covid-19 pandemic.

For the present study, a comprehensive literature survey was conducted through secondary sources such as research papers, articles, e-books and different websites. From the analysis of previous studies, it can be said that there is a need for acknowledging the pivotal role played by women at the workplace as well as at home further, more efforts are required in order to safeguard mental health and prioritize the safety of women against various social evils.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, mental health, economical issues, academic world, and gender-based violence.

## WORKSHOP SESSION 2.2

### WAR AGAINST COVI-19, HEALTH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### **1. The Outbreak of COVID-19 and the War: Assessing Pre and Post Disaster Approach, Khulna City Corporation (KCC), Bangladesh**

**Md. Nazmul Haque, Saima Rahman**

**Saifullah Bin Ansar**

The study was designed to address the city people's perception of the spread of COVID-19 pandemics. For doing so, the study aimed to explore two specific points at the local level of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) like (i) how the COVID-19 puts its signature on livelihood conditions and ii) assessment of effectiveness pre and post-disaster management approach. About 200 respondents are conducted through an online based survey and some credential sources are used in this study. Thereby, the databases were used to analyze by using the statistical tool Excel. The result shows that 17% of businessmen, as well as 10% of private employees, felt so much anxiety for their financial condition owing to loss in business or suspension from job. Again, the migration of different families occurred during the pandemic. The local officials with the help of the central government handle the situation by taking predisaster management strategy including i) increment of COVID test kit, ventilators, oxygen cylinder; ii) enhancing awareness; iii) implementation of strict lockdown and so on. That's why to assess the pre-disaster management strategies where the respondents stated that maintenance of proper lock down-regulation, less willingness of social distancing, unequal distribution of government reliefs, and unconsciousness of people are responsible for increasing uncontrollable patients. Besides, Khulna medical college (dedicated) had insufficient medical kits including inadequate ICU beds, ventilators and the insufficient number of oxygen cylinders. Covid test center was also not up to the mark. As a result, the city faced a critical situation while the number of patients increased rapidly. To tackle the situation, the authority started the vaccination process immediately which plays a significant role to reduce the number of patients. The findings of the study evaluated the gap between the policy and real scenario which may help the decision-makers which strategy should be improved and get more importance.

**Keywords:** AHP, Building Back Better (BBB), COVID-19, Livelihood condition.

## **2. Social Entrepreneurship: A New Venture for Social Development and its Role during Covid-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh**

**Laila Habib**

Social Entrepreneurship itself has developed into a new form of an entrepreneurial venture. More commonly this has been known to us as Corporate Social Responsibility. A great number of individuals have become social entrepreneurs in believing to benefit themselves as well as society. The past year has been the most challenging with many people having to look for alternative means of earning money and also helping the less fortunate. This research will look into the different types of ventures and also try to accommodate a number of interviews from social entrepreneurs who have played an active role during the past year by providing support to people and society during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The researcher intends to complete a survey on the benefits and problems that are being faced with these new prospects. Aside to this the research also intends to provide an idea about the future of such ventures and highlight the different areas where it can bring about changes. As this is a relatively new area of entrepreneurship, the scope and limitations have also been taken into context. Therefore room for further research is expected in this area.

**Keywords:** Social Entrepreneurship, Social Responsibility, Community, Challenges, Modern concept, COVID-19

### **3. The Rise of Specific Crime Waves during the Pandemic and the Challenges Tackled by the Law Enforcement Agency of Bangladesh**

**Maisha Tabassum Anima**

During the pandemic, though the main focus was on the health sector and its implemented policies, the crime situation of our society which can also be illustrated as the health of our society was tactically managed by our law enforcement agency. The covid-19 pandemic had a substantial impact on the historical criminal trend around the world. As a majority was moving from the urban areas and for an absence of a capable guardian, some specific crime trends were identified along with some unique crime techniques. In this vulnerable position of the society, our Law enforcement agency members had to take advanced patrolling techniques for stabilizing the situation. The key objective of our research would be to focus on the new crime trends and the future aspects of this scenario. This research will have a special focus on the crime prevention technique applied by our law enforcement guardians during the pandemic and the future methods which can be followed for better crime prevention and the stabilization of society. Rational choice theory and Routine activity theory has a special focus on this paper for explaining the changing crime pattern. The qualitative research technique is utilised for gathering data through content analysis and interviewing our law enforcement officials. Through the Research an extra pressure was observed on the law enforcement agency members for preventing crime and also assuring that the citizens are following the health rules, for performing both duties they had to suffer- extra duty hours, health risk, family pressure, getting introduced with advanced prevention methods.

**Keywords:** Pandemic, Property crime, coping with the changing time pattern, crime patrolling.

#### **4. COVID-19, Migrant Workforce and Regional Health Infrastructure in North Bengal**

**Dr. Abdul Hannan**

**Ms. Farhat Hossain**

The paper tries to explore the space relations of the migrant workforce and health infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic. The countrywide lockdown has impacted the social and economic life of the people especially migrant workers. The geographies of labour supply and demand have been affected and a preparation of COVID-19 infrastructure is developed at the national and regional levels. The growth of COVID-19 cases and the development of the regional health infrastructure in West Bengal with reference to North Bengal has been analysed. The testing facilities and their expansion during lockdowns have been critically looked at and found that the private laboratories are confined to urban centres only. The existing health infrastructure at the district level and its preparation to combat COVID-19 are also captured systematically. The government of West Bengal hires the services of private health care hospitals throughout the state that acknowledges the fact of deficient health care in the state. It identifies that how health infrastructure is mostly urban-centric and reverse migration towards villages defeats the objective of lockdown. The character of governance and interference of judiciary in respect to the migrant workforce and testing laboratories is highlighted. Lastly, it also reflects on the relations of the state, capital and laboring conditions and massive reverse movement of migrant workforces likely to change rural-urban spaces in India.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Migrant workforce, Health Infrastructure, Governance, Space relations

**WORKSHOP SESSION 2.3**  
**POPULATION, MIGRATION, AND CHANGE**

**1. Echelon of Demographic Transition in Bangladesh:  
Challenges and Prospects**

**Fatima Zannat Esha**

Bangladesh has considered overpopulation as its number one problem just after its independence in 1971. However, it has effectively put a disruption on its high population growth through remarkable progress in both fertility and mortality decline over a short period of five decades and thereby successfully experienced a demographic transition. This article aims at explaining various dimensions of the demographic transition of Bangladesh including the situation of demographic dividend by analyzing secondary data through a systematic review. The demographic transition in Bangladesh can be described as a transition from a high fertility-high mortality situation to one of low fertility-low mortality. The crude birth and crude death rates have declined to 18.1 and 4.9 per thousand population in 2019 from 46.9 and 19.3 in 1971, respectively. The country has made progress in reducing infant and child mortality rates too. The fertility transition in Bangladesh is moving from ‘family building by fate’ to ‘family building by design’. It has already achieved replacement level of fertility as the total fertility rate has declined sharply from 6.94 births per woman in 1971 to 2.04 in 2019 with an upward trend in overall contraceptive prevalence rate from only 7.7 percent in 1975 to 63.4 percent in 2019. The demographic transition has changed the age composition of the population in Bangladesh and opened the window of opportunity. In 2019, the age group of 15 years to 64 years comprises the highest percentage (66.2 percent) of the total population since post-independence. These demographic changes are likely to benefit the development process and also facilitate progress in other social indicators. For meeting the upcoming challenges, Bangladesh needs to emphasize more on the development of human capital through skill development, quality education, and productive employment opportunities for reaping the benefit of demographic dividend.

**Keywords:** Fertility, mortality, transition, demographic dividend

## **2. The Fuel Supply System for Rohingya Refugees: A Case Study on Kutupalong Camp**

**Shaikh Abdur Rahman**

Rohingya refugees are considered the most vulnerable and persecuted refugees' around the world. The voluminous efflux of refugees poses a serious threat to host countries. One of the most negative impacts is the environmental problem. Environment and fuel for cooking are interlinked and interconnected. Fuel for cooking is essential for the daily life of Rohingya refugees. Almost 80% population in displaced settings use solid fuels like firewood and dry leaves for cooking. It severely affects the ecological balance. To mitigate the problem, the government of Bangladesh and UNHCR jointly started an initiative to distribute LPG gas among the Rohingya refugees and local inhabitants. Against such a backdrop, this research is conducted to analyze the current fuel supply and demand for fuel. Besides, the research also focuses on the impact of LPG gas on firewood collection and on the environment. It concludes with some possible recommendations and paths to further research.

Almost all the households (96%) are using LPG gas for their cooking. But 88% of the respondents have a scarcity of fuel. So, they need to collect extra fuel from the local markets and forests. The cost of fuel collection is accounted for up to 1000 BDT (Bangladeshi Taka). But they need to spend an average of 200-500 BDT to buy firewood from the market. Most of the respondents (96%) collect fuel from the market. So, the use of LPG gas is reducing a huge amount of pressure on wood fuel. Consequently, the environmental degradation due to collecting wood fuel has reduced approximately 80% after the LPG gas project was initiated in August 2018. Proper management of the project including safety training, increasing facilities, and covering all the camps under the LPG gas project will play a key role in both mitigating the fuel supply-demand tension and reviving ecological balance.

**Keywords:** Rohingya refugees, fuel supply system, LPG gas, Environment, Kutupalong

### **3. Impact of Migration on Food (in)security: A Development vs. Underdevelopment Perspective**

**Kazi Shek Farid**

The development and underdevelopment impacts of migration have long been a matter of study by social researchers. There is, however, a lack of comprehensive literature covering both positive and negative impacts of migration on food security. Therefore, this paper brings the 'development and underdevelopment perspectives' of migration into the study of food security through a systematic literature review. Migration impacts various dimensions of food security by reshaping labour market structure, generating financial and social remittances, and incurring socioeconomic costs, which bring changes in household production and income, food habit and preparation, and intra-household food distribution. Literatures suggest that migrant households are more food secure than non-migrant households. The evidence that migration increases food availability through remittances is very limited. However, it is well established that remittances improve food accessibility and diversity through increased income, and stability by providing insurance against economic shocks and emergency needs of the migrant households. Moreover, social remittances affect intra-household food distribution and utilization positively because of increased awareness among migrant households. Migration, however, has some negative impacts on the food security of the areas of origin. Most migrants build new houses on their agricultural land, which is responsible for decreasing a considerable amount of agricultural land each year. Again, the labour crisis in the areas of origin because of migration is responsible for keeping the agricultural lands fallow and increasing wages of labour, which in turn increases the cost of production and directly affects physical production adversely. Thereby decreasing the agricultural productivity migration affects the availability of food negatively. Moreover, because of their consumerist behavior, migrant households increase pressure on non-migrant households by decreasing their economic access to food through price upsurge. Nevertheless, a thorough empirical research should be conducted to scientifically examine the heterogeneous impacts of migration on food security.

**Keywords:** Migration, impact, food security, food insecurity

#### **4. Vulnerable Communities during COVID-19: International Labour Migrants and Their Remained Behind Families in Bangladesh**

**Sabnam Sarmin Luna**

**Professor Atul Sood**

International labor migration and remittances from migration have substantial influences on socio-economic livelihoods in Bangladesh like other developing countries. This paper investigates the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and their remained behind families in Bangladesh. Based on an in-depth interview the study shows that the vulnerabilities of migrants as a result of lockdown situations in accompanying countries manifested themselves as - job loss, less payment, state of captivity at working place. On the other hand, the remained behind families faced additional challenges due to slowing down of remittance flows impacting daily food consumption, children's education, and health care. The study argues that the experiences and consequences of COVID-19 pandemic were different for women migrant workers and their families compared to their male counterparts. This is because of the differences in the nature and characteristics of migration between men and women along with differences in the location of women compared to males within the households. This study is based on 20 interviews of male and female migrants' households (total 40) to capture these dimensions. Munshiganj and Manikganj districts were the focus areas for identifying the migrant household.

**Keywords:** Vulnerable community, labour migrants, remained behind family, COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh

**WORKSHOP SESSION 2.4**  
**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT**

**1. National Women Development Policy: Status and Ways Forward for Gender Mainstreaming in Leadership Role**  
**Saifun Nahar**

Women's socio-political empowerment is one of the most important prerequisites of national development for any country. Gender relations in Bangladesh have been undergoing a process of considerable transformation over the last two decades as part of a broader process of economic transition and social change. Although progress has been considerable in many spheres, women's changing roles have also given rise to a range of new challenges that require shifts in policy making and program implementation as well as the various social and cultural values which have informed and shaped implicit societal understandings of women's roles and responsibilities. By realizing the importance of gender mainstreaming for national development the government of Bangladesh formulated a National Women Development Policy in 1997 which was amended in 2004 and 2008 respectively. The present government has approved and declared the Women Development Policy in 2011 which aims at the complete welfare of women including their active socio-political and economic participation as well as development. The adoption of the National Women Development Policy-2011 is the subsequent result of the efforts of Bangladesh government in women welfare. This secondary source-based paper proceeds to review the National Women Development Policy 2011 for gender mainstreaming in leadership especially on grass-root political activities in Bangladesh. The paper focuses on the formation of women development policy, its objectives, implementation mechanisms along different strategies for its application within the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework with a case study of Local Government Institution (i.e. Union Parishad) for women socio-political participation. Finally, the paper identifies the current challenges faced by women and suggests some effective measures to overcome those situations.

**Keywords:** National Women Development Policy, IAD framework, Mainstreaming in Socio-political Activities, Action Arena, Women Leader.

## **2. Economic Impact and Coping Mechanisms of COVID-19 on Women Entrepreneurship in Sylhet City of Bangladesh**

**Tauhida Chowdhury**

**Professor Dr Neaz Ahmed**

This paper focuses on the economic impact of COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs and their coping mechanisms to overcome the situation. Women's entrepreneurship plays a key role in the global economy in the general and personal development of women in particular. It is considered to be important for gaining women's position and empowerment in society. It can be noted that women entrepreneurs have greater contributions to global economic development. However, their contribution to the global economy and day-to-day life has been severely harmed and disrupted as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) are the bloodline of Bangladesh's economy, employing 7.8 million people directly and providing livelihood to a total of 31.2 million. However, the hit of COVID-19 pandemic has made women entrepreneurs vulnerable. In this regard, an attempt has been made to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs in Sylhet city, as well as how to tackle the negative impact. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were adopted for this study. An interview schedule and checklist were used to collect data for the purposive sampling procedure. The study reveals that most of the women entrepreneurs of Sylhet city face severe challenges and economic crisis due to pandemic situations. Lockdowns that last for a long time resulted in employment losses and as a result, economic vulnerability became a reality. During COVID-19 these female entrepreneurs did not get any financial support and help from the Government and Non-government organizations. Financial institutions like banks, small loan windows did not extend their hands as well to provide loans for their survival. Some entrepreneurs change their business and others simply spend time without doing any work. They plan to continue their business in an alternative way if the coronavirus crisis continues for a long time. However, they need to get support from the government and other entities. Financial motivation (pronodona) can play a pivotal role in sustaining their business.

**Keywords :** COVID-19, Entrepreneurship, Impact, Vulnerability.

### **3. National Women Development Policy: Status and Ways Forward for Gender Mainstreaming in Leadership Role**

**Saifun Nahar**

Women's socio-political empowerment is one of the most important prerequisites of national development for any country. Gender relations in Bangladesh have been undergoing a process of considerable transformation over the last two decades as part of a broader process of economic transition and social change. Although progress has been considerable in many spheres, women's changing roles have also given rise to a range of new challenges that require shifts in policy making and program implementation as well as the various social and cultural values which have informed and shaped implicit societal understandings of women's roles and responsibilities. By realizing the importance of gender mainstreaming for national development the government of Bangladesh formulated a National Women Development Policy in 1997 which was amended in 2004 and 2008 respectively. The present government has approved and declared the Women Development Policy in 2011 which aims at the complete welfare of women including their active socio-political and economic participation as well as development. The adoption of the National Women Development Policy-2011 is the subsequent result of the efforts of Bangladesh government in women welfare. This secondary source-based paper proceeds to review the National Women Development Policy 2011 for gender mainstreaming in leadership especially on grass-root political activities in Bangladesh. The paper focuses on the formation of women development policy, its objectives, implementation mechanisms along with different strategies for its application within the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework with a case study of Local Government Institution (i.e. Union Parishad) for women socio-political participation. Finally, the paper identifies the current challenges faced by women and suggests some effective measures to overcome those situations.

**Keywords:** National Women Development Policy, IAD framework, Mainstreaming in Socio-political Activities, Action Arena, Women Leader.

## **4. Impact of Urbanization on Environment: India's Urbanization Challenges**

**Supriya Chaudhary**

**Dr. Ashish Kant Chaudhari**

Urbanization is a widespread and recent phenomenon. In the current global environment, all nations go through environmental, social, transportation and economic challenges in their respective cities. Urbanization is caused by an increase in the extent and the density of urban areas. Due to uncontrolled urbanization in India, environmental degradation is happening very unexpectedly and causing many problems like land insecurity, water quality degradation, air pollution, noise and waste disposal problems. India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and its growth is driven by its cities.

This paper emphasizes the impact of urbanization on the environment components, especially public health and habitat, climate, biosphere, land and water resources. A case involves to urbanization in India is primarily displayed to eliminate the existing causes of environmental damage due to urbanization. Though it is very impossible to restrict urbanization, it has to be ensured that urbanization proceeds on the right path with minimum impact on the environment.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Effect of urbanization, Environment effect, Push and pull factor, Out growth, Eco system

## THIRD PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### WORKSHOP SESSION 3.1

#### AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND MARKETING

#### 1. The Presence of Pathogens in Organic Manure and their Effects on Health and Environment

Brigadier General Md Sayed Ali (Retd)

Bangladesh is a developing country. It requires a plenty production of different types of crops in the country. The utilization of human excreta and cow dung in the production of organic fertilizer and bio-gas can fulfil some percentage of the requirement. Objectives of the study are: (a)The general objective- of this study is to find out the nature of pathogens present in organic manure and causes of manure not being composted properly. (b) Special objectives are: (i)To see how many types of sectors are there where the organic manure is produced (ii) To make a plan for proper composting. (iii) To evaluate the present state of recycling and composting of human excreta in eco-toilet(iv) How it affects the environment and health?.

The study aims at seeing how the manures are composted. Maintenance of hygiene during composting, collection and spraying in the crops fields. Laboratory test of manure from different venues, like cattle farm, eco-toilet and from village composting area. were carried out as primary data. Secondary data were collected from, different books, journals, data collection, and finally data analysis. A perspective study places were “Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development BARD) cattle farm, Comilla, eco-toilet at the village Raichu, Comilla about 8 kilometres from Comilla district town and a cattle dung compost area of village Alokdi nearer to Dhaka city. The pathogen in Organic Manure was social research. Qualitative and quantitative methods were taken into the consideration.

The samples collected from Alokdi and under routine microscopic examination, shown the Ova of *Ascaris Lumbricoides* (AL) 60%. Larvae of *Strongyloides stercoralis* in 70%, Ova of *Enterobius Vermicularis* in 20% and worm *Trichuris Trichura* in 10% slides. The samples collected from BARD and Raichu, Comilla, on routine microscopic examination, all the 80 slides showed the presence of Larvae of *Strongyloides stercoralis* only... But in culture, all the samples (100 samples) of BARD, Raichu and Alokdi showed the growth of *Pseudomonas* spp. The presence of the pathogen in manure will show problems in the health, society and environment. To overcome these problems the proper composting system is to be carried out, to ensure pathogen-free manure, to produce crops for food security to obtain sustainable development goals. One person can give rise to ten kilograms of fertilizer per year. Usually, a cow passes 29.5 kg of fecal matter or manure equivalent to 354 liters of biogas per day. Composted organic manure can increase 34% to 50% crops production.

**Keywords:** Human excreta, Cattle dung, compost, organic manure, pathogen food security

## **2. Chromium Removal from Tannery Wastewater Using Shorea Robusta Leaf Adsorbent**

**Adhir Chandra Paul, Md.Mojeb Ali**

**Md. Abdul Jalil**

Calfskin handling is the change of putrescible stowaway/skin into imputrescible cowhide and thus enormous measures of strong, fluid, and vaporous waste are created. Leather manufacturing industries discharge a huge amount of chromium-containing wastewater during manufacturing leather. Only 60-70% Cr is uptake by animal hides/skin. Rest 30-40% Cr is discharged with waste water. This chromium contaminant is definitely harmful because they are not decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms. As a result, they are carcinogenic for human beings. So, it is necessary to remove chromium from the waste water. In this endeavor, shorearobusta leaf was used to eliminate chromium from tannery wastewater as an adsorbent. The investigation was carried out for knowing the amount of optimum dose, contact time of adsorbent of Shorearobusta leaf to get the optimum removal of chromium from Cr tanned waste water. 2.5g ash was mixed with 30 ml chromium-containing waste water under optimal conditions, agitated for 15 minutes, then settled before the chrome content in the filtrate was measured using the titrimetric method. The chromium content of raw waste water was 3104.4 mg/L and the filtrate was 12.1 mg/L. At pH 7.1, and the overall elimination of chromium efficiency was 99.69%. Though TDS, EC, and salinity of the treated liquor were all comparatively higher. The adoption of a low-cost aboriginal adsorbent for chromium elimination from tannery effluent could be the best alternative.

**Keywords:** Tannery wastewater; Chromium; Adsorbent; TDS.

### **3. Smart Profiling of Rice varieties in Disaster-prone Zones of Bangladesh: Application of ICT towards developing a web and mobile application.**

**Md. Mahfuz Wahab**

*Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain*

*Dr. Md. Shahjahan Kabir,*

*Dr. Moin-us-Salam,*

*Dr. Md. Ismail Hossain*

Rice, like many other countries, is the staple food of Bangladesh. The happiness and sorrow of the people of this country largely relate to the productivity of this crop. Recently, Bangladesh has not only attained self-sufficiency in rice but also, for the first time, has exported the commodity. The country now requires sustainability in this sector in order to ensure food security and exporting opportunities.

With the scenario of decreasing agricultural land, future expected rice productivity will largely depend on increased yield. The yield of rice is predominantly dependant on variety. High-yielding varieties (HYVs) ensure increased yield for the farmers of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) mostly and the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) in part, have been playing the gigantic task of releasing suitable rice varieties for the farmers. The number of such varieties currently stands over 80 (BRKB website). These varieties should be used in specific environments to harvest their yield potentials. Besides, the varieties have various life cycles (duration between sowing and harvesting) to fit into the desired cropping system, especially in disaster-prone zones. In addition, some varieties may be good in yield, but prone to pests and diseases compared to other varieties. In fact, the choice of a variety to sow has a significant impact on the sustainability and profitability of rice in Bangladesh. Therefore, farmers require a comparison between the varieties to choose the right one for their specific circumstances. There is more relevant to the disaster-prone areas as crop failure may frequently occur.

Currently, information on the rice varieties is available from BRRI and BINA in the form of booklets. With a hard copy, it is very difficult for the farmers to compare one variety with the other. Besides, the ability to quickly update such information has been limited but computer software and the internet provide the opportunity to deliver this information to stakeholders in a new and smart format. Thus a tool that can allow one to compare varieties side-by-side would be highly beneficial through web applications and mobile app. To the best of our knowledge, a tool like this is not available in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Smart Profiling, Disaster, ICT, Mobile Application.

## **4. Agricultural Marketing Reforms: Current Status and Future Directions**

**Iffat Chauhan**

India is primarily an agricultural economy with about half of the workforce in the agricultural sector (GoI2016a). Marketing in agriculture means the economic mechanism through which agricultural products are traded. The Agri-Food system supports half of India's population, as well as other economic sectors. These sectors provided inputs to other industries for raw material and supply. It is estimated that India's agricultural sector accounts for only about 14% of the country economy but 42% of total employment (GOI2020). So it is the country's most important sector in terms of jobs generation, its percentage share has declined. The growth of GDP and stability of food chain management is the most important aspect of the Indian economy. The government has taken the requisite steps to make farm laws to ensure a profitable chain. It is therefore important to study different agricultural marketing reforms to increase agricultural productivity and maintain the supply chain. In this paper analysis and understanding of recent agricultural marketing reforms in India and their effect are therefore crucial in deciding the natural course of the future direction we have attempted to review the country major marketing reforms and various studies on the advantages and changes of agricultural marketing reforms and to recommend solutions to improve NAM in order to distribute its anticipated benefits to farmers in an inclusive and efficient manner.

**Keywords:** Agricultural Marketing, Food chain, Reforms, Economy.

**WORKSHOP SESSION 3.2**  
**MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND MOVEMENT**

**1. Nexus between Academic Performance and Social Media: A Study on Teens of Khulna City**

**Mamunor Rashid**

This study aims to determine the nexus between academic performance and social media on the teenagers of Khulna city. Based on purposive sampling a sample of 300 teenagers was selected from six metropolitan Thana of Khulna city areas. Out of the whole sample size, 160 were male respondents and 140 were female. A questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. Results indicate that 49.3% of respondents are more active in social media and 53% use social media more than 3 hours a day. Social media helps them in their study though 87.7% think by using social media their academic result has affected. This is an alarming fact that due to use at midnight they are suffering various problematic issues like inattentiveness in the classroom, uncontrolled temper, changes in their food habits and insufficient sleep etcetera. The data also revealed that most teenagers use social media as a tool for getting entertainment rather than other purposes. They also believe in social media provided new and the teenagers may be going to dogs because of overusing social media.

**Keywords:** Nexus, Academic Performance, Social Media, Teens, Khulna

## **2. Journalism in Onset of COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: Governance and Coping Strategies of Newspaper Journalists**

**Mridha Md. Shiblee Noman**

**Rakib Ahmed**

**Uzzwal Kumar Mondal**

This paper is about newspaper journalism practices under the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. Based on two separate theories -- Communication Competence Theory, and Risk and Crisis Communication Management Theory, this study intends to understand the challenges that newspaper journalists faced while discharging their professional responsibilities and governing the newsroom operations during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. In addition, this paper explores the strategies that journalists followed to adapt to the changed working environments and engage themselves in the processes of news production and publication. The authors conducted in-depth interviews with 12 journalists including three news managers from three national dailies -- daily Prothom Alo, daily Samakal, and The Daily Star. Standing on findings, the discussion progressed around six areas – governance of newsroom operations, preparations, communication, newsgathering, restrictions, insecurity and protection. The key findings are, i) the COVID-19 crisis appeared as a blow before the newspaper journalists of Bangladesh due to a policy-level shortcoming in terms of formulating plans beforehand to govern the newsroom operations in the face of the challenges that emerged along with the pandemic; ii) the journalists were not comfortable in adapting themselves to the working from home strategy as they struggled in gathering and verifying information, and doing required communications using the virtual communication methods while working from distance; and iii) the journalists experienced psychological pressures because of multiple factors that included -- limited access to protective gear and fear of infection; protection of family members; adapting themselves to the changed working environments; and tension of losing the job in the pandemic crisis.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Challenges In Journalism, Governance In Newsroom Operation, Coping Strategies, Newspaper Journalism.

### **3. In the Era of New Media: Fighting against Misinformation Case Study: Shahbag Movement**

**Shabnam Azim**

**Fatema Samina Yasmin**

From 2005 onwards, 'Facebook' became a major social networking site in Bangladesh. However, in 2013, a group of online activists used Facebook to urge the public assembled at the Shahbag intersection in Dhaka city to protest the life imprisonment of a war criminal, demonstrating that a social media site can be utilized for local activism and networking. The Shahbag movement as a whole grew to embody a nationalist spirit and drew big audiences of youths. The peaceful movement gained appeal among diaspora populations as well, through Facebook. Using the same medium, opposing groups spread rumors and false information to sow doubt in the minds of the public that they were able to describe the event as a non-Islamic gathering that supported immoral behavior. The nation was soon divided on the subject of religion, and the non-secular movement progressively lost its appeal to the general public. The movement was followed by a violent showdown of the opposition groups, and the protesters were urged to gather at Dhaka, taking the assistance of Facebook. The government had to take decisive actions. It can be said that this was the first display of a cyber info-battle between two opposite groups in Bangladesh, and it resulted in an abrupt ending for the Shahbag movement. The continuous flow of misinformation about the movement changed the direction of the campaign. The authors will use the Shahbag movement as a case study in this article to demonstrate how misinformation and propaganda can lead to communal and political disputes and divert people's attention away from the actual situation. In addition, key informant interviews will be conducted, and available documents will be analyzed to investigate the factors that cause people to propagate and trust incorrect facts. On the other side, this article will highlight how social media platforms can be used for effective networking and how they can also influence mainstream media agendas.

**Keywords:** Shahbag Movement, Social Media, Networking, Activism, Misinformation

#### **4. Combating the COVID-19 as Non-Traditional Security Threat: Deconstructing the Traditional vs. Non-Traditional Security Debate in International Relations**

**Afzalur Rahman**

Security dominates the affairs of sovereign nation-states from the very beginning of the Westphalian treaty-1648. In most of the cases, nation-states prioritize traditional security over non-traditional security in their policy discourse. War is one of the most important examples of a traditional security threat. But after the end of the second world war because of decolonization, the number of interstate wars and illegal occupation to others countries' land comparatively waned. In the twenty-first century, non-traditional security like climate change, health, poverty and energy security have become the most discussed issues than war in various forums of the nation states. The outbreak of COVID-19 has posed a strong challenge to the countries that spent less budget on the non-traditional security matter. After one and a half years of COVID-19 crisis, the main problems international society are facing; access to vaccine and some others' rights regarding health security. Many African, Latin American and Asian developing countries who have spent the lion share of their money on traditional security agendas are now facing unprecedented challenges to governing the pandemic than developed countries. Thus, this paper will shed light on the debate centered on traditional security vs. non-traditional security to understand the recent covid-19 pandemic through the lens of critical securitization theory. Next, the main objectives of the paper are to find out the impact of COVID-19 as non-traditional security in the contemporary world and also critically evaluate the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in terms of global health governance.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Traditional Security, Non-Traditional Security, Global Health Governance, WHO

**WORKSHOP SESSION 3.3**  
**RELIGION PHILOSOPHY AND WORLD ORDER**

**1. Presumption of Legitimacy Rule in Islam: Conflict with the Medical Truth**

**Nadia Rahaman**

The paper will be based on a theme relating to law, religion and their intermingling effect on public life. While studying and teaching Islamic Law, the author always delved into the question of what law is and what law should be. The same is applicable to the thought behind this paper. This paper aims to call in a discussion that includes the conflicting scenario between the rule of presumption of legitimacy under the traditional Islamic laws and the medical development of the said area at hand. For that matter, the author will mostly depend on the secondary data available on the topic and will work both on theories and practices. The paper will deal with prevailing traditional Islamic laws and existing legal provisions concerning the rules of presumption of legitimacy for children in Bangladesh. Critical analysis of the subject matter will be laid out. Precedents and current court approach towards the matter will be scrutinized. Inconsistencies between the established medical principles and predominating legal principles in respect of the issue will be put forward. A comparative study will also be included to recommend some way forward so that the law may remain updated with the need of the modern age. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the laws need to go hand in hand with medical advancements and societal needs. The customs need to be upheld as well keeping in mind the moral injunctions at the same time. An argument to strike a balance between these two will also be a significant part of the study. The study will provide some recommendations at the end as the author may think justified based on the discussions.

**Keywords:** Rule of Presumption of Legitimacy, Islamic Law, Medical Advancements

## **2. Xiism in the Post COVID-19 World: A Hegemonic Order in the Making?**

**Abu Sufian**

How is Xiism going to change the courses of geopolitical history in the post COVID-19 world? In an attempt to answer this question, the study delves into the dynamics of growing influence, strategies, balancing act, and power projection under the current Chinese political order headed by Xi Jinping in the post COVID-19 pandemic. On the basis of Neo-Gramscian school of international relations—inspired by Robert W. Cox, this article highlights the strategic dimensions of Xiism around the world considering the progress, expansion, and continuation of the ongoing ‘China Dream’ projects in a changing geopolitical order after the coronavirus pandemic. The central argument of the study is that Xiism is going to assert its geopolitical influence in the post COVID world where China’s smart diplomatic behaviour, economic engagement/diversity, increasing pace of global investment, and a China-centric connectivity order amid this coronavirus pandemic would increase Xi-led political order’s acceptability around the world as an influential global hegemon.

**Key Words:** Xiism, COVID-19, Hegemonic Order, China Dream, Neo-Gramscian School

### 3. ইতালীয় রেনেসাঁসের আলোকে শিখা-দর্শন

#### Md. Abu Baker Siddique

ইতালিতে রেনেসাঁর শুরু চতুর্দশ শতকে। পঞ্চদশ, ষোড়শ শতাব্দী জুড়ে সেটি বিস্তার লাভ করে। রেনেসাঁয় নেতৃত্ব দেন 'ক্রিটিক্যালহিউম্যানিস্ট' (মানবতাবাদী বুদ্ধিজীবী শ্রেণি) ও 'আর্টিস্ট' (শিল্পী) এই দুই শ্রেণির মানুষ। তাঁরা সে সময়ে ইতালির মানুষের চেতনা ও নন্দন বোধকে পরিবর্তিত, সংস্কৃত, পরিশীলিত করে তোলার কাজ করেছিলেন। ইতালির রেনেসাঁসের মতো কলকতা কেন্দ্রিক উনিশ শতকীয় বঙ্গীয় নবজাগরণের ব্যক্তি-প্রতিভার স্ফূরণ দেখা যায় এই সময়ে বাংলায় রাজা রামমোহন রায় থেকে রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের মতো অনেক মনীষীর সাক্ষাৎ পাওয়া যায়। বিশ শতকের পূর্ববঙ্গে (বর্তমান বাংলাদেশ) ঢাকা কেন্দ্রিক নবজাগরণেও একই বৈশিষ্ট্যের (ব্যক্তি-প্রতিভার স্ফূরণ) প্রতিফলন ঘটে। মূলত, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (১৯২১) ও 'মুসলিম সাহিত্য-সমাজ'র (১৯২৬) প্রতিষ্ঠা এতদ্ব্যতীত আলোকায়নে বড়ো ভূমিকা রাখে। পরবর্তীকালে 'মুসলিমসাহিত্য-সমাজ'র মুখপত্র রূপে *শিখার* (১৯২৭) আত্মপ্রকাশ হয়। বাঙালি মুসলমানের বিচার-বুদ্ধিকে অন্ধ সংস্কার ও শাস্ত্রানুগত্য এবং আত্মপরিচয়ের সংকট থেকে মুক্তি দিতে *শিখার* লেখকেরা (কাজী আনোয়ারুল কাদীর, কাজী আবদুল ওদুদ, আবুল হুসেন, কাজী মোতাহার হোসেন, মোতাহের হোসেন চৌধুরী, আবদুলকাদির ও আবুল ফজল প্রমুখ) উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা রেখেছেন। তাঁরা পত্রিকা প্রকাশ, অধিবেশন ও বার্ষিক সম্মেলনে প্রবন্ধপাঠ এবং গ্রন্থ-রচনা ও প্রকাশ করেছেন। *শিখার* লেখকেরা ছিলেন প্রধানত মননশীল ও মানবতাবাদী তাঁদের তুলনা করা যায় ইতালীয় রেনেসাঁসের 'ক্রিটিক্যালহিউম্যানিস্ট' দের সঙ্গে। 'ক্রিটিক্যালহিউম্যানিস্ট'রা অসাধারণ বৌদ্ধিক প্রতিভার অধিকারী ছিলেন। তাঁদের দর্শন ছিল, 'মানুষই ইতিহাসের স্রষ্টা'। ইতালির রেনেসাঁসে নব্য জ্ঞানতাত্ত্বিক ও সাংস্কৃতিক আবহাটা তাঁদের হাতে নির্মিত হয়। তবে তাঁরা ধর্মীয় চিন্তা-চেতনা থেকে মুক্ত ছিলেন না। ইতালির রেনেসাঁসেপূরো দেশের অবস্থা তাঁরা বদলে দিতে পারেননি, কিছু সমস্যার সমাধান-সূত্র অঙ্কুরিত করেছেন *শিখার* লেখকদের ক্ষেত্রের একই কথাবলা যায়। বর্তমান নিবন্ধে, ইতালীয় রেনেসাঁসের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে *শিখার* সামগ্রিক কর্মকাণ্ডকে (সমাজচিন্তা, রাজনীতিভাবনা, ধর্মচিন্তা, সংস্কৃতি চিন্তা ও সাহিত্য চিন্তাপ্রভৃতি) মূল্যায়ন করা হয়েছে। ইতালির রেনেসাঁসে হিউম্যানিস্টদের চিন্তারসীমা বদ্ধতা ছিল সে-বাস্তবতার নিরিখে *শিখার* লেখকদের চিন্তার সীমাবদ্ধতাকেও বিচার করা হয়েছে।

## 4. The Positives of the Coronavirus Situation

**Rehnuma Bint Anis**

Humanity has been able to emerge from natural and man-made disasters time and again, scathed but stronger, due to its ability to focus on the bright side of a dark situation. The world has hardly seen an uncontrollable calamity like the coronavirus pandemic in recent history in spite of its fair share of political turmoils, atomic and nuclear warfare, oil wars, substance abuse and rise in crimes, famines, earthquakes, tsunamis, environmental pollutions and previous epidemics. COVID-19, despite being an invisible enemy, has taken the world by storm and caused human and natural phenomena the like of which the world has not witnessed in a long time, perhaps ever. However, notwithstanding the great number of lives lost, the situation has generated unanticipated positives which are not just limited to the environmental benefits brought about by the confinement of human beings. It has given mankind respite from the rat-race of life to re-discover their real priorities. It has created opportunities for people to invest time in things that are truly important to them as opposed to things dictated by societal norms. It has humbled humanity who had become obsessed with themselves and brought them back to humility. This article attempts to shed light on the silver lining in the coronavirus clouds all over the world. Hopefully, the world will turn its attention towards a new direction and maintain the positive aspects even when a cure is discovered and the situation returns to normal.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, shift in priorities, personal relationships, investing in productive activities, good governance, equal development.

**WORKSHOP SESSION 3.4**  
SOCIOECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES AND  
LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES

**1. Impact of COVID-19 on society: Livelihood Strategies  
of the Lower Income Communities in Bangladesh**

**A.N. Bushra**

COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health crisis that claimed the lives of millions of people worldwide. Not only the health sector, it touches every sector, bringing adverse impacts on livelihood. Income loss and layoffs due to this pandemic have pushed a huge population under the extreme poverty line. As the COVID-19 situation has severely affected the income and livelihood of the people, this study aimed to find out the livelihood strategies of the lower-income class of Bangladesh during the Covid-19 crisis and how their livelihood strategies shape their daily life. This study employed a case study design. A sample of 40 households was selected purposively from three districts of Bangladesh, namely Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Chapainawabganj. Qualitative data of this study was collected by conducting semi-structured interviews. Data analysis was framed around the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework. The study revealed that after experiencing income loss, people from the lower income class had undertaken unsustainable livelihood strategies for immediate survival. Those who relied solely on financial capital had mostly experienced negative livelihood outcomes. Lack of motivation, inadequate institutional support and mental stress were some other factors that had brought influence over people's livelihood choices and ultimately deplete their livelihood and well-being.

**Keywords:** Lower Income Community, Livelihood strategies, Sustainable Livelihood Framework, COVID-19.

## **2. Covid 19 Affect in Rural Livelihood: A Case of a Bangladesh Village**

**Dr. Mohammed Kamrul Hasan**

**Kazi Foyez Ahmed**

The global epidemic of Corona (Covid 19) has also affected rural lifestyles in terms of sudden uncertainty in a job, return migration to the village, uncertainty in going of remitter expatriates, complexity at flight schedules and other hazards. In this stressful living condition, this fieldwork was conducted in a Bangladesh village just after the end of a long period of lockdown. The objectives of the study were to identify different directions among the Covid 19 affected rural population and documented and delineated lockdown/shutdown on the living condition and social happening at a village. This fieldwork was conducted at Elahabad village in an Upazila of Cumilla Distirct. Open discussion with the village people, individual interview, observation, comparisons of living conditions before and during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The living styles are reflected in different innovative ways. Sustainable Development Goals have been hampered by the Corona epidemic on the one hand the opportunity to make money on the other. When the lockdown's public life was disrupted the government-directed ban on trade and transportation of vegetables was exempted. Those who have returned to the country from abroad in the villages are not able to return abroad even after a certain period has elapsed during the Corona epidemic. They chose to sell a variety of vegetable lights and onions in pickup vans as a way to earn money. In that case, they chose the District and Upazila city as the sales center using a special type of microphone. Many young people returning from abroad wanted the opportunity to do something in this country. Especially those who were accustomed to the work of construction plumbing AC refrigerators were looking for opportunities to arrange employment in the country. Due to foreign construction companies working on major development projects in Bangladesh, some people were recruited after properly evaluating their certificate and working skills. Which is far less than necessary. In that case, those who have the appropriate link would get the job. Our GDP would have grown at a much higher rate if the government had been able to utilize this skilled manpower by renewing contracts with foreign companies by seeking relevant information on trained workers returning home. The corona epidemic in the village has also brought about a change in the profession. Coffee houses and restaurant businesses have opened in their school playground open space to meet the expenses of those who were involved in private school and Kinder Garden business. Due to the dam of the Gumti river, we do not see much flood in the Cumilla district. In that case, four crops are produced in our lands every year. In that case, no economic hardship was observed in the agricultural families in the rural areas. But all the family members living abroad and there was a severe lockdown in those countries that could not send foreign currency. Money had to be sent from the opposite country to survive. The trained workers who have returned from abroad

but are unable to go due to the corona epidemic can be used in various development projects of the government by the proper database. Many development projects in Bangladesh are being worked on by foreign workers. At present, it is possible to train the local manpower by employing the demographic dividend in Bangladesh and employing them in a ratio with the foreign workers. In that case, the foreign workers who returned to their country during the Corona epidemic could have stopped the development work and the Bangladeshi workers could have worked there uninterruptedly. This will play an appropriate role in the implementation of Bangladesh's five-year plan and global SDGs.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Rural Livelihood, SDG

### **3. Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities of Disaster affected Older Persons in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh**

**Md. Rabiul Islam *PhD***

**Fatema Khatun *PhD***

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone area in the world. Every year, especially, the coastal areas are affected by different types of disasters such as floods, cyclones, tidal surges, river erosion, drought and so on. Women, children, disabled and older persons are the most victims and vulnerable groups in disaster. There are 19 districts in coastal areas of Bangladesh where about 5 million elderly people live. More than 60% of them live in poverty. The study used mix method approach where social survey and in-depth case study method were employed. This study was conducted on 10 villages at two Upazilas in the southern part of Bangladesh. The study aimed to look at the socio-economic conditions of disaster-affected older persons in coastal areas of Bangladesh and to identify the vulnerabilities based on some socioeconomic and psychological indicators. The key concerns of disaster vulnerabilities were the experience of poverty, loss of family members and relatives, lands, houses, livestock, crops, floating and displacement, changes of the traditional profession and psychological trauma. Through the literature review, it is found that this issue has not been addressed adequately in Bangladesh. No in-depth study was conducted on the issue of the vulnerability of disaster-affected older persons in Bangladesh. We feel that this study will disclose some significant aspects which would be useful to academics, policy makers and development practitioners.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic, vulnerability, disaster, coastal area, older persons, Bangladesh

## **4. Livelihood Initiatives in the Urban Areas in India: Issues of Good Governance**

**Tapas Kumar**

**Dr. Paramita Roy**

Background: Since independence, various initiatives have been undertaken for promoting livelihoods for women in urban India. However, there is the need for a good and efficient team of administrators who will carry out the specific vision and mission of the livelihood initiatives. Thus the term good governance is becoming very popular in recent academic literature and administration. It is the need of the hour to evaluate livelihood initiatives in the light of the Rights-Based Approach (RBA).

The research objectives include 1. The present paper explores the functioning of one of the flagship livelihood initiatives taken by the Government of India in the form of the urban livelihood program, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY), in the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). 2. This paper will thus try to relate the strengths and weaknesses of governance in livelihood programs in the present pandemic situation due to Covid 19 under the Rights-Based Framework.

This paper will apply the concepts of good governance as included in the Rights-Based Approach (RBA), like participation, accountability, transparency, Rule of Law, Creation of social capital, Inclusiveness, gender neutrality, etc. The paper will follow mixed-methods research based on field data in selected municipalities in Purba Bardhaman district of West Bengal, India where the livelihood program is presently running successfully.

The findings of the paper will significantly contribute to the understanding of the challenges in local governance in administering livelihood programs and how various factors including local leadership become significant, particularly in the context of the pandemic.

**Keywords:** Right Based Approach, Good Governance, Livelihood, Accountability, Gender Neutrality, DAY-NULM

**List of Participants in  
the Conference**



## **List of Participants**

### **A.N. Bushra**

Undergraduate student  
Department of Public administration  
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

### **A.T.M. Shahed Parvez**

Institute of Business Administration  
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

### **Abdul Basit**

MSS Student,  
Department of Public Administration,  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

### **Abdul Hannan PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography School of Human Sciences  
Sikkim University Gangtok, Sikkim, India

### **Abdul jail**

Department Of Leather Engineering  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna, Bangladesh

### **Abdur Rahman**

Senior Lecturer  
Department of Public Administration  
Stamford University Bangladesh.

### **Abu Sufian**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Studies  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

### **Adhir Chandra Paul**

Assistant Professor  
Department Of Leather Engineering,  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna, Bangladesh

### **Afzalur Rahman**

Assistant Professor  
Department of International Relations  
University of Chittagong, Bangladesh

**Ahnaf Tahmid Arnab**

Undergraduate Student  
Department of Government and Politics  
Jahangirnagar University Researcher in Neuropolitics and Complexity

**Akash TawarAssistant**

Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University), Bilaspur,  
Chhattisgarh, India.

**Akram Hossain**

PhD Researcher  
Department of Administration and Organization Theory  
University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

**Anam Tahir Hashmi**

Research Scholar,  
Department of Education,  
Aligarh Muslim University. Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. India

**Anas Al Masud Masud**

Student  
Department of Public Administration  
Bangladesh University of Professionals

**Ashish Kant Chaudhari PhD**

Assistant Professor,  
Faculty of Commerce,  
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

**Brigadier General Md Sayed Ali (Retd)**

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(North South University- BD), FCGP (BD) PhD  
Researcher, Bangladesh University of Professionals

**Ekaterina Nemshevich**

Intern, Shelter Centre and Post Graduate Student,  
MSc International Development University of Edinburgh

**Era Robbani**

Student  
University of Dhaka

**Farah Naaz**

Research scholar  
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

**Fatema Samina Yasmin**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Political Science  
University of Dhaka

**Fatema Khatun, PhD**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Public Administration,  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

**Fatima Zannat Esha**  
Student  
Department of Rural Sociology,  
Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh

**Fouzia Nasreen Sultana**  
Joint Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development

**Iffat Chauhan**  
Research Scholar  
Department Of Commerce  
Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh

**Ira Hasan Surjasha**  
Student  
CCN University, Comilla

**Ishtiaq Jamil**  
Professor  
Department of Administration and Organization Theory  
University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

**Jobayda Gulshan Ara**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Public Administration,  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

**Junaed Rahim**  
Deputy Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

**Kanij Fatema**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Public Administration,  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

**Kazi Foyez Ahmed**

Assistant Director (Rural Education and Social Development)  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

**Kazi Shek Farid**

Professor  
Department of Rural Sociology Bangladesh Agricultural University

**Kazi Sonia Rahman**

Deputy Director (Project)  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Kotbari,  
Comilla

**Khandakar Farid Uddin**

Doctoral PhD Research,  
The School of Social Sciences  
Western Sydney University, Australia

**Kora Hasan Evana**

lecturer and  
working in Sheikh Kamal IT training Incubation Centre

**Krishna Bhowmik**

Institute of Social Science and Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Laila Habib**

Senior lecturer  
City University, Khagan, Birulia, ashulia

**Maisha Tabassum Anima**

Master's student,  
Department of Criminology University of Dhaka

**Mamunor Rashid**

Assistant Professor  
Mass Communication and Journalism Discipline  
Khulna University, Khulna

**Md Abu Baker Siddique**

Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Bangla,  
Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet

**Md Shirajis Shadik**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Public Administration  
University of Barishal, Bangladesh

**Md. Amzad Hossain**  
Lecturer  
Department of Economics  
Metropolitan University, Sylhet

**Md. Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan**  
Master of Public Policy  
GRIPS, Tokyo, Japan  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Government and Politics  
Jahangiranagar University Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Md. Ismail Hossian PhD**  
Agricultural Statistics Division,  
Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur

**Md. Kamrul Hasan PhD**  
Faculty of Business Studies,  
BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Md. Mahfuz Bin Wahab**  
Programmer  
Agricultural Statistics Division,  
Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur

**Md. Mojeb Ali**  
Department of Leather Engineering,  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Khulna

**Md. Nazmul Haque**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Khulna

**Md. Rabiul Islam PhD**  
Professor  
Institute of Social Welfare and Research  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Md. Robiul Islam**  
Lecturer,  
Department of Public Administration,  
Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).

**Md. Saiful Islam**  
MSS student  
Department of Public Administration  
University of Rajshahi Bangladesh

**Md. Sazzad Hossain Patwary**  
PhD Researcher  
Department of Banking and Insurance  
University of Dhaka

**Md. Shafiul Islam *PhD***  
Professor  
Department of Public Administration  
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

**Md. Shahjahan Kabir *PhD***  
Director General  
Agricultural Statistics Division,  
Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur

**Md. Shariful Islam**  
Assistant Professor  
Mass Communication and Journalism Discipline  
Khulna University, Khulna

**Md. Tanvir Alam**  
Student  
Department of Public Administration  
Stamford University Bangladesh

**Meherin Ahmed Roza**  
Student  
Department of Public Administration  
Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)

**Mohammad Ahsan Habib**  
Student  
Department of Economics & Banking  
International Islamic University Chittagong, Bangladesh.

**Mohammed Kamrul Hasan PhD**  
Director (Project),  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

**Mohd Shakir PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Education,  
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. India

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Assistant Professor  
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

**Moin-us-Salam *PhD***

Freelance Consultant  
Agricultural Research, Development & Modelling

**Mridha Md. Shiblee Noman**

Lecturer  
Department of Journalism and Media Studies  
Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh

**Ms. Farhat Hossain *PhD***

Scholar  
Special Centre for the Study of North-East India School of Social Sciences  
Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi, India

**Nadia Rahaman**

Lecturer,  
Department of Law  
East West University, Bangladesh

**Nahid Hasan *PhD***

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University)  
Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India.

**Neaz Ahmed *PhD***

Professor  
Department of Social Work  
Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet

**Paramita Roy**

Associate Professor  
Department of Social Work  
Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, Birbhum, West, Bengal, India

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Associate Professor,  
Department of Journalism and Media Studies  
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**Rehnuma Bint Anis**

PhD Candidate

Department of English Language and Literature  
International Islamic University Malaysia

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Department of Marketing,  
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

**Sabnam Sarmin Luna**

PhD Scholar Centre for the Study of Regional Development,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

**Saifun Nahar**

Deputy Director,  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

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Director- Program and Research

Institute of Social Science and Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Lecturer

Department of Geography & Environment  
Donia University College. Dhaka

**Sazu Sarda**

Assistant Professor

Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management,  
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

**Shabnam Azim**

Associate Professor

Department of Mass Communication and Journalism  
University of Dhaka

**Shaikh Abdur Rahman**

Student

Department of International Relations  
University of Rajshahi

**Sharmin Begum**

Assistant Professor

Department of Public Administration and Governance Studies  
Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Mymensingh

**Shital Sohani Chitra**

Department of Marketing,  
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

**Supriya Chaudhary**

Research Scholar,  
Institute of Environment & Sustainable Development,  
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

**Tapas Kumar**

Manager,  
National Urban Livelihood Mission, Bardhaman Municipality  
West Bengal, India & PhD Scholar,  
Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati University

**Tauhida Chowdhury**

MSS Student  
Department of Social Work  
SUST, Sylhet

**Uzzwal Kumar Mondal**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Journalism and Media Studies  
Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342, Bangladesh

**Zobayer Ahmed**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Economics & Banking, International  
Islamic University Chittagong, Bangladesh

## **List of Resource Persons**

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Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

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Joint Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD),  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

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Professor  
Political Science and Administration  
Senior Fulbright Fellow  
Henderson State University, Arkadelphia

### **Ishtiaq Jamil, *PhD***

Professor  
Department of Administration and Organization Theory  
University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

### **Kamrul Ahsan, *PhD***

Adjunct Professor  
Department of Public Administration  
Stamford University Bangladesh  
Ex-Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh.

**Kamrul Hassan, *PhD***

Director

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh.

**Kazi Shek Farid**

Professor

Department of Rural Sociology  
Bangladesh Agricultural University

**Masuda Kamal, *PhD***

Professor

Department of Public Administration  
Comilla University

**M. Rezaul Islam, *PhD***

Professor

Institute of Social Welfare and Research  
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Assistant Professor

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Director

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

**Md. Mokhles Ur Rahman**

Adjunct Professor

North South University, Bangladesh  
Former Secretary, GOB

**Mehedi Hasan *PhD***

Assistant professor

Department of Law

East West University, Bangladesh

**Mohammad Mainul Islam, *PhD***

Professor

Department of Population Sciences  
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Director (Agriculture)

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh.

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Director (Administration)  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

**Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha**  
Director (Rural Education and Social Development)  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)  
Cumilla, Bangladesh.

**Momammed Asaduzzaman, PhD**  
Professor  
Department of Politics and Public Administration  
Islamic University, Kushtia, Bangladesh

**Nakib Mohammad Nasrullah, PhD**  
Professor  
Department of Law  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Nurul Islam PhD**  
Professor (Rtd)  
Department of Public Administration  
University of Chittagong  
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**Rabiul Islam, PhD**  
Professor  
Institute of Social Welfare and Research  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

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University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

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Department of Business Administration  
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University of Dhaka

**Taiabur Rahman, *PhD***

Professor  
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Chairperson

GAIN International, Governance and Administration Innovation  
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Master of International Business Program, School of Management,  
RMIT University, Australia

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Administration & Governance* ([www.joaag.com](http://www.joaag.com))

## II. Members

### **Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD**

Professor

Department of Development Studies

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ex- Country Director, IUCN Bangladesh

### **Mobasser Monem, PhD**

Professor

Department of Public Administration

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

### **Mokhles Ur Rahman**

Professor (Adjunct) Faculty

North South University, Bangladesh

Former Secretary, GOB.

### **Kamrul Ahsan, PhD**

Adjunct Professor, Department of Public Administration, Stamford

University Bangladesh and Ex-director

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

Cumilla, Bangladesh

### **Mohammed Asaduzzaman, PhD**

Professor

Department of Public Administration,

Islamic University, Kushtia, Bangladesh

**Taibur Rahman, PhD**  
Professor and Ex Chairman  
Department of Development Studies  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Masuda Kamal, PhD**  
Professor  
Department of Public Administration  
Comilla University, Bangladesh

**Mohammad Mainul Islam, PhD**  
Professor  
Department of Population Sciences  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Abdul Karim, PhD**  
Joint Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD),  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

### **III. Conference Secretariat**

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Department of Public Administration  
Comilla University, Bangladesh

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Director  
Cotton Group

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Assistant professor  
Department of Law  
East West University, Bangladesh

**Dr. Shafiul Islam**  
Professor  
Department of Public Administration  
Rajshahi University, Bangladesh

**Fouzia Nasreen Sultana**  
Joint Director  
Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD),  
Cumilla, Bangladesh

**Khandaker Al-Farid Uddin**  
PhD Candidate  
Western Sydney University, Australia

**Mohammad Mamunur Rashid**  
Assistant Professor  
Eastern University, Bangladesh

**Md. Al Ifran Hossain Mollah**  
Senior Lecturer  
Independent University Bangladesh

**Mariz Sinthaha**  
PhD Research Fellow  
Chinese University of Hongkong  
Senior Lecturer  
Independent University, Bangladesh

**Abdur Rahman**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Public Administration  
Stamford University, Bangladesh

**Jahidul Islam**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Public Administration  
Stamford University, Bangladesh

**Md. Amzad Hossain**  
Lecturer  
Department of Economics  
Metropolitan University, Sylhet

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