Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh through Action Research

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UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Global agenda

- A new development agenda

- Needs to be contextualised for implementation

- Different government attitudes and responses

- Working with governments

  Policy is government-driven

  Private sector, NGOs may influence the government agenda but ultimately decisions come from the government

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SDGs and Australia

- Supported the SDGs (represented by Julie Bishop)

- Australia sees it mainly as promoting regional security and development, particularly in the Pacific

- Main responsibility lies with DFAT and PM&C, supported by the Department of the Environment and Energy (mostly SDGs 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15, but also SDGs 6, 11 and 17)

- SDGs Dashboards: score 72.9 (of 100), 37 of 156 countries, average regional score 76.9

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SDGs and Australia

- Voluntary National Review – July 2018

- Key messages:

- SDGs reflect our values, including "fair go"

- whole of society approach (including volunteers)

- importance of human rights

- we have knowledge, expertise and innovation to share

REPORT
ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

2018

United Nations High–Level
Political Forum on Sustainable
Development 2018

Australian Government

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
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SDGs and Bangladesh

- Millennium Development Goals – achieved

- Bangladesh has become a low middle income country

- Government commitment to achieving also the SDGs

- Bangladesh is a very diverse country:

  Topographically the Barind (8%), Hill Tracts (12%), Floodplain and Char land (55%), Coastal (25%)

  Rural vs urban settings

  Different levels of governance, however government is highly centralised

- Different models and examples needed for different areas

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SDGs and Bangladesh

- Main responsibility – the PM Sheikh Hasina, supported by **all** ministries

- SDGs Dashboard – score 59.3 (of 100), 111 of 156 countries, 64.1 average for the region

- Voluntary National Review – 2017, SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 & 17

- Key messages – a new transformation path, mapping of ministries, national monitoring and evaluation, action plan for achievement, aligned with 7th FYP; challenges – resource mobilisation, localisation

SDGs and Bangladesh

- Needs assessment and financing strategy

- US$ 1.5 trillion worth of investment for full implementation of SDGs

- SDGs performance part of the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the entire public sector

- Results-based performance management system

- Localisation of SDGs

- Capacity building

- Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world

Voluntary National Review (VNR), 2017

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
June 2017

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SDGs and Action Research

- ## What is action research

  - Combines research and action – mutually supportive

  - Can be participatory

  - Aims to achieve wider community goal through research

  - If done properly future expenses will be saved

- ## Why is action research appropriate for SDGs

  - Problem-oriented

  - Applied, reflective, adaptive

  - Lead by researchers who are also the actors in implementing research

  - Active engagement with stakeholders

  - Optimise costs with long-term benefits

- ## Demonstration projects which can be adopted widely, e.g. WGV

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- 2015 MOU with the Prime Minister's Office Governance Innovation Unit (GIU), Government of Bangladesh

- Commitment to collaboration and exploring ways to sustainability – active team of academics

- Two projects – DFAT and GIU/UNDP

- UN institutions have SDGs as a focus, UN SDGFund – many partners (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, ILO and other international and national government organisations)

   Many charity and lottery organisations also fund SDGs (e.g. Bill & Melinda Gates, Welcome Trust, Packard Foundation, Hewlett Foundation…)

- Islamic Development Bank – Science, Technology and Innovation Transform Fund focused on 6 SDGs, profit sharing with the community

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- Conceptually similar – combining capacity building with action research

- Outcomes – demonstration projects

- Every project synergistically addresses all 17 SDGs

- By using innovative approaches the demonstration projects have local, national and global significance

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- Australia Award Fellowship grant: "Promoting inclusive, resilient and sustainable urbanisation to achieve SDG11 in Bangladesh"

Farida: Cyclone early disaster warning system

Huda: Hollow bricks

Ferdous: Sustainable housing in Pabna

Khair: Waste from tanneries

Bari: Educating secondary students about living sustainably

Bodrun: Brahmaputra Barrage Women and Children Friendly

Johra: Road accidents database

Shohana: Affordable housing for cleaners

Rema: Website for Garo heritage

Noyeem: Waste collection at source

Roksana: Waste management legislation

Sabina: Mobile health services to slum areas

Tahmid: Water logging in Chittagong

Russel: SDGs targets for Bangladesh

Rownak: ICT-based services for sustainable transportation

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1. Feasibility Study of Brahmaputra Barrage –Women and Children Friendly
2. Inclusive Community Primary Health Care through Evening Mobile Health Team Livability in Slum Areas

3. Educating in secondary schools for living sustainably
• Schools teach competition – focus on collective solutions

4. Early disaster warning systems
• IT based cyclone warning using an interactive map and volunteers/volunteer database

5. More sustainable building materials for public sector buildings – hollow bricks

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6. Online accident reporting and monitoring database
• Road safety – combines data from police, hospital, insurance and vehicle operators, allows full analysis

7. Participatory approach to municipal solid waste collection in Dhaka – awareness and initiative

8. Management of the Tannery Industrial Estate in Dhaka
• Leather industry – common effluent treatment plan, environmentally friendly waste management system, recycling

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9. Garo Cultural Heritage website

What ?

Created a Garo Cultural heritage database website (online portal): www.garoheritage.com

Why?

To value, to protect and safeguard Garo cultural heritage and intellectual property in digital form.

How?

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Queensland Government was generated my ideas to create a database Garo culture heritage website for a sustainable future

Link to SDG 11

To strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard world's cultural and natural heritage.

To protect and safeguard Garo Cultural Heritage

10. Atgharia demo project visited by Mr Ferdous DS Ministry of Land in October 2017

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Site Map, SDG Center, Luxmipur, Pabna, Bangladesh

Weekly Meetings of the SDGs local implementation group

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11. Implementing waste hierarchy in the legal framework of Bangladesh

12. ICT-based services in the new Metro Rail system in Dhaka

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13. Localising global SDG targets – dealing with data
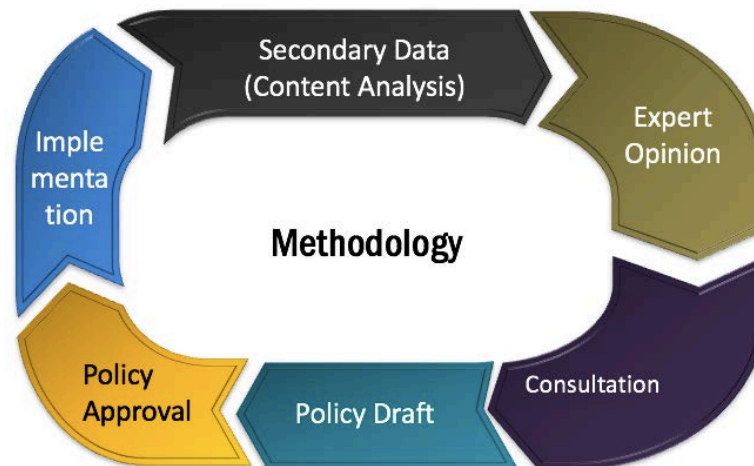
14. Affordable housing for the informal sector - cleaners

15. Drainage and water logging in Chittagong – coordination of activities to restore natural canals through a Master Plan

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GIU/UNDP grant – Group projects

- Stop the manufacturing of poultry feed from tannery waste – health hazards

- Access to food through social safety nets – create a database and provide training at Upazzila (sub-district) level

- Analysis on the SDG action plan (with special focus to target 16.6) of selected ministries in Bangladesh

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GIU projects – Group projects

- Prevent child marriage – through community policing, train and give community police the authority to restrain

- Empowering community to reduce dependency on reserve forests /forest protected areas (FPAs) – livelihood diversification and enhancement

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How to use recycle bin?

Proper use of bin!

New opportunities

- Barind –
  the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority

- Rural Development Academy –
  truly green campus

Welcome to Palli Janapad Project

POULTRY HOUSE
CATTLE HOUSE

POULTRY HOUSE
CATTLE HOUSE

Center for Irrigation and Water Management, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra
[Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, Rural Development and Cooperative Division]

Lessons learned

- Ongoing process

- We have not achieved SDGs yet but we have until 2030 ☺

- No universal solutions but we need to constantly investigate, adapt and reflect while improving outcomes

- Genuine engagement – long-term

- Shared values

- True partnerships

- New opportunities

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Thank you

Questions and Answers

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