

## Inevitability of Environmental CSR in Dire Environmental Difficulties and its Ways-Out: Bangladesh Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

*For being a populated country with inadequate resources, the present environmental state of Bangladesh is alarming due to on-going exhaustion of the natural environment and its consequences on society. In Bangladesh, human health, ecosystems and economic growth are threatened by severe environmental pollution and other environmental concerns. Bangladesh is facing several natural catastrophes such as floods, cyclones, and tidal-bores every year due to the environmental externalities which cause severe socio-economic and ecological damage. Thus, this study aims to highlight various ecological difficulties currently faced by Bangladesh and its impact on human life and nature. In addition, this study also focuses on the essence of implementing environmental CSR for sustainable development. From the literature review, it was found that several environmental concerns such as air, water and soil pollution, climate change, and the loss of biodiversity are continuously degrading the natural environment of Bangladesh and its resources. Concurrently, all these environmental concerns are creating a negative impact on the socio-economic growth of Bangladesh and its environment. Hence, corporate social responsibility, mainly, corporate environmental responsibility can play a significant role in their environment-related activities to lessen the current environmental degradation of Bangladesh. At the same time, the government should undertake several initiatives to protect environmental degradation and foster the environmental CSR activities within all business sectors and increase environmental awareness which is mandatory in order to attain sustainable development.*

**Keywords:** Corporate Social Responsibility, Environmental Pollution, Environmental CSR, Climate Change.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Corporate Social Responsibility, in short CSR, is rapidly becoming a significant subject matter among the experts from both academia and industry. CSR is acknowledged as a potentially valuable approach in building an enduring association between internal and external stakeholders of the business entity (Rashid, Rahman, & Khalid, 2014). Previously, the organizations of CSR activities are confined within the society, that is, they only concern social benefits. But after perceiving an increased number of environmental catastrophes contributed by the immoral business interest and human insensitive approach, business organizations are shifting towards CSR and considering it as a strategic payback tool. Businesses are now actively seeking to incorporate environmental concerns along with social concerns into their operation and activities as a part of the firm's CSR program (Banyte *et al.*, 2010). Moreover, owing to the well-established affiliation between business and the environment, the business community, as well as civil society, are expected to gradually operate businesses in environmentally accountable ways (Kasim & Dzakiria, 2009). Correspondingly, after publishing the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report (also known as Brundtland Report), the corporate leaders and management scholars from the developed and developing

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countries are starting to consider environmental concerns into their strategic decision-making as a positive role of protecting the environment.

On the other hand, the overall situation of environmental degradation is more vulnerable in the lower middle and less developed countries including Bangladesh compared to other developed and developing countries. All over the world, the dreadful conditions of the natural environment and its consequences on society is now apparent. As a highly populated country with inadequate natural resources, the present circumstances of Bangladesh are even more dangerous. Till now, the environmental condition of Bangladesh is not at all stable situation. The human health, ecosystems and economic growth are threatened by severe environmental pollution like air, water, soil and noise pollution. Great poverty, overpopulation, limited resources, and the dearth of environmental consciousness are some of the causes of environmental degradation in Bangladesh. Besides, Bangladesh is facing several natural catastrophes such as floods, cyclones, and tidal-bores every year which causes severe socio-economic and ecological damage. Consequently, the country's development is threatened by these pollutions and natural catastrophes. Though the government has been continuously striving for the last two decades to improve environmental degradation and control pollutions, the overall state of the environment is still not favourably balanced. The environmental concerns appeared as an immense challenge to the sustainable development of the country. Thus, this study not only aims to emphasise the needs of environmental CSR activities for business organisations in Bangladesh by focusing the present environmental concerns but also provides knowledge regarding diverse environmental pollutions in Bangladesh perspective.

## **2. BANGLADESH AND ITS ENVIRONMENT**

Bangladesh is a low laying deltaic country with an area of 147,470 square kilometre, where the population is about 160 million with a density of 1265 per square kilometre. Bangladesh has around 700 rivers, canals, and streams with a length of 22,155 km approximately, and occupies a riverine area of roughly 9,384 square kilometres. Bangladesh is also richly gifted with several seasonal and famous perennial water bodies such as haors, beels, baors, khals, pukurs, and dighies. Rivers, canals, beels, lakes, and haors are open wetlands, while baors, dighis, ponds, and ditches constitute closed ones. Bangladesh usually observes a sub-tropical monsoon climate which is characterized by high temperatures, excessive humidity, and seasonal rainfall. Out of six seasons, winter, and summer are prominent. Summer and winter winds mostly controlled the country's climate while pre-monsoon and post-monsoon wind circulation were partially controlled. The average annual temperature is between 5°C to 35°C. March-April is normally the warmest months, whereas the coolest months are January-February. Bangladesh is also a country of natural beauty whose parts are covered by small and medium mountains, and some other parts are covered by the rivers. It has the world's longest beach (Cox's Bazar) and the world's largest mangrove forest (Sundarban). There are also many archaeological sites which can certainly attract domestic and foreign tourists (BBS, 2007, 2014). Besides, Bangladesh has a reasonably inadequate natural resource with the ratio of its high growing population. Majority of the people depend on the country's natural resources for their livelihood. Due to overexploit or sub-optimal use, many of the natural resources are now under serious threat. At the same time, owing to several pressures, including overpopulation (around 160 million), vast poverty, interventions to development, gap to policy and legislation and conflict to institutional guidelines, 95% of natural forests and 50% of freshwater wetlands of Bangladesh are already lost or degraded. Now Bangladesh has 1.4% protected and intact forest in comparing with its landmass. Over the last 50 years, many native wildlife species have already been lost (Aminuzzaman, 2010). Additionally, severe pollutions (air, water, soil, and noise) and the impacts of long term and short-term climate changes (floods, droughts, cyclone, etc.) are not only confining the country's economic growth but also destroying social and environmental structures.

Therefore, it is crucial to have guideline or policy to minimise ecological degradations and pollutions for the survival of the dense population of Bangladesh, which preserves and sustains the environments that support their livelihoods. For this drive, technological and economic growth should take place in such a way that the overall supply of resources could maintain in the long run. Therefore, sustainable development and environmental CSR both necessitate the conservation of natural environment and biological diversity by improving the living standards of the people. The next section will focus on the various environmental pollutions observed by Bangladesh.

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFICULTIES OF BANGLADESH**

Over the last two or three decades, Bangladesh is facing severe environmental degradation in various areas. Though population growth has been reduced significantly, however, Bangladesh is still a crowded country. Severe land pollution, water pollution, air pollution, degradation in natural resources, biodiversity and deforestation are common concerns for the environment of Bangladesh. High population density pollutes the urban environment, while the agrochemical fertilizers are polluting the environment of the rural area. Additionally, the landscape of Bangladesh is changing each day where some rivers are drying, some parts of the country are becoming desert, seasons are changing, areas of forest are reducing, and productivity of nature is declining in Bangladesh. Therefore, all these environmental concerns have a negative impact on the socio-economic development of Bangladesh and should be addressed effectively in the environmental policy. Next section will emphasis on the various environmental challenges, such as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, and climate change, observed by Bangladesh.

#### **3.1 Air Pollution**

Air pollution can be defined as an atmospheric condition with various substances whose level of concentration is more than average ambient levels and produce a measurable effect on human beings, animals or plants (UNEP, 2001). Out of various human-made environmental catastrophes, air pollution is presently taking place all around the world. The air pollutants mainly affect human body lung and cause irritation and respiratory problems. At present, air pollution is the main threat to human health in many cities in Bangladesh. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) latest air pollution report, Bangladesh was ranked 4th out of 91 countries due to worst urban air quality. Also, among 1600 cities of 91 countries, three cities from Bangladesh were present in the list of 25 cities with poorest air quality. By decreasing the level of air pollution around 20%-80% approximately 1200-3500 lives would be possible to save annually in Bangladesh as well as by dropping the level of air pollution to the mentioned level, 80 to 230 million cases of health problem would also decrease. According to WHO, around 7 million premature death is associated with air pollution every year (BanDuDeltAS, 2015).

In Bangladesh, industrial emissions and vehicular emissions are two significant sources of air pollution. Industrial emissions are stationary sources of air pollution, while vehicular emissions are the non-stationary or mobile sources of air pollution. Smoke emitting various types of industries and factories such as brick kilns, pulp and paper mills, textile industries, steels re-rolling mills, power plant (natural gas, diesel and furnace oil based), fertilizer (urea, TSP), cement, plastic, chemical industries are the primary stationary sources of air pollution. Conversely, vehicular transports such as buses, trucks, cars, jeeps, auto-rickshaws, motorcycles are the sources of non-stationary sources of air pollution. Most of these vehicles run on the roads of Bangladesh are old, overloaded and poorly maintained. As per the survey from the Department of Environment (DoE) in Dhaka, almost 90% of the vehicles are substandard and discharge high level of air pollutants due to the use of impure fuel and lube oil, high-sulphur diesel and lack of proper maintenance and traffic congestion. In addition, few human-made

activities such as open place burning, solid waste disposal in public area, brick and stone crushing, and construction materials storages (sand, rock, cement, etc.) are also non-stationary sources of air pollution in Bangladesh (UNEP, 2001; BanDuDeltAS, 2015). Besides, the findings in UNEP (2001) reveals that the leading reasons for the continuous deterioration of the quality of air in Bangladesh are unplanned urbanization, emissions from vehicles, un-planned industrial development, brick-making kilns, and waste dumping in public places, etc. However, Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and the DoE are trying to restrict and mitigate ever-growing environmental problems in the country through diverse rules and regulations e.g. the Environment Policy Act-1992, the Environmental Conservation Act-1995, the Environment Conservation Rules-1997 etc.

### **3.2 Water Pollution**

Usually, water pollution occurs when harmful substances, often chemicals or biological agents, contaminate river, lake, ocean, aquifer, or another body of water and degrade the quality of the water and becoming toxic as well as poses threat to human health and/or the environment. Among the diverse natural resources, water is essential for the survival of all living organisms. Its availability (seasonal and regional) and quality (of both ground and surface) influence a country's economic, social and environmental growth (UNEP, 2001). Unfortunately, unplanned urbanisation and industrialisation are continually worsening the quality of water, especially in urban areas of Bangladesh. The pollution caused by municipal and industrial waste effluents and agrochemicals in several rivers and water bodies has reached an alarming level. Several organic and inorganic toxic substances are responsible for water contamination that cause various long-term effects on public health and the environment. The contaminated water caused public health hazards when the contaminants enter the foodstuff through marine and aquatic ecosystems. Similarly, water pollution adds severe environmental threats in Bangladesh. Haphazard and unprocessed waste dumping by municipal, hospitals and contaminated environmental discharge by industries are the key reasons for water pollution. More than 50% of the total generated solid waste (around 4000 to 4500 tons) was dump into the rivers. Besides that, roughly 500 hospitals and clinics release their unprocessed medicinal and toxic waste into the rivers (Khan, 2016). In addition, most of the industrial zones situated in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna districts, therefore, the quality of water in those areas is getting worse owing to the discharge of industrial effluents of dying industries, tanneries, food industries, pulp and paper industries, fertilisers and etc. Moreover, due to the release of the untreated industrial effluents, more than 200 rivers of Bangladesh have been polluted severely. Among the polluted rivers, the River Buriganga is in the worst condition because of the tannery effluents situated at Hazaribagh areas in Dhaka. On top of this, there are nearly 700 tanneries in Dhaka that are consistently discharging polluted wastes into the water bodies. According to the statistics from the DoE, there are 1,176 industries continuously polluting the water in the country through their toxic waste (Khan, 2016).

Moreover, Bangladesh has a small land area compared to its vast population, and all the inhabitants are not getting adequate water supply due to lack of technical competence. As a result, nearly 87% of people depend on the groundwater to meet their daily needs (BBS, 2010). Hence, the overuse and contamination of groundwater have become another severe concern for Bangladesh. Besides that, a massive amount of groundwater is also used for the irrigation purpose (Qureshi *et al.*, 2015). Apart from that, arsenic contamination is another severe concerns in rural areas in Bangladesh due to disturbances of current agricultural practices, groundwater extraction, and different anthropogenic activities (Khan, 2016, Karim *et al.* 2008).

### 3.3 Soil Contamination

UNEP (2001) describes soil pollution as the accumulations of different toxic substances, radioactive components, and chemicals in the soil which cause diseases, create adverse impacts on animal health, and on the growth of plants. In addition, these pollutants also deteriorate the quality and the content of mineral of the soil and disrupt the biological balance of organisms in the soil (UNEP, 2001). Among several environmental pollutions, soil pollution is another serious threat to human life and the environment of Bangladesh. Due to rapid industrialisations and urbanisations, total arable lands in Bangladesh are degraded or contaminated through heavy metals and persistent organic compounds which led to the substantial deterioration of the soil quality over the last two decades. Human-made activities such as mining, use of pesticides, increased intensity of chemical usages, filtration of contaminated surface water to subsurface strata, burning fossil fuels, discharge of industrial and household wastes directly into the soil are some of the common factors of soil pollution in Bangladesh (UNEP, 2001; Alam, 2009; BanDuDeltAS, 2015). Petroleum hydrocarbons, insecticides, solvents, and other heavy metals (such as lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury etc.) are the common chemical and heavy metal pollutants of soil (SCU, 2013).

Besides, the port cities of Bangladesh, such as Chittagong and Khulna, and their adjacent coasts are polluted due to ocean-going ships, which is becoming a significant concern for port areas. Specifically, two main rivers of this country, named, Karnafuli River and Passur River are polluted by spillage of oil and chemical effluents from ships. According to the report from MoEF (2001), in consequence of ship breaking industries and port activities, the amount heavy metal concentrations are gradually increasing and threatening the ecosystem of those areas. Another study conducted by Siddique, Parween, Quddur & Barua (2009) on the concentration of heavy metal in seabed sediments in ship breaking region also found a similar result. The detected level of heavy metal concentrations in seabed and sediments around the ship breaking industries is much higher than the standard (safe) level (Siddique, Parween, Quddur & Barua, 2009). In rural areas, extensive use of fertiliser and insecticides for cultivation pollute the soil of the agricultural land. Additionally, soils nearby the solid waste disposal sites are contaminated due to the leaching from the waste (SCU, 2013). Despite all the aforesaid reasons, 'land degradation' is another common root of soil pollution in Bangladesh, which refers to the damage of soil fertility caused by the dreadful conditions of soil quality. In Bangladesh, natural disaster (i.e. floods, cyclones, tornados, etc.) and human activities (i.e. indecorous cultivation, defective irrigation process, excessive use of fertilizer and pesticides, brickfields, unplanned industrial expansion, unplanned rural set-up etc.) mainly degrade the topsoil condition and deteriorate its functional capabilities (UNEP, 2001). Jhum cultivation and the traditional community-based agricultural techniques by the indigenous people is one of the leading causes of land degradation in the hilly areas such as in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (UNEP, 2001; ADB, 2004; Karim & Kasim, 2018). In the long run, the rapid growth of population, high poverty, inappropriate use of land, deficiency of land usage policy, and ineffectual execution of general rules and guiding principle are among the reasons that compelling the people of Bangladesh to not only over-exploit natural resources but also polluting them. Thus, soil pollution has presently become a national concern for its undesirable impacts on living organisms and environmental quality.

### 3.4 Climate Change

Climate change is also considered as one of the most challenging problems among various environmental concerns faced by the world in the 21st century due to increase of temperature, change of physical and biological systems, extinction of species, and negative impacts on the society as well as on the earth (O'Brien & Leichenko, 2000; Kolk & Pinkse, 2004, 2012; Khojastehpour & Johns, 2014). Climate change receives an increasing emphasis among different clusters of stakeholders in the developed and developing countries of the world. As an

international environmental issue, climate change is also attracting business firms because of its probable strategic impact on business activities (Kolk & Pinkse, 2004). Most businesses are surrounded by a broader business environment and that environment can directly affect the firm's performance and expectations. Thus, business firms are likely to be accountable to the society and the environment where they operate, that is, addressing the diverse environmental challenges including air, soil and water pollution, greenhouse gas emission, and, energy conservation issue. Additionally, businesses should agree on the importance of the reduction of various types of pollution, discharge, and waste, along with the efficient use of natural resources (Khojastehpour & Johns, 2014). Conversely, the awareness of the environmental challenges and climate change are decided scarcer in the less developed country including Bangladesh. Regarding natural and anthropogenic hazards, Bangladesh is one of the susceptible countries in the world. According to The World Risk Report 2015, among the 173 countries around the globe, Bangladesh is the 6th most natural disaster-prone country. As per the 2011 Global Assessment Report of the UNISDR, Bangladesh is ranked 1st out of 162 countries for the number of people exposed to flood, cyclone and other natural calamities. At the same time, due to the hostile impacts of climate change, Bangladesh is already listed as one of the riskiest countries in the world. Thus, climate change along with geographical location, biodiversity, and unsustainable development process are responsible for making the country susceptible to diverse meteorological, hydrological, and geological dangers.

#### **4. EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ON HUMAN HEALTH AND ON NATURE**

According to prior literature and evidence, over the last two or three decades, Bangladesh experiences severe environmental degradation in various areas and these environmental degradations continuously creating adverse impacts on the human health, ecosystem and affecting country's socio-economic development. Among several environmental pollutions, air pollution mainly affects human body lung and cause irritation and respiratory problems. Additionally, air pollution also causes health hazards such as throat irritation, eye irritation, headache, aggravated asthma, chest congestion, and kidney failure. Moreover, it deteriorates urban air quality, affects plant quality and growth, acute leaf failure and ecosystem (UNEP, 2001; BanDuDeltAS, 2015; Karim & Kasim, 2018). On the other hand, water contamination due to several organic and inorganic toxic substances affect public health and the environment in the long run. Contaminated water affects marine and aquatic ecosystems and the contaminants that enter the foodstuffs causing public health hazards. Moreover, water pollution also adds severe environmental threats in Bangladesh because water contamination affects human health by causing skin allergy and inflammations, waterborne diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, and typhoid, liver diseases like hepatitis, jaundice, upper respiratory infections, and cancers. Water contamination also ruins fish habitat and reduce soil fertility (UNEP, 2001; Matin, 2013; Karim & Kasim, 2018). Similar to water pollution, soil pollution also causes various health problems such as cancers (arsenic, asbestos, dioxins), kidney disease (lead, mercury, cadmium), neurological damage and lower IQ (lead, arsenic), and skeletal and bone diseases (lead, fluoride, cadmium) (UNEP, 2001; SCU, 2013; Karim & Kasim, 2018).

Besides, climate change is exacerbating numerous natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts, tidal surges, tornados, river erosion, infrastructure collapse, water logging, water and soil salinity, epidemic, and several forms of pollution, etc. These climate-induced catastrophes are also contributing adverse effects on the country's economic and social growths. For example, according to the report of World Bank (2010), the financial loss from the impact of cyclone called Sidr is assessed to be 2.6% of total GDP in 2007 and left long-lasting problems for the country (World Bank, 2010; cited from Khan, 2016). In future, the impacts of climate change will be more serious owing to increase of temperature, variations of rainfall pattern, erosion of land, droughts and many more frequent climate-oriented calamities and might have substantial impacts on human health, agrarian growth, and socio-economic settings.

## 5. CONTEMPORARY STATE OF CSR IN BANGLADESH

Globally CSR is now a recognised issue. Nonetheless, it is an emerging concept in Bangladesh and defined as a set of ethical business practices towards sustainable development and mostly depends on stakeholder's interest or willingness (Werner, 2009). In other words, in Bangladesh, CSR means organisation's philanthropic activities such as the donation to build schools, madrasahs, colleges, city beautification, scholarships for students, and donation to government's emergency funds etc. However, regarding the social and environmental contributions, the responsible business practices or CSR practices are still voluntary for companies from most of the sectors of Bangladesh except banking sector. In 2008, the central bank of Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bank) had issued a circular regarding CSR practice in the banking sector for both public and private banks. For other industries, there are no specific regulations or guidelines apart from few rules relating to negative impacts on the environment for chemical and textile industries to establish Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) for their operations. However, till now there is no execution of those regulations due to various legislative obstacles, and lack of monitoring from government and other regulatory officials. That is why as far as CSR is concerned, majority organisations from Bangladesh are either unwilling or reluctant to engage themselves in CSR practices (Hossain & Rowe, 2011; Moyeen & West, 2014).

Concurrently, the involvement of CSR is a fact of self-interest or personal willingness, hence the level of engagement towards CSR activities is not satisfactory (Azim, Ahmed & Islam, 2009). Several previous investigations such as Belal and Owen (2007), Sobhani, Amran, and Zainuddin (2009), Khan, Muttakin, and Siddiqui (2013), and Das, Dixon and Michael (2015) found the same status quo regarding the CSR practices. In addition, Hossain, Islam and Andrew (2006) also found that the majority of Bangladeshi organisations used to publish in their annual report a few CSR disclosers under human resource which is mostly qualitative and positively biased. Against these backdrops, over the last few years, the essentials of CSR have been gradually increasing in Bangladesh, and presently CSR is being considered as an integrated part of their daily operations of doing business globally and to sustain in this competitive business realm. Because of government initiatives, pressure from international buyers as well as various national and international social and environmental organisations, the involvement of CSR practises by local and multinational companies are progressively increasing. Now, CSR is not only confines in doing philanthropic or charity activities in Bangladesh. It also targets to eradicate poverty, reduce deprivation of women from society, establish labour rights, protect the environment and above all achieve sustainable development.

## 6. ESSENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CSR IN PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTIONS

According to Thompson (2002), environmental CSR is an environmentally responsible behaviour such as donating money for going green activities, financing on environmental technology, reducing environmentally harmful industrial emissions, and preventing other environmental pollutions (such as air, water and soil pollution) etc. In the developing and the least developing countries, the awareness of environmental activities under CSR has still not grown. For example, in Bangladesh as far as CSR is concerned, most of the companies have insufficient knowledge about environmental CSR initiatives. Majority of them take part in philanthropic contributions and doing charitable activities for social welfare accomplishments. Donation to the education sector, health campaign for rural people, urban development, support for the orphans and disabled people, and aid during natural calamities are some of the typical activities (Jamali & Mirshak, 2007; Visser, 2008; Moyeen & West, 2014). Unfortunately, there is little attention to incorporate environmental activities as an essential component of broad social responsibilities. Most of the business sectors of Bangladesh such as manufacturing, ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, telecom and multinationals are not the exception of such a lack of

awareness and attention towards environmental CSR initiatives. The findings from the prior research also support the assertion mentioned above. For instance, Baughn *et al.* (2007) conducted a comparative study in 15 Asian countries including Bangladesh regarding social and environmental CSR practices. They found that in both types of CSR practices, the level of Bangladeshi companies' participation is very unsatisfactory and lower than the average compared to other countries in Europe, American and Africa. Another study by Naeem and Welford (2009) found that the priority of environmental issues was not addressed appropriately in most of the large businesses including multinational companies in Bangladesh after having written policies in all four areas (human rights, labour standards anti-corruption and the environment as per Global Compact Principles). Moreover, all those policies are hardly ever converted into practice (Naeem & Welford, 2009). One more recent study by Moyeen and West (2014) revealed that environmental responsibility was observed as the least essential aspect among various aspects considered under CSR from 26 managers interview perception out of 32 managers. In the same way, many other studies (e.g. Belal & Owen, 2007; Islam & Deegan, 2008; Azim *et al.*, 2009; Khan *et al.*, 2011; Momin & Parker, 2013) also found the lower level of engagement of Bangladeshi listed companies in the environmental CSR practices. Thus, businesses in Bangladesh considered philanthropic responsibility as the essential part of CSR whereas the environmental responsibility is regarded as relatively less important in Bangladesh.

## 7. WAYS OUT TO ABRIDGE THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Eventually, this study recommends the following method in order to minimise the negative impact of various environmental degradations that presently observed in Bangladesh:

- i. To establish updated environmental rules and regulations for the reason that some of the existing environmental rules and related laws are outdated and others are improperly and incompletely updated which are inadequate to meet the present day needs of the country and not consistent with the changing environmental scenario of the world. At this moment in time, in Bangladesh, laws cannot play any effective role in combating environmental pollution, where overpopulation, poverty and illiteracy are aggravating the crisis every day. For example, according to Aminuzzaman (2010), *Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920; Water Hyacinth Act, 1936; Embankment and Drainage Act, 1952; The Town Improvement Act, 1953; Shops and Establishments Act, 1965 etc* are some important environmental laws which have passed two to five decades back and yet not updated.
- ii. Strengthening the legal system because in Bangladesh many environmental problems are partly due to the non-enforcement of existing laws. Thus, there is an immediate need for the amendment of the environment related laws to protect our natural environment.
- iii. To enhance internal coordination between several environmental department or agencies such as the DOE and the MoEF due to the lack of inter-agency coordination is one of the key reasons of poor and incompetent use of the existing policy and rules for environmental protection and management.
- iv. To increase the capacity of the DoE in terms of district wise number of agency and workforce in the enforcement of relevant environmental rules and regulations.
- v. To renovate DoE in terms of latest technologies and skilled human resources in monitoring, investigation, and examination of several environmental pollutions.
- vi. Establish public-private joint-venture partnership to introduce and promote diverse environmentally upgraded initiatives and green initiatives such as centralized ETP, green building concept, energy efficient building concept, zero emission building concept etc.
- vii. To enhance the politician-polluter nexus as in most cases in Bangladesh, the environment polluters are very powerful both financially and politically.



- viii. Several prior empirical studies also suggest the involvement of the community in various environmental management and operational interventions for the functional effectiveness of the Environmental Policy and Acts.
- ix. Arrange public awareness campaigns because raising awareness and disseminate information provide the opportunity to understand the perception and the views of the public on the present environmental degradation problem.

## 8. CONCLUSION

Similar to other developing countries, one of the ultimate challenges of Bangladesh is to achieve ecologically sound development. The country's overall economic activities still depend on nature-based resources. Besides, rapid industrial expansion is another principal motivation for the enhancement of economic growth. Conversely, this economic development through industrialisation has created several negative impacts on the environment, including several pollutions like air, water, soil, and natural disasters like flood, cyclone, tornado, etc. On top of these, service sectors such as real estate, transportation, tourism and hospitality, and municipal activities also create impacts on the environment. As a result, the overall environmental quality will shockingly degrade and significantly affect the sustainable development of Bangladesh. In addition, the environmental problem also generates pressure on the country's fragile natural resources that will eventually thwart the economic progress of Bangladesh. Besides, several prior studies discussed in the literature review and established that environmental CSR activities are the least important aspect to the Bangladeshi companies among various aspects considered under CSR. Furthermore, it is not possible to address all the current environmental challenges adequately through the philanthropy-driven CSR alone. Therefore, active participation of the business community through environmental CSR by addressing the detrimental environmental activities can contribute in the improvement of the socio-environmental conditions of the country and will also enrich the reputation of businesses as an essential representative of social and environmental well-being in the communities where they operate. Correspondingly, government and other organisations should be more responsible for fostering the environmental CSR activities and raising the environmental concerns within the business organisations which are obligatory for sustainable development.

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