

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND POLICIES

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2.1 Introduction

Bangladesh's planning model is dominated by a central planning system where the central governments set out relevant plans and policies and implement the goal and objectives of those on sectoral basis. Either a central government body or a local institution of a particular sector under a central ministry initiates the planning process with directives from that higher authority. It can be mentioned here that both the orientation and the process of development planning have been entirely top-down approach. However, this type of plan decision making system is to be followed in undertaking even any planning initiatives at the smaller urban centre levels.

In recent times there appears to be some understanding at the national levels about the importance of physical planning which has been voiced in various national development plans and policies viz. Plans - the Five Year Plans, later Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), Vision 2021, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and Policies – land use policy, agriculture policy, water policy, environmental policy, industrial policy, health policy, education policy, disaster policy, transport policy, etc. These documents would be of paramount importance in the process of preparing development plans for Shibpur, Raipura and Ishwarganj Upazilas. It is vitally needed to consider the spatial aspects of these national plans' and policies' goal and objectives so that these are harmonized as well as reflected in the Strategy Plans, the Structure Plans, the Urban Area Plans and the Detailed Area Plans of the above mentioned Upazilas in the context of respective local circumstances.

~~In these~~In these sections, the consultants will carefully consult the penitent national plans and policies which will eventually guide in preparing appropriate development plans for the Shibpur Upazila, Raipura Upazila and Ishwarganj Upazila in line with the TOR of the consultancy services.

2.2 National Development Plans and Strategies

The following national development plans and strategies will be studied here so as to obtain some guidelines and pertinent information in the preparing the subject development plan highlighting the spatial aspects and identification of inter-linkages and relevancy with the ~~subject-plans~~subject plans making processes:

Development Goals of Bangladesh: Vision 2021

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A nation without vision is meaningless. In the case of Bangladesh whose independence in 1971 was the culmination of a people's struggle to attain political freedom as well as their economic emancipation. In keeping with those aspirations, the Government's Vision 2021 is an articulation of where this nation needs to be in 2021 – the year which marks the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. That milestone, ten years away from 2011, will be a high point in Bangladesh's war against chronic poverty and the struggle to attain middle income country status, from its beginning as a low income country. This "Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2010-2021): Making Vision 2021 a Reality" is a strategic articulation of the development vision, mission, and goals of the Government in achieving a prosperous Bangladesh grounded in political and economic freedoms a reality in 2021.

It is estimated that by the year 2021 nearly one-third or 33% of the population of Bangladesh will be living in urban areas. The urban population recorded during the 2001 Census was nearly 28.6 million and is currently (2010) estimated at 40 million. The tremendous challenge of absorbing such a massive number of people in urban areas and providing them with shelter, food, employment, healthcare, education, municipal services and recreation facilities is made more difficult given shortage of urban facilities and resources, skilled manpower and good governance. The urbanization

challenge unless managed well could pose a serious problem to the future growth prospects for Bangladesh. Rapid urbanization has been posing serious challenges for sustainable urban development.

Despite the challenges, urban areas demonstrate immense economic potential to generate growth in the country and can be instrumental in enhancing prosperity and increasing per capita income. As income grows and the economy relies more and more on manufacturing and organized services, urbanization will grow. The challenge for public policy is to manage this natural transition of Bangladesh from an agrarian economy to a modern economy well through appropriate institutions, programs and policies. The Government is cognizant of this challenge. It also understands that this is a long-term challenge. The back-log of unmet demand and new demand for basic urban services like housing, sanitation, water supply and urban transport requires huge resources, sound planning, and strong implementation capacity. These require strategic planning and implementation over a long period. Ambitious urban development programs during the perspective plan period will be adopted. These programs will be based on the following policies and strategies:

- **P**rocess and the patterns of urbanization in Bangladesh would be achieved through a more balanced distribution of urban centres in terms of population size, employment opportunities, housing and essential infrastructure and services
- **E**nsuring urban governance focusing on institutional reforms and decentralization of responsibilities and resources to local governments and participation of civil society in decision-making and urban development processes; and facilitating networking at all levels.
- **A**chieving urban economic development involving initiative to combine available skills to be suitably upgraded, resources and ideas to stimulate the local economy towards the goals of job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation
- **M**anaging urban management seeking to promote cleaner environment, control pollution and protect public health from environmental hazards.
- **P**roviding accessibility to affordable urban housing through bringing about improvement in terms of quality and quantity of housing units, housing tenure and housing accessibility
- **D**eveloping ~~an integrated~~ **an integrated** and balanced transportation system taking into consideration the needs of the road system, non-motorized transport, public passenger transport and mass transit.
- **P**romoting sustainable land-use planning and innovative land management practices, with the objective of providing for the land requirements for urban development through integrated and environmentally sound physical planning and land use
- **D**elivering safe water, sanitation, waste management, social welfare, transport and communications facilities, energy, health and emergency services, schools, public safety, and the management of open spaces.
- **E**nsuring equal access to and maintenance of basic services, including those related to education, employment and livelihood; basic healthcare services; safe drinking water and sanitation; adequate shelter; and needs and rights of women and children who often bear the greatest burden of poverty.

Sixth Five Year Plan (SFYP) including Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

In recognition of the long-term development challenges, the Government of Bangladesh adopted the Vision 2021. The Vision 2021 and the associated Perspective Plan 2010-2021 have set solid development targets for Bangladesh by the end of 2021. Those targets if achieved will transform socio-economic environment of Bangladesh from a low income economy to the first stages of a middle income economy. The implementation of Vision 2021 will be done through two medium term development plans, with the first spanning FY2011- FY2015. This Five-year Plan is the sixth in the series of development plans in Bangladesh starting in 1973. A key focus of the plans will therefore be on strategies, policies and institutions to help guide helping Bangladesh achieve the goals set in Vision

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2021. At the operational level the fundamental task of the Sixth Five Year Plan is to develop strategies, policies and institutions that allow Bangladesh to accelerate growth and reduce poverty.

However, a review of past policies, institutions and programs suggest that the urbanization strategy needs to change substantially to meet the challenges of future urbanization in Bangladesh. In the past much of the focus has been on implementing piecemeal programs. Multitudes of local government agencies, weak planning, poor governance, inadequate resources and weak project implementation capacity have limited the progress with meeting the urban challenge. The Sixth Five-Year Plan will internalize these lessons of experience and shift the emphasis to the development of sound urban institutions, improve city governance, emphasize urban resource mobilization, facilitating NGO involvement in housing, better environmental management, developing sustainable urban transportation, promoting balanced development of urban centers, making provision of infrastructure and services, and reducing urban poverty.

Sixth Five Year Plan has also set up objectives and strategies for the Paurashavas and City Corporation. They are:

- a. Development of effective road network to setup congestion free, safe and sound communication system.
- b. Development of pedestrian facilities in the cities.
- c. Reduction of traffic accident.
- d. Auto traffic signalization for better traffic management.
- e. Sustainable parking management.
- f. Improvement of solid waste management.
- g. Improvement of environment & infrastructure.
- h. Provision of safe water supply for the citizens.
- i. Development of recreational facilities (parks, playgrounds etc.)
- j. Development of modern street lighting
- k. Development of primary health facilities.
- l. Improvement of drainage system to address the problems of water logging.
- m. Development of Commercial complexes for expanding economic activities.
- n. Infrastructure development of low-income settlements.

Sixth Five Year Plan has also set up vision, objectives and strategies for the Rural Infrastructure Development. The vision of Rural Infrastructure Development sub-sector includes, among others, developing, maintaining and managing transport, trading infrastructure at the local level by ensuring LGI and community participation and taking care of environmental and social issues. The objectives of the sub-sector will include the following:

- a. Improvement and maintenance of rural infrastructure
- b. Create direct employment opportunity for the rural poor and the destitute women through improvement and maintenance rural infrastructure.
- c. Create indirect employment opportunity in road transport, trading and other farm and nonfarm sectors. Improve utilization of health and education services/facilities
- d. Facilitate participation of community people in development work and promote good local governance.
- e. Contribute towards poverty reduction at the local level.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

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The Millennium Development Goals, set forth in the UN Millennium Declaration 2000, are a set of quantified and time-bound goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and deprivation of the world's poorest people. The project sets a deadline of 2015 to achieve eight goals, called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In fact, the achievement of the social goals under the MDGs is now at the centre of public policy in Bangladesh as in most other developing countries. It is seen that while Bangladesh has achieved considerable success in certain areas like expansion of health and education

facilities, and income earning opportunities for women, sustained efforts will be needed to consolidate these gains and achieve MDGs in these and other areas by 2015.

It is encouraging to note that Bangladesh has already met several targets of the MDGs like reducing headcount poverty and poverty gap ratio, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education, under five mortality rate reduction, containing HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs, children under five sleeping under insecticide treated bed nets, detection and cure rate of TB under DOTS and others. In addition, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing the prevalence of underweight children, increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. On the other hand, areas in need of greater attention are hunger-poverty reduction and employment generation, increases in primary school completion and adult literacy rates, creation of decent wage employment for women, increase in the presence of skilled health professionals at delivery, increase in correct and comprehensive knowledge on HIV/AIDS, increase in forest coverage, and coverage of Information and Communication Technology.

National Plan for Disaster Management

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The National Plan for Disaster Management is prepared by the Disaster Management and Relief Division. The plan includes the following as minimum:

- i. Introduction
 - ii. Gob Vision for Disaster Management
 - iii. Hazards profile of Bangladesh
 - iv. Disaster development linkages: national and international drivers for change
 - v. Aim of the plan
 - vi. Strategic goals of the plan
 - vii. Conceptualizing disaster management in Bangladesh
 - viii. Disaster management system in Bangladesh
 - ix. The roles and responsibilities of entities involved in emergency operations and risk reduction
 - x. Disaster management regulative framework
 - xi. Action matrix for disaster risk reduction and emergency management in Bangladesh describing the priorities and the strategies
 - xii. Review and evaluation
 - xiii. Implementation and follow-up
 - xiv. Financing of the plan
 - xv. Other matters relating to disaster management as deemed necessary by appropriate authority for inclusion in the plan
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The Plan is to be used to:

- a) ~~i~~- Articulate the long-term strategic focus of disaster management in Bangladesh.
- b) ~~ii~~- Demonstrate a commitment to address key issues: risk reduction, capacity building, information management, climate change adaptation, livelihood security, issues of gender and the socially disadvantaged, etc.
- c) ~~iii~~- Show the relationship between the government vision, key result areas, goals and strategies, and to align priorities and strategies with international and national drivers for change.
- d) ~~iv~~- Detail a road map for the development of disaster management plans by various entities.
- e) ~~v~~- Guide the DM&RD in the development and delivery of guidelines and programmes.
- f) ~~vi~~- Illustrate to other ministries, NGOs, civil society and the private sector how their work can contribute to the achievements of the strategic goals and government vision on disaster management.
- g) ~~vii~~- Provide a framework within which to report performance and success in achieving goals and strategies.

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Sustainable Development Goals are accompanied by targets and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. They are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. They build on the foundation laid by the MDGs, seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their inter linkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. Principal goals of SDG include the following:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Issues like environmental sustainability, eradication of poverty and hunger, quality education, sustainable industrialization and health related matters are directly related to plan preparation process. In the preparation of Shibpur Upazila, Raipura Upazila and Ishwarganj Upazila development plan land use zoning will endeavor to protect the environmentally sensitive areas through conservation, promote education through allocation of appropriate quantity of land for setting up of academics, industry and health facilities. The plan will be directed to reduce urban and rural deprivation through appropriate proposal for strengthening urban and rural economy and adequate provision of utility services.

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2.3 National Policies

The following national policies have also been studied:

- National Agriculture Policy, 1999
- National Land Use Policy, 2001
- National Fisheries Policy, 1998
- Forestry Policy, 1994
- National Water Policy, 1999
- National Environment Policy, 1992
- Health Policy, 2000
- Population Policy, 2004
- Housing Policy, 2004
- Industrial Policy, 2005
- National Tourism Policy, 1992
- National Policy for Safe Water Supply & Sanitation, 1998
- Urban Management Policy Statement, 1999
- Proposed National Urban Sector Policy

National Agriculture Policy, 1999

In Bangladesh, it is possible to reduce rural poverty and raise the living standard of common people by establishing agriculture as a profitable sector. It is, therefore, necessary to reorganize and develop the agricultural production system into a more dynamic and commercially profitable sector. In this context, the primary goal of the National Agriculture Policy is to modernize and diversify the crop sector, in other words the entire agricultural system, through initiation and implementation of a well-organized and well-coordinated development plan.

The overall objective of the National Agriculture Policy is to make the nation self-sufficient in food through increasing production of all crops including cereals and ensure a dependable food security system for all. The specific objectives of the National Agriculture Policy are to:

- Ensure a profitable and sustainable agricultural production system and raise the purchasing power by increasing real income of the farmers;

- Preserve and develop land productivity;
- Reduce excessive dependence on any single crop to minimize the risk;
- Increase production and supplies of more nutritious food crops and thereby ensuring food security and improving nutritional status;
- Preserve existing bio-diversity of different crops;
- Take up programs for the introduction, utilization and extension of bio-technology;
- Take necessary steps to ensure environmental protection as well as 'Environment-Friendly Sustainable Agriculture' through increased use of organic manure and strengthening of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs;
- Take appropriate steps to develop an efficient irrigation system and encourage farmers in providing supplementary irrigation during drought with a view to increasing cropping intensity and yield;
- Establish agriculture as a diversified and sustainable income generating sector through
- Strengthening of 'Farming System' based agricultural production and agro-forestry programs;
- Take effective steps to ensure input supplies to the farmers at fair prices in a competitive market and remove difficulties at the farmers' level which have arisen out of the privatization of input distribution system;
- Develop marketing system to ensure fair prices of agricultural commodities;
- Introduce an appropriate institutional system of providing credit to ensure the availability of agricultural credit in time;
- Produce and supply of agricultural commodities as required by the industrial sector;
- Reduce imports of agricultural commodities and find out newer opportunities for increasing exports as well;
- Create opportunities for establishing agro-processing and agro-based industries;
- Protect interests of the small, marginal and tenant farmers;
- Update the agricultural system in the light of the Agreement on Agriculture under WTO,
- Develop contingency management system to combat natural disasters.

National Land Use Policy, 2001

It is indispensable to give proper emphasis on the use of land as it is a very scarce resource in a densely populated country like Bangladesh. Major portion of the population of Bangladesh maintain their livelihood on land based agricultural activities. Personal possession of land is also considered as a symbol of social prestige and security. That is why land is still considered as an important source of income and livelihood of the people of the country. Considering dependency of poor and opportunity deprived families on land, Ministry of Land is conducting a range of activities to protect agricultural land and ensure planned use of land.

The objectives of land use policy are governed by what people want or think they should have, and what the functions of government are conceived to be in bringing about better use of land including water bodies. Changes in land use and water bodies are desired only when people are dissatisfied with existing conditions or when people conceive of better use of land and water bodies. These conceptions or notions as to how things ought to be may be called value judgments or goals. Keeping above in view, the specific purposes of land use policy of Bangladesh may be as follows:

- To ensure suitable or best possible use of land and water bodies and to restrict misuse and inappropriate use of land and water bodies.
- To ensure best utilization of khas land through rehabilitation of landless and marginalized poor.
- To protect the gradual decreasing trend of agricultural land to feed the increasing population.

- To introduce zoning system in order to make demarcation of land and water bodies according to rational criteria for use of land and water bodies for various purposes.
- To ensure legitimate rights of the marginalized community (indigenous peoples) in respect of land and land related issues including community ownership and use.
- To prevent soil and water pollution in order to ensure environment-friendly land utilization.
- To ensure rights of women in land and water bodies.
- To control speculative trading of land by the land grabbers.
- To reduce landlessness, alleviate poverty and promote income generation in the country.
- To conserve national forestry, reduce river erosion and effective utilization of embankments including using as roads for easy communication.
- To prevent cutting and leveling of hills particularly in Chittagong and Sylhet areas to protect environment.
- To ensure best utilization of Char land through rehabilitation of Landless and marginalized poor.

National Fisheries Policy, 1998

The role of fisheries resources in the national economy is very important. Bangladesh is rich in water resources. Inland and marine waters are the main sources of fisheries production and exploitation. Although there is great potential and scope for the fisheries sector in the economy very little national effort has been undertaken in the recent past. Fish is the principal source of animal protein in our food. Increased rates of child mortality have occurred due to deficiencies of balanced protein.

However, there is an acute shortage of food in the country and expansion of livestock production is limited due to a lack of space. For this reason dependency on fish for animal protein-rich food will increase day by day. There are many possibilities for increasing the Contribution of fish to socio-economic development goals such as increasing nutrition, employment opportunities, foreign currency earnings and the establishment of different industrial organisations.

There are many obstacles to the development of the fisheries sector. These are, Conservation of fisheries resources, various natural calamities and man-made problems, lack of proper management and technically skilled manpower and lack of funds. Besides these, lack of a national fish policy is one of the important causes for not developing this sector up to the mark. To get rid of this, the National Fish Policy has been formulated.

Objectives of the National Fisheries Policy

- Enhancement of the fisheries production.
- Poverty alleviation through creating self-employment and improvement of socio- economic conditions of the fishers
- Fulfill the demand for animal protein, Achieve economic growth through earning foreign currency by exporting fish and fisheries products;
- Maintain ecological balance, conserve biodiversity, ensure public health provide recreational facilities.

Forestry Policy, 1994

- To meet the basic needs of the present and future generations and also to ensure greater contribution of the generations and also to ensure greater contribution of the forestry sector in the economic development, about 20% of the total area of the country will be afforested by taking up various afforestation programs.
- By creating employment opportunities, strengthening the rural and national economy, the scope for poverty rural and national economy, the scope for poverty alleviation and trees and forest based rural development sectors will be extended and consolidated.
- Biodiversity of the existing degraded forests will be enriched by conserving the remaining natural habitat of birds and animals.
- Agricultural sector will be strengthened by extending assistance to the sectors related with forest development.
- National responsibilities and commitments will be fulfilled by implementing various international efforts and government ratified agreements relating to global warming, decertification and control of trade and commerce of wild birds and animals.
- Through the participation of the local people, illegal occupation of the forest lands, illegal tree felling and hunting of the wild animals will be prevented.
- Effective use and utilization of the forest goods at various stages of processing will be encouraged.

National Water Policy, 1999

Water is central to the way of life in Bangladesh and the single-most important resource for the well-being of its people. It sustains an extremely fragile natural environment and provides livelihood for millions of people. Unfortunately, it is not infinite and cannot be treated as a perpetual free gift of nature to be used in any manner chosen. The unitary nature of water makes its use in one form affect the use in another. Its availability for sustenance of life, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, is a basic human right and mandates its appropriate use without jeopardizing the interest of any member of the society.

Water resources management in Bangladesh faces immense challenge for resolving many diverse problems and issues. The most critical of these are alternating flood and water scarcity during the wet and the dry seasons, ever-expanding water needs of a growing economy and population, and massive river sedimentation and bank erosion. There is a growing need for providing total water quality management (checking salinity, deterioration of surface water and groundwater quality, and water pollution), and maintenance of the eco-system. There is also an urgency to satisfy multi-sector water needs with limited resources, promote efficient and socially responsible water use, delineate public and private responsibilities, and decentralize state activities where appropriate. All of these have to be accomplished under severe constraints, such as the lack of control over rivers originating outside the country's borders, the difficulty of managing the deltaic plain, and the virtual absence of unsettled land for building water structures.

The water policy provided hereunder, lays down the broad principles of development of water resources and their rational utilization under these constraints. It will help guide both public and private actions in the future for ensuring optimal development and management of water that benefits both individuals and the society at large.

The water policy of the government aims to provide direction to all agencies working with the water sector, and institutions that relate to the water sector in one form or another, for achievement of specified objectives. These objectives are broadly:

- a. To address issues related to the harnessing and development of all forms of surface water and ground water and management of these resources in an efficient and equitable manner
- b. To ensure the availability of water to all elements of the society including the poor and the under privileged, and to take into account the particular needs of women and children
- c. To accelerate the development of sustainable public and private water delivery systems with appropriate legal and financial measures and incentives, including delineation of water rights and water pricing
- d. To bring institutional changes that will help ~~decentralised~~decentralize the management of water resources and enhance the role of women in water management
- e. To develop a legal and regulatory environment that will help the process of ~~decentralisation~~decentralization, sound environmental management, and improve the investment climate for the private sector in water development and management
- f. To develop a state of knowledge and capability that will enable the country to design future water resources management plans by itself with economic efficiency, gender equity, social justice and environmental awareness to facilitate achievement of the water management objectives through broad public participation.

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National Environment Policy, 1992

Bangladesh is situated at the unique juxtaposition of the composite, sprawling, interlinked Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river systems, the second largest river system in the world, which drains an area of 1,086,000 square kilometers from China, Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Because of this unique geophysical location, the country has been endowed with rich biological diversity, hosting a rich variety of species superbly evolved to populate the ecosystems of the country.

Bangladesh is recognized to be one of the most susceptible countries in the world, highly vulnerable to climatic manifestations (short-term and long-term impacts of climate change) due to its unique geographic location, hydro-geological characters like dominance of floodplains, low elevation from the sea and lastly the socio-economical characters like high population density, high levels of poverty, and overwhelming dependence on nature.

In the context of the environment, the Government of Bangladesh formulated an Environment Policy in 1992. The objectives of Environment Policy are to:

- Maintain ecological balance and overall development through protection and improvement of the environment;
- Protect the country against natural disasters;
- Identify and regulate activities which pollute and degrade the environment;

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- Ensure environmentally sound development in all sectors;
- Ensure sustainable, long term and environmentally sound use of all national resources; and
- Actively remain associated with all international environmental initiatives to the maximum possible extent.

The policy covered all geographical regions and 15 development sectors like Agriculture, Industry, Health & Sanitation, Energy and Fuel, Water Development, Flood Control and Irrigation, Land, Forest, Wildlife and Bio-diversity, Fisheries and Livestock, Food, Coastal and Marine Environment, Transport and Communication, Housing and Urbanization, Population, Education and Public Awareness, Science, Technology and Research, Legal Framework and Institutional Arrangements.

The policy mentioned the suitability of environmentally sound development on proper changes in production management and relations of production of agriculture sector to guaranteeing improvement of environment and sustainable use of its resources (Section 3.1). Moreover, the policy necessitated firmly to review Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on industries of public and private sectors and also encompassed the necessity of integrated environmental concerns that shaped into the National Health Policy (Section 3.2.2). The policy also recommends to ensure environmentally sustainable steps in the local, zonal and national levels of Bangladesh on flood control and its related matters such as construction of embankments, dredging of rivers, digging of canals etc and to make certain alleviated measures of adverse environmental impact on flood control projects and water resources development projects. The policy subsequently stated the formulation and application of national land use policy to ensure sound and balance environment and prevention of land erosion, preservation and increase in soil fertility, conservation of environmentally sound management of new accreted land, compatible land use system with various ecosystems, prevention of salinity and alkalinity on land (3.6.1 – 3.6.4). These uphold adaptation mechanisms on land use systems will compress the risks and disasters of climatic change. The policy emphasized the need for sustainable ecological balance on existing forests

Conservation, expansion and development of forests to establish programmers on tree plantation in all relevant development schemes and took measures to stop shrinkage and depletion of forest lands and resources. The policy called for the protection viability of mangrove forests and eco-systems against adverse appliance of fisheries and livestock and suggested alternative fish culture upon environmental friendly conditions and environmentally sound conservation and development of coastal and marine eco-systems and resources (Section 3.8.3, 3.8.4, 3.10.1).

Health Policy, 2000

First: To make necessary basic medical utilities reach people of all Upazila as per Section 15 (A) of the Bangladesh constitution and develop the health and nutrition status of the peoples as per Section 18 (1) of the Bangladesh Constitution

Second: To develop system to ensure easy and sustained availability of health services for the people, especially the poor communities in both rural and urban areas

Third: To ensure optimum quality, acceptance and availability of primary health care and governmental medial services at the Upazila and union levels

Fourth: To reduce the intensity of malnutrition among people, especially children and mothers; and implement effective and integrated programs for improving nutrition status of all segments of the population

Fifth: To undertake programs for reducing the rates of child and maternal mortality within the next 5 years and reduce these rates to an acceptable level

Sixth: To adopt satisfactory measures for ensuring improved maternal and child health at the union level, and install facilities for safe and hygienic child delivery in each village

Seventh: To improve overall reproductive health resources and services

Eighth: To ensure the presence of full-time doctors, nurses and other officers/staff, provide and maintain necessary equipment and supplies at each of the Upazila health complexes and Union Health and Family Welfare Centers (UHFWCs)

Ninth: To devise necessary ways and means for the people to make optimum usage of available opportunities in government hospitals and the health service system, and ensure satisfactory quality management, cleanliness of service delivery at the hospitals

Tenth: To formulate specific policies for medical colleges and private clinics, and to introduce laws and regulation for the control and management of such institutions including maintenance of service quality

Eleventh: To strengthen and expedite the family planning program with the objective of attaining the target of Replacement Level of Fertility

Twelfth: To explore ways to make the family planning program more acceptable, easily available and effective among the extremely poor and low-income communities

Thirteenth: To arrange special health services for the mentally retarded, the physically disabled and elderly populations

Fourteenth: To determine ways to make family planning and health management more accountable and cost-effective by equipping it with more skilled manpower

Fifteenth: To introduce systems for treatment of all types of complicated diseases in the country, and minimize the need for foreign travel for medical treatment Road.

The following policy principles have been adopted in order to attain the foregoing goals and objectives:

- i. To create awareness among the enable every citizen of Bangladesh irrespective of caste, creed, religion, income and gender, and especially children and women, in any geographical region of the country, through media publicity, to obtain health, nutrition and reproductive health services on the basis of social justice and equality through ensuring everyone's constitutional rights;
- ii. To make the essential primary health care services reach every citizen in all geographical regions within Bangladesh; To ensure equal distribution and optimum usage of the available resources to solve urgent health-related problems with focus on the disadvantaged, poor and unemployed persons.
- iii. To involve the people in various processes like planning, management, local fund raising, spending, monitoring and review of the procedure of health service delivery etc. with the aim of decentralizing the health management system and establishing people's right and responsibilities in this system.
- iv. To facilitate and assist in the collaborative efforts between the government and the non-government agencies to ensure effective provision of health services to all.

- v. To ensure availability of birth control supplies through integration, expansion and strengthening of the family planning activities.
- vi. To carry out appropriate administrative restructuring, decentralization of the service delivery procedure and the supply system, and to adopt strategies for priority-based human resource development aimed at overall improvement and quality-enhancement of health service, and to create access of all citizens to such services.
- vii. To encourage adoption and application of effective and efficient technology, operational development and research activities in order to ensure further strengthening and usage of health, nutrition and reproductive health services.
- viii. To provide legal support with regard to the rights, opportunities, responsibilities, obligations and restrictions of the service providers, service receivers and other citizens, in connection with matters related to health service; and
- ix. To establish self-reliance and self-sufficiency in the health sector by implementing the primary health care and essential services programs, in order to fulfill the aspirations of the people for their overall sound health and access to reproductive health care.

Population Policy, 2004

Socio-economic development for all citizens is the cornerstone of Bangladesh's constitution. According to the articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the constitution, the state has the responsibility to ensure to its citizens certain basic needs such as health, education, food and security. In order to translate these constitutional goals into reality, the Government had undertaken a wide array of public policies. Realizing the importance of population and development, the Government prepared a Population Policy Outline and had identified population problem as the national problem. The Policy stands out as one of the most remarkable achievements of the government.

The objectives of the National Population Policy are to improve the status of family planning, maternal and child health including reproductive health services and to improve the living standard of the people of Bangladesh through making a desirable balance between population and development in the context of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP): A National Strategy for Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social Development. The following major policy objectives will help address the future challenge.

1. Reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and increase the use of family planning methods among eligible couples through raising awareness of family planning;
2. Attain NRR equal to one by the year 2010 so as to stabilize population around 2060;
3. Ensure adequate availability and access of Reproductive Health Services, specially family planning services to all including information, counseling and services for adolescents;
4. Improve maternal health with emphasis on reduction of maternal mortality;
5. Reduce RTIs/STIs and prevent spread of HIV/AIDS.
6. Reduce infant and under five mortality rates;
7. Reduce maternal and child malnutrition;

8. Promote and actively support programs for elimination of gender disparity in education, health and nutrition;
9. Ensure Early Childhood Development (ECD) program;
10. Ensure and support gender equity and empower women;
11. Develop the human resource capacity of planners, managers and service providers, including improved data collection, research and dissemination;
12. Actively support measures to provide food and social security and shelter for the disadvantaged including the elderly, destitute, physically and mentally retarded persons;
13. Actively support measures to regulate and reduce rural to urban migration;
14. Support measures for environmental sustainability with emphasis on access to safe drinking water;
15. Support poverty alleviating strategies and conducive environment for improved quality of life;
16. Ensure coordination among relevant Ministries in strengthening population and development linkages and making their respective mandates and implementation strategies more population focused;

Industrial Policy, 2005

Bangladesh is a developing country, and the present government is striving relentlessly to attain rapid economic development in the country. Many programs taken so far have been carried out successfully. Despite a lack of resources faced by the government, development programs in the key sectors have continued. At the same time, considering the importance of the private sector, an all-out support is being provided to initiatives taken in this sector. As a result, a new kind of dynamism is under way in both the public and private sectors. In this backdrop, it is essential to examine various aspects of industrialization and its impacts on overall economic activities.

1. One of the foremost objectives of the Industrial Policy 2005 is to set up planned industries considering the real domestic demand, prospect of exporting goods abroad, and discouraging unplanned industries in the light of past experience.
2. Accept private initiatives as the main driving force of economic development and uphold the government's facilitating role in creating a favorable atmosphere in order to augment private investments in the country's industrialization, given the background of a free market economy and globalization.
3. Arrange for state owned industrial enterprises to be sold/transferred/leased or administered in any other way by the Privatization Commission or concerned ministries in order to accelerate the privatization process.
4. Take necessary initiatives to set up industries with private entrepreneurships, and where that is feasible, establish industries on state initiative in those sectors that are considered very important and essential because of national interest, where private entrepreneurs are not forthcoming.

5. Catering the needs for local and foreign market and also for consumer satisfaction of the local products; Measures to be undertaken (a) produce world class quality products, (b) diversification of goods, (c) introduce cost effective management in the production system, (d) more value addition in the industrial sector, and (e) provide support for enhancing productivity by using continuous, appropriate and advanced technology.
6. Provide assistance to augment the industrial sector's contributions to the GDP of the national economy, meet the general demands of local consumers and earn more foreign exchange so that local industrial entrepreneurs can attain further capacity to establish industries, and industrial goods can have access to the overseas market on a competitive basis.
7. Provide inspiration for the speedy expansion of cottage industries and SMEs and for further investment in these sectors so that new employment opportunities are generated, unemployment reduced and poverty alleviation program made in the country.
8. Prioritize the expansion and development of agro-based and agricultural processing industries, and assist in the expansion of poultry, dairy and goat sheep industry as agricultural industries.
9. Provide women entrepreneurs with all necessary assistance in establishing industries in various sectors.
10. Increase productivity at enterprise level; Produce high value added products step by step through development and application of appropriate technology and increase of export through export diversification.
11. Provide all necessary assistance for producing environment friendly product with the objective for creating a pollution free environment in the industrial sector.
12. Expand the local market and establish more backward linkage industries in order to accelerate the export of high value added garments produced in the export oriented garment industries and other relevant industrial subsectors.
13. Further enrich the industrial sector with the proper utilization of the country's various natural and mineral resources.

National Tourism Policy, 1992

The National Tourism Policy of Bangladesh was declared in 1992. Its main objectives are:

- To create interest in tourism among the people
- To preserve, protect, develop and maintain tourism resources
- To take steps for poverty-alleviation through creating employment
- To build a positive image of the country abroad
- To open up a recognized sector for private capital investment
- To arrange entertainment and recreation
- To strengthen national solidarity and integrity

In line with the policy, the Bangladeshi Government provides incentives to attract private sector partners. The incentives include tax-holiday, loans, concession rates for taxes and duties and in specific cases, allotment of land etc.

National Policy for Safe Water Supply & Sanitation, 1998

The objectives of the “National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation” are to improve the standard of public health and to ensure improved environment. For achieving these objectives, steps will be taken for:

- a) Facilitating access of all citizens to basic level of services in water supply and sanitation;
- b) Bringing about behavioral changes regarding use of water and sanitation;
- c) Reducing incidence of water borne diseases;
- d) Building capacity in local Governments and communities to deal more effectively with problems relating to water supply and sanitation;
- e) Promoting sustainable water and sanitation services;
- f) Ensuring proper storage, management and use of surface water and preventing its contamination;
- g) Taking necessary measures for storage and use of rain water;
- h) Ensuring storm-water drainage in urban areas.

Proposed National Urban Sector Policy

In Bangladesh cities and towns are playing a crucial role in the national development despite the adverse socio-economic and environmental consequences resulting from rapid growth of these urban centers.

The National Urban Policy envisions strengthening the beneficial aspects of urbanization and at the same time effectively dealing with its negative consequences so as to achieve sustainable urbanization, keeping in view the multi-dimensional nature of the urbanization process. The policy also envisions a decentralized and participatory process of urban development in which the central government, the local government, the private sector, the civil society and the people all have their roles to play.

The major objectives of National Urban Sector Policy for Bangladesh, therefore, will be to

- a. Ensure regionally balanced urbanization through decentralized development and hierarchically structured urban system;
- b. Facilitate economic development, employment generation, reduction of inequality and poverty eradication through appropriate regulatory frameworks and infrastructure provisions;
- c. Ensure optimum utilization of land resources and meet increased demand for housing and urban services through public-private and other partnerships;
- d. Protect, preserve and enhance the urban environment, particularly water bodies;
- e. Devolve authority at the local urban level and strengthen local governments through appropriate powers, resources and capabilities so that these can take effective responsibility for a wide range of planning, infrastructure provision, service delivery and regulatory functions;
- f. Involve all sectors of the community, including women and the poor, in participatory decision-making and implementation processes;

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- g. Ensure social justice and inclusion by measures designed to increase the security of poor people through their access to varied livelihood opportunities, secure tenure and basic affordable services;
- h. Take into account particular needs of women, men, children, youth, the elderly and the disabled in developing policy responses and implementation;
- i. Assure health, safety and security of all citizens through multifaceted initiatives to reduce crime and violence;
- j. Protect, preserve and enhance the historical and cultural heritage of cities and enhance their aesthetic beauty;
- k. Develop and implement urban management strategies and governance arrangements for enhancing complementary roles of urban and rural areas in sustainable development; and
- l. Ensure good governance by enhancing transparency and establishing accountability.

2.4 Private Sector Developments

During the reconnaissance visit, it has been noticed that a number of structures and establishments have been recently constructed haphazardly along the road sides through the private sector initiatives in various places of Shibpur Upazila, Raipura Upazila and Ishwarganj Upazila. And these are used as weaving factories, dyeing industries, markets and hats, schools, colleges, fish firms, poultry firms, electric sub-stations, and so on. The overall implications of such developments will be studied.

2.5 Concluding Observations

All the above mentioned national development plans, policies and strategies would be ~~instrumental~~ ~~instrumental in~~ addressing ~~their goals~~ their goals and objectives, spatial implications and relevancy with preparations of the subject plans.