



Practicing governance: pitfalls and potentials - a study of Bangladesh

*Practicând guvernarea: capcane și posibilități
- un studiu despre Bangladesh*

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Abstract

Governance is a manner of undertaking activities performed for a state's people by the state's government to ensure development. Hence, it has scope of having conflicts between state policy and government bodies resulting poor quality of governance: abuse of rule of law, bureaucratic discrimination, corruption, poverty, inequality, low level of human resource development, low level of per capita income, poor utilization of country resources, etc. The reason for conflicts is poor governance vis-à-vis the result from poor governance, i.e., as there has conflict, there exists poor governance and at the same time as there exists poor governance, there has conflict. On the other hand, interrelationships between state policy and government bodies assist ensuring good governance: participatory, consensus oriented, transparent and accountable, equitable and efficient, etc. Developing nations like Bangladesh require having good governance in their countries for promoting development indicators: 'country resource' mobilization, increasing GDP growth, increasing per capita income, enhancing quality of socioeconomic indices of people, etc. The major of findings from this paper is 'good governance for sustainable development'. This paper addresses issues of historical performance of governance exercise, obstacles towards good governance, and reforming agendas come up in past studies. The authors conclude by explaining why and how good governance is essential in Bangladesh for sustainable development.

Keywords: *governance, pitfalls, potentials, Bangladesh*

Rezumat

Guvernarea este modul în care guvernul unui stat realizează activități de dezvoltare pentru populația statului. Prin urmare, este domeniul conflictelor între politica de stat și organismele guvernamentale care pot avea ca rezultat o calitate slabă a

guvernării: *abuz al statului de drept, discriminare birocratică, corupție, sărăcie, inegalitate, nivel scăzut de dezvoltare a resurselor umane, nivel scăzut al venitului pe cap de locuitor, slabă utilizare a resurselor țării etc. Motivul conflictelor este proasta guvernare vis-à-vis de rezultatul unei proaste guvernări, și anume, deoarece există conflict, există proastă guvernare și în același timp, cât există proastă guvernare, există conflict. Pe de altă parte, prin interdependențele dintre politica de stat și organismele guvernamentale se poate asigura o bună guvernare: participativă, orientată spre consens, transparentă și responsabilă, echitabilă și eficientă etc. Națiunile în curs de dezvoltare, precum Bangladesh, au nevoie în țările lor de o bună guvernare pentru promovarea indicatorilor de dezvoltare: "mobilizarea resurselor țării", creșterea PIB-ului, creșterea venitului pe cap de locuitor, îmbunătățirea calității indicilor socio-economici ai populației etc. Rezultatele majore ale acestei lucrări se referă la "guvernare buna pentru o dezvoltare durabilă". Această lucrare abordează probleme de performanță istorică a exercițiului de guvernare, obstacolele din calea spre o bună guvernare și agende de reformare care apar în studiile din trecut. Autorii încheie prin a explica de ce și cum o bună guvernare este esențială în Bangladesh pentru o dezvoltare durabilă.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *guvernanță, capcane, posibilități, Bangladesh*

JEL Classification: R38

Introduction

The objective of the development efforts of Bangladesh is to improve socio-economic indices (such as, per capita income, life expectancy, literacy, health, etc.), which are influenced by the community policy makers' decision, process of utilization of country resources, distribution of population in productive sectors and business enterprises with their foreign relation counterpart (export-import) (Ali *et al.*, 1996). And the interactions and linkages of such development indicators between urban and countryside are increasingly recognized as central factors in processes of social, economic and cultural change (Chant, 1998). The term 'governance' has been emerged to deal with development issues of a country which is defined as 'the manner in which power is exercised in the management of country's economic and social resources for development (World Bank, 1994)'. From this definition questions come through twofold: who exercises the power and what is the state policy towards resource utilization?

The government exercises the power to the process of development upholding legitimacy, as the principle of the rule of law; meaning that, laws are enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights (Siddiqui, 2000). Siddiqui (1994) mentioned democracy having no substitute, in compare to autocracy. Still, he stated some problems with democracy as, patron-client relationships (also mentioned by Leviathan, 2001), abuse of power by the political leaders, slow decision making process, turning to a state of rich and the powerful through 'money and muscle politics', and finally for third world countries,

degeneration of never ending blood-letting between very few powerful groups.

On the other hand, the state plays a vital role with its policies in accordance with governance (Siddiqui, 2000). Foucault (1991) and Gordon (1991) stated the role of the state as, whether the state should take upon itself 'caring' or 'steering' responsibilities or both. They used steering for policies and institutions that maintain the economic system and enable it to function effectively and in contrast, caring for actions and institutions that provide attentions to specific individuals or areas. Banuri (1999), after reviewing relevant literature concluded as both need to be taken: caring for giving equal attention toward political and social progression and steering for efficient management system in the globalized world.

This paper is based on literature study aiming at developing scenario in terms of governance issues,: interrelationships and conflicts among state, government and governance in Bangladesh, on the bases of above discussion viewpoints. The following sections are described sequentially as; Bangladesh: where this paper discusses about, governance and history of the country, governance: what it is and why it is required, obstacles with governance exercise, considerable aspects to reform governance and finally conclusions drawing based on major findings from this study.

Governance issues: a background of Bangladesh

This section is to review some aspects: why and how 'governance' and its issues have been emerging in Bangladesh.

Physiography and Population of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is linked, through the Bay of Bengal, with world wide maritime trade and commerce (Murtaza, 1999; 2002). It is almost centrally located on the northern tip of the Indian Ocean Rim, an open market communication link. So both in regional and global context the country possesses enormous scope of business and in economy for its high growth rate of population in lesser amount of area. To give the statistics, it has 40 million people live under poverty level and it depends on foreign aid by 40% in annual development plan (ADP) budget (Rahman, 2006).

The Government system of Bangladesh

According to the *Constitution of Bangladesh* (Amendment up to March 1, 2005), the *Republic* (Article 1) is a *Democracy* (Article 11) having a *President elected by members of Parliament* [article 48 (1)]. *The executive power of the republic is exercised by or on the authority of the Prime Minister* [Article 55 (2) of the Constitution]. The president *appoints* [Article 56 (3)] the Prime Minister. There have a *cabinet for Bangladesh having the Prim Minister at its head* [Article 55 (1)]. For administering the country, there have six divisions under a divisional commissioner for each. Further there have districts (Bangladesh has 64 Districts (Kiran, 2006)) under these divisions administered by a deputy commissioner for

each. The following hierarchical tiers constitute upzilla (Bangladesh has 476 upazillas (Kiran, 2006)), union (Bangladesh has 4495 unions (Kiran, 2006)) and village (Bangladesh has almost 85000 villages (Kiran, 2006)). Such every administrative unit containing local government is *entrusted to bodies, composed of persons elected in accordance with law* [Article 59 (1)].

Bangladesh, a developing country

Shrivastava (2000) claimed some impediments for developing countries. Such characteristics are discussed below, and please see Table 1 which would assist explaining situations (with both economic and social indicators) that Bangladesh is a developing country; 1. poor utilization of natural resources and primitive agriculture, 2. the problem of demographic explosion, 3. vicious circles/traps of low savings, low capital formation and low investment, 4. low level of industrialization and lack of urbanity/urbanism, 5. fiscal and monetary unprogressiveness, 6. backwash effects of international trade, 7. development of infrastructure facilities not being commensurate with the requirements of the directly productive activities of the material sector, 8. waste of human resources/manpower, and 9. very unprogressive and exploitative superstructure.

Major indicators of development in Bangladesh, 2006

Table 1

Indicators	Information
Population	13.7 million
Population density	928 per square kilometer
Population growth rate	1.48%
Urbanization rate	23.39%
Life expectancy	64.9 years
Literacy rate	62.66%
Per capita income	US\$ 470
Per capita foreign loan	US\$122
Economy	Agro-based
Principal export product (value of export in 1990-1994 in billion US\$)	Garments, tea, shrimp, raw jute and jute product (2.55)
Principal import product (value of import in 1990-1994 in billion US\$)	Food, lubricants, medicine, industrial raw material, machineries and chemicals (3.8)
Population under poverty	43.3%
Population under hardcore poverty	18.7%
Economy type	Mixed economy
GDP in fiscal year 2004-2005	Tk. 3684760 million
GDP growth rate in fiscal year 2004-2005	5.38%
Gross domestic savings (1990)	1.9% of GDP
Gross national savings (1990)	US\$ 432 million
Contribution of agriculture in GNP	21.91%
Unemployment rate (1990)	37.3%

Source: (Kiran, 2006) and (Momen, 1996).

Note: Except years and information in the parentheses (left column), all information are for the year 2005

History of governance in Bangladesh The state: quality of democracy

Liberation: a background

Bangladesh fares rather poorly on most indicators of the 'quality of democracy'. Between 1947 and 1971, Bangladesh was the eastern province of the Pakistani state (Jahan, 1972). The bulk of foreign assistance was utilized in West Pakistan, few investments went into East Pakistan and representation in the powerful Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP), not to mention the armed forces, was fundamentally unbalanced. Ultimately, the accumulated grievances of imbalances drove the growth of Bengali sub-nationalism, which in turn led to civil war which finally contributed to the creation of Bangladesh (Khan, 1996).

The dawn of Bangladesh

Sadly, the emerging state started its political existence with a number of important institutional handicaps (Anonymous, 2003). The first post-independence leader of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, was a remarkably populist leader. Notionally, he was committed to the creation of a democratic polity. Additionally, soon after assuming power following Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan, Mujib proved singularly incompetent at addressing the vast tasks of social and economic reconstruction. Moreover, his administration was riddled with corruption, widespread nepotism and inefficiency. As political instability mounted and the government's ability to maintain public order declined, Mujib increasingly resorted to authoritarian measures. He declared a state of emergency in 1975 and dispensed with the parliamentary form of government declaring himself to be the president of Bangladesh (Murshid, 1995). But some debating factors undermined the stability of his regime, and he was assassinated in a bloody military coup in August 1975.

Zia's regime

The military regime led by General Zia-ur-Rehman justified its takeover on the usual grounds: the previous government, had failed to control growing lawlessness, had been involved in corruption and had failed to address a number of pressing social and economic needs (Anonymous, 2003). Zia's regime promised to address such many ills plaguing Bangladesh. To some small degree he did indeed deliver on his promises as economic development did take place, some of the cronyism of the past years was restrained and efforts to limit population growth, a bane of Bangladeshi society, were put into place (Khan, 1996). Zia's regime was overthrown in yet another military coup in May 1981.

Ershad's regime, transition in democracy and afterwards

In March 1982, Lieutenant General Husain Mohammed Ershad overthrew the faltering regime of President Abdus Sattar. Ershad's regime, in turn, lasted until 1991. Since then Bangladesh has made a transition to democracy. Even though routine alterations of regime take place through the electoral process, none of the

major political parties has accepted the principle of an honest opposition. The result of every national election follows a predictable, desultory pattern: the victorious party exults and the defeated party promptly contends that the electoral process was flawed and refuses to abide by the results of the election (Schaffer, 2002). Both the Awami League and the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) have shown negligible regard for the other when in opposition. They have routinely resorted to extra-parliamentary tactics, such as demonstrations, strikes and political chicanery to undermine the ability of the other to govern (Rashiduzzaman, 1997). Consequently, it is not surprising that Bangladesh as a state fares rather poorly when one assesses the quality of its democracy.

History of governance in Bangladesh

Local government

Rural local government

After independence of Bangladesh the new government renamed the rural local bodies. The name of the Union Council was changed to Union *Panchayet*, Thana Council was changed to Thana Development Council and the District Council to *Zila* Board. Following then, a new ordinance in 1976 provided for, a Union Parishad for a Union, a Thana Parishad for a Thana and a Zila Parishad for a district. The Union Parishad has been comprised of one elected chairman and 9 elected members; two nominated women members and two representative peasant members; as suggested in the ordinance. Among 40 functions, the major functions of union parishad have been included public welfare, maintenance of law and order, revenue collection, development and adjudication, etc. The Thana Parishad's functions has been included promotion of family planning, care of the environment, and training of Union Parishad functionaries which has been powered by a sub divisional officer (SDO), circle officer and all chairmen of Union Parishads. The Zila parishad has been entrusted with 97 functional responsibilities heading by a Deputy Commissioner. Such functions are of two types: compulsory and optional. Among them the major functions are construction, preservation and repair of libraries, hospitals, dispensaries, roads, culverts, bridges, gardens, play grounds, etc. the main sources of income are government grants, taxes, tolls, fees, etc. (Khan, 1996). In 1980, *Swanirvar Gram Sarkar* (self financed village government) has been introduced at the village level, consisting of a *Gram Proadhan* (village leader) and 11 members, including at least two women members. And such village government was abolished by a Martial Law Order in 1982 (Siddiqui, 1995; Khan, 1996).

Since 1982 significant changes have been introduced by the governments in the field of rural local government. Two new Ordinances and five new Acts were passed aiming at bolstering rural local bodies and increasing people's participation in the administration and development. Under the decentralization program of the government, 1982 Thana Parishads were abolished and upgraded to Upzila Parishad consisting of three women members, official members and one nominated male member, in addition to the Thana Parishad power structure. Zila

Parishad has significantly been changed in its power structure by the Zila Parishad Act 1988 comprising of public representative, Upzila Parishad and Pourashava Chairman of the respective district, nominated members, nominated women members and certain officials. The Union Parishad remained as it was before 1982. In 1989, special types of Hill Tract District Local Government Parishads have been constituted in 3 Hill Tract districts namely *Bandarban*, *Rangamati* and *Khagrachari* (Siddiqui, 1995; Khan, 1996).

Urban Local Government

By the President's Order No. 22 of 1973 Municipalities underwent marginal changes in the composition but the functions remained more or less same as before. A new ordinance was promulgated in 1977 namely, Pourashava Ordinance for municipalities and in 1983 a new form of municipal bodies was created namely City Corporation in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna, each under a separate ordinance. Further Pourashavas are classified into three income based classes: for income level of Tk. 6 million, Class I; for Tk. 2.5 million, Class II and for below Tk. 2.5 million, Class III (Siddiqui, 1995; Khan, 1996).

Both Pourashavas and City Corporations are autonomous body corporate. The autonomy is limited by the fact of the government acting as a prescribed authority in the case of Pourashavas. A Pourashava consists of a chairman and such members of elected commissioners and nominated women commissioners as may be fixed by the government. On the other hand, the City Corporations are headed by a City Mayor appointed by the government for each of the city corporation. There also have deputy mayor (s) and other officials in each of the city corporation (Siddiqui, 1995).

Functions of local government bodies addressing 'conflicts' thereof and 'interrelationships scope' therewith interrelating governance issues is described in the following sections. *Moreover for detail of functions to perform by different local government bodies, please see Siddiqui, 1995.*

A developing nation with its history of malfunctioning government bodies, lesser economic growth, poor quality of human resource development, and so on requires progression through 'good governance' (Nafziger, 1990).

The urge for good governance What 'good governance' actually is?

Questions come up conceptualizing 'good governance' as:

Who are the actors (organs) that exercise governance? --- role of the state policy;

What assesses the quality of governance? --- role of the government bodies.

Governance in Bangladesh is required in activities of the state by its government's public and private sectors in following areas (World Bank, 1996):

- Natural resources – *gas fields and forests*

- Transport – *an airline, the railways, ports, ferry services and road transport*
- Utilities – *power, water, oil and gas*
- Basic services – *security, law and order, and radio and television stations*
- Social programs – *relief and rehabilitation, rural development, and vulnerable group feeding schemes*
- Commercial production – *of goods ranging from textiles, engineering products and fertilizer to sugar, matches and paper*
- Trading – *the importation and distribution of key commodities such as food grains, rice, sugar, salt, chilies, petroleum products, tires and tubes*
- Other activities – *from management of hotels and movie studios to car rental company*

So from a straight forward manner, governance can be interpreted as the undertakings of activities, management of resources, organization of men and women by groups of people, communities, local government bodies, business organizations and the branches of the state (Legislature, Judiciary and Government) through social, political, administrative and economic arrangements that meet the daily needs of people and ensure sustainable development (Hye, 2000). In Hye's (2000) opinion state required to be redefined as all these issues can not be encompassed by the conventional constituents of 'State' namely Parliament, Judiciary and Executive Government. He suggested private sector, local government bodies and community based organizations (civil society) to include as the organs of the state; arguing that in democratic policy of the state, though government plays the dominant role exercising powers for performing governance, the 'informal branches' mentioned here are not governed but governing in their own areas as autonomous actors by the access to courts for protection of legal rights.

Another thing is about the quality of the governance. Governance expresses itself as 'good' through eight major characteristics from the definition of the UNDP (1997) as, 1. participatory, 2. consensus oriented, 3. accountable, 4. transparent, 5. responsive, 6. effective and efficient, 7. equitable and inclusive, and 8. follows the rule of law. Since the attributes of good governance are the outcome of the institutional behavior of the organs, the analysis has to cover the functioning of all the organs. Hye (2000) suggested such analysis to be independent in organs' mutual relation and as collective. He emphasized relationships between formal organs and informal organs of the state in terms of practicing good governance. And such interrelationships cover the following subjects named as 'sub-themes' of good governance, argued by him. The sub-themes of good governance are: 1. Governance and legislature, 2. Governance and Judiciary, 3. Governance and Administration, 4. Governance and Local Government Systems (in rural areas), 5. Governance and Local Government Systems (in urban areas), 6. Governance and Economy, 7. Governance and Civil

Society, and 8. Governance and the International Development Community. The malfunctioning of these sub-themes result to conflicts, and which ultimately affects the developmental indicators of a country.

The urge for good governance Why 'good governance'? – Conflicts between state policy and role of government

Inappropriate and non-observance of the rule of law

The application of rule of law in Bangladesh follows a course of selective and discretionary application (World Bank, 1996; Mollah, 2003). The state has a nominally independent judiciary following the canons of British common law. In practice, however, the judiciary is quite flexible and subject to political intervention and direction (Anonymous, 2003). It is said that laws are there but there are applied only in favor of privilege people or class (Levithan, 2001). As a result justices suffer and denied to the common people. And this environment affects out right the basic rights of the poor and the social place elides although that is an important aspect of good governance (Mollah, 2003).

Inefficiency of bureaucracy

Bureaucracy is inevitable in any society or state, an inseparable part of an organized society (Shelly, 2000). But the bureaucracy of Bangladesh is not efficient in management and administration. The capacity of policy implementation of our bureaucracy is very poor. Bureaucrats are not accountable and transparent to the people (World Bank, 1996 and Mollah, 2003). But there is no effective mechanism to make them accountable and transparent (Mollah, 2003).

Political interference in administration

In our country administration is always to work and the influence of party in power. The administration can merely take free and fair decisions. Sometimes, political influence breach factionalism in the administration which in turn results in demoralization, utter negligence of work and often serious tension among the bureaucrats (World Bank, 1996). Ministers, especially those with greater political strength and influence and initiative, tended to stress their overall supervisory role to dominate and direct those in administration who versed under them, from secretaries downwards. In such situations the ministers virtually inclined to act as executive heads of their ministries, though they did not have to take the responsibilities either of the executive head or the principal accounting officer responsibilities which still technically and substantially remained with the secretaries (Mollah, 2003)

Corruption

Corruption has become so out of control in Bangladesh that, it currently belongs to one of the world's leading corrupt nations (Mollah, 2003). It is argued

by a number of nobles that such rampant corruptions slow down the investment and growth of a country. And in Bangladesh it prevents a fair distribution of national wealth, broadened the gap between rich and poor and causing breakdown of law.

Nepotism

Nepotism is another curse of our politics and administration. The rules in our country pursue nepotism. It is explained by Leviathan (2001) as nepotism is because of weakness of formal institutions in Bangladesh where people are forced to rely on personal networks which ultimately results in pervasive patron-client relationships.

Wasteful and Improper use of resources

The fund flow in Bangladesh is not smooth to the local government, especially to the Union Parishad. Beside, this fund is not utilized properly and very often diverted to other purposes. So, the ordinary people can not get efforts, if any, of ensuring good governance (Mollah, 2003). According to World Bank (1996), It is people working hard at tasks that should not be done, following regulations that should never have written, filling out forms that should never have been printed.

Accountability and Responsiveness

Public servants are not held individually accountable for poor performance or delayed decisions. Government programs are inadequately scrutinized for overall efficiency, appropriateness, or cost effectiveness. Only a small number of public servants view responsiveness to citizens as a fundamental obligation. Governance is too personalized and decisions get taken only after personal intervention (World Bank, 1996).

Freedom and Rights

A range of civil and political rights is formally guaranteed under the Bangladeshi constitution. Their realization, however, is quite another matter. The weakness of judicial institutions, the absence of a neutral and professional police force, and the existence of an unresponsive bureaucracy impair the prospects of realizing most of these rights for the vast majority of Bangladesh's populace (Anonymous, 2003).

Institutional avoidance

Most citizens perceive government institutions as coercive, and government functionaries as 'rent-seekers' to be avoided (World Bank, 1996).

So from the discussions, the author argues for the governance reform through state policy and role of government in the indicators of development toward sustainable development.

Progression towards good governance Look for better interrelationships

Role of the parliament

Bangladesh opted to a parliamentary democracy following independence in 1971 in which establishment of a sovereign legislature was sought. The main thrust was to ensure the sovereignty of the people exercised through a democratically elected representative body called the legislature (Chowdhury, 2000). In today's parliamentary system, most of the works related branch of the government headed by a Prime minister, who is accountable to the parliament. The parliament is supposed to exercise control over the government through legislative business, for which the government has to rely on parliamentary approval. Besides, ministers including the Prime Minister are answerable to the parliament for their actions. There fore, the parliament has significant role to improve the quality of governance (Krishana, 2000). Strengthening parliament in Bangladesh is suggested by (Mollah, 2003) as:

1. Strengthening parliamentary leadership as a lead role to play in raising issues and putting them on the national agenda;
2. Institutional capacity building by Separating the parliamentary secretariat form the public service and ensure its political neutrality, recruiting and training parliamentary staff in relevant fields, establishing a research support unit within the parliament, which is geared to the needs and responsive to MPs etc.;
3. Aligning rules and procedures to current and future capacity needs for effective parliamentary procedure by challenging irrelevant and dated provisions, ensuring fair and effective use of power: (e.g. orders of the day, motions of adjournment, resolutions and vote thanks) etc.;
4. Strengthening parliamentary oversight, by establishing an active petition committee, which could make the public awareness;
5. Strengthening individual MPs accountability by requiring that candidates provide important information prior to nomination, including the declaration of assets and any previous criminal record, and
6. Involving parliamentarians in a more comprehensive way in the budget planning process (e.g. committees, debate, monitoring/oversight).

Role of legislature

An accountable government to its 'pressure groups' can best practice the legislature in governance (Subhan, 2000). And it is democracy and the maintenance of what is dependent not only upon people having opportunity to participate but their willingness to do also. Subhan (2000) referencing Bangladesh, additionally mentioned that, the legislature may legislate for good governance but its implementation is dependent upon the political commitment of the majority and the minority.

Role of Judiciary

Islam (2000) suggested courts scrutiny of laws, monitoring of discretionary powers, writs on contracts, social audit, vigilance on liberty, equal justice for all and judicial spirit for judicial control on governance. Once again, Rahman, S. (2000) argued for judicial independence, change of constitutional provisions, accountable government and judiciary, judicial review, responsibility and accountability for reforming Judiciary in terms of Governance reform. On the other hand, Khan, S. (2000) separately mentioned women to consider under equal rights on judicial provisions for the functioning of good governance.

Reforming local government

Decentralized government is suggested by Khan (1996) and problems found with so many tiers of local government bodies by Siddiqui (2000). Mentioning too many tiers as burden, Siddiqui (2000) suggested for ensuring better relations between local elected functionaries and their bureaucratic counterparts as, tilting the balance in favor of elected functionaries, greater access to in resources and public services by the elected functionaries, articulating local demands through elected functionaries, overcoming administrative limitations, ensuring local level planning, raising the quality of elected functionaries and bureaucrats at the local level, improving overall environment, training in work procedures, and disseminating best practices.

Reforming local administration

For the local administration Siddiqui (2000) suggested to reform district administration. He also suggested province in place of division as a tier of administration questioning that, why division is necessary? He also proposed local government bodies in the administrative tier involving land management as their function. Additionally, he argued for decentralization of primary education management and nationalization of educational institutions. LaPorte (2000) provided agenda for restructuring public administration. His major issues are development of both internal and external government performance audit or evaluation units, up-to-date technical infrastructure for the central government and development of set of data bases of government decision making.

Governance and Civil society

A strong civil society is considered one of the pre requisites for good governance (Rahman, A. *et al.*, 2000). Daimond (1991) identified some functions of civil society in shaping democracy: is a reservoir of political, cultural and moral resources to check the process of state; will ensure that the state is not held captive by a few groups; will supplement the work of political parties in stimulating political participation; will eventually stabilize the state; is a locus for recruiting new political leadership; and resists authoritarianism.

Economy and Governance

For the better earnings from GDP sectors there need to have good governance, addressing this, Sattar (2000) stated some cases for economic reform for Bangladesh which could be summarized under headings of stabilization, liberalization and opening up as follows:

- Stabilization: reform of fiscal discipline, public expenditure priorities and taxation system
- Liberalization: reform of financial liberalization, exchange rates and trade liberalization
- Opening up: reform of foreign direct investment, privatization, deregulation and of property rights.

On the other hand, Todaro (1997) concentrated on four arguments for economic development as, understanding market failure, pattern of resource mobilization and allocation, attitudinal or psychological impact and pattern of foreign aid.

Environmental sustainability and good governance

The underdeveloped and developing countries have to follow economic development primarily for eradication of poverty, hunger, disease and malnutrition and for the economic prosperity of their life (Sinha, 1997). Sinha (1997) more stated that, there need to have a correct strategy of balance between economy and ecology. Such balance would be aimed at “economic prosperity of the people with ecological security of the nation”. He suggested for a regional cooperation with indigenous and appropriate technology to come out from the vicious circle of ‘economic development’ and ‘ecological degradation’.

IT and Good Governance

The prices of computers in Bangladesh are among the lowest in the world. This is due to the government decision to exempt import of all computer hardware and software from custom duties and VAT. However, even with this low price, very few people in the country can afford to buy a computer for home use. When it comes to internet use, the picture is not also very encouraging. Still, there have solutions to be setting up of cyberkiosks (please see Choudhury (2001) providing community access facilities in all urban and rural areas by least cost making it encouraging (Choudhury, 2001). IT which is more comfortably named in terms of governance as ‘e-governance’ which can assist in sectors of land records, public grievances, procurement of goods and services, health care, education, legislation, payment of utility bills, law and order, post offices, city corporations and municipalities, on-line payment of taxes and levies, and so on (Choudhury, 2001). Again Rahman, T. and Anwar (2006) involves GIS software for the maintenance of e-governance based on website for customizing GIS supported data bases.

Considerations of all these above mentioned issues can ensure good governance in Bangladesh.

Findings and conclusions

Bangladesh is a developing nation with its very unprogressive agrarian economic base. Good governance required for Bangladesh for its better utilization of resource, ensuring better standard of living, and for ensuring a development base which is sustainable commensurating its country resource in terms of human resource development and of economic base development. Governance in Bangladesh has been suffering from conflicts between state policy and role of government in the ground of rule of law, bureaucracy, administration, etc. for waste of resources, nepotism, inefficiency, unaccountability, non-transparency, institutional avoidance and so on. All these issues can be overcome while there have supportive role of parliament, legislature, judiciary, local government system, civil society, etc. Governance towards developmental sustainability leaves also scope in national economy and in country environment. The authors also suggest use of IT for ensuring and practicing good governance in Bangladesh. The development indicators: resource mobilization, increased GDP, education and other socioeconomic indices for Bangladesh can be improved positively if all these aspects can be addresses effectively. The authors, therefore, claim that, sustainable development in the manner of positive improvement toward development indices is only possible, when the state could ensure good governance in and by all its sectors that exercise governance.

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