

BOOK REVIEW

Socio-Economic Development of Bangladesh: Sustainability of BNF's Partner Organizations and Beneficiaries

Muhammad Mahboob Ali

Published By: MTC Global, India,

Price: IRS 200.,

Published on : 8th January, 2017.

Book Reviewer

S.K.S. Yadav

Faculty of Commerce & Business Administration, Meerut College, Meerut, (U.P.) India

Email Id: sudhiryadavmeerut@gmail.com

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has established Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF) to support the NGOs, with a view to associate the Non-Governmental Organizations and assigned to take up socio-economic development activities and poverty alleviation. The country has also been facing massive challenges of feeding the rapidly increasing population or even to support their livelihood in a sustainable manner. Bangladesh NGO foundation already disbursed more than 100 Crore taka through partner organizations out of which 36% is male while 64% is female beneficiary. In the book there are seven chapters and also appendix is given. Quotation is used as follows: *"Micro-savings, not the micro-credit, can develop the fate of the country's under privileged people."*-**Honorable PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh.**
- The basic objectives of the BNF are given as follows:
 - To Improve the well-being of the poor, the ultra-poor, the impoverished, the disadvantaged and the vulnerable communities and/or persons in Bangladesh through funding the Partner Organizations.
 - To finance the POs working for capacity building of the disadvantaged and other backward sections of the population.
 - To appraise the proposals on social development activities submitted to the BNF by the POs for funding.

The key factors behind Bangladesh's growth are more working age people, employment generation, export, infrastructure, control inflation, political stability, work with modern

technology, foreign reserve, SME sector development and importantly increase of participation of women in overall economic development along with empowerment of men and women.

To evaluate sustainability of BNF partners the study will use following core factors: Has own land, Contribution in innovation and production, Fund collection system and regular source of income. In line with constitutional obligations and international commitments to human rights, Bangladesh Government wants to develop the country up to a level for which it has taken Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 which main motto is through socio-economic development with social justice, income inequality and creating purchasing power through economic development.

In the 1st Chapter, "Background Information and Overview" have been described nicely. In the literature review at Chapter 2, Review of literature and research gap is given. Chapter 3, consisted of Objectives, methodology, hypothesis testing and Gantt chart. Chapter 4, analysed the findings while Chapter 5, includes Field visit, Chapter 6, consist of BNF grant Model and also a social networking model. Chapter 7, described Discussion, Conclusions, Implications and Future research directions. Besides references, at appendix two questionnaires of the study were given. Some pictures were given.

1. SURVEY WORK

Out of 1120 BNF partner organizations, 23 NGOs were selected for survey those who regularly got installment up to 7th installment; Two self-administered questionnaires were used in the study to collect the data; Sustainability of BNF grant was also judged by secondary sources of data; Time period of the study is 15th May 2016 to 15th December, 2016. The study has been conducted upon 23 different participants from 23 different NGOs of 12 Districts through one questionnaire. Further from 23 NGOs, we received 526 beneficiaries' responses out of distributed 624 questionnaires through another questionnaires.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To determine the factors associated with sustainability of BNF's Partner Organization for Socio- economic Development of Bangladesh.
- To investigate whether BNF fund helps to sustain individual NGOs.
- To investigate whether BNF fund generates income of the partner organization.
- To find out impact on beneficiaries through utilization of BNF's grant.
- To observe fulfillment of SDG 5(Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) through BNF.
- To find out whether BNF can act as a Financial intermediary between Micro savings and Micro investment.

Three alternative hypothesis were developed:

- **H_{A1}**: BNF fund helps to sustain individual NGOs for socio-economic development of the country.
- **H_{A2}**: BNF fund generates income for partner organizations.
- **H_{A3}**: BNF fund generates income for beneficiary's sustainability.

Comparison between beneficiaries to show the Goal 5 of SDG

Paired Differences	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval		t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
				Lower	Upper			
Female beneficiaries - Male beneficiaries	5.067	4.590	1.185	2.525	7.608	4.275	14	0.001

The study also observed following results:

Variable	Category	Sustainable		Total	Chi Square
		No	Yes		
Do you think that entrepreneurial role of men and women can play diversified economical Factor?	Strongly Disagree	2	7	9	63.197***
	Disagree	18	116	134	
	Neutral	27	6	33	
	Agree	64	179	243	
	Strongly Agree	33	74	107	
Whether this NGO activities leads to innovation and growth of production?	Strongly Disagree	5	3	8	20.24***
	Disagree	5	3	8	
	Neutral	1	8	9	
	Agree	31	139	170	
	Strongly Agree	102	229	331	
Are you currently working in any area of economic development?	No	7	7	14	3.7*
	Yes	137	375	512	

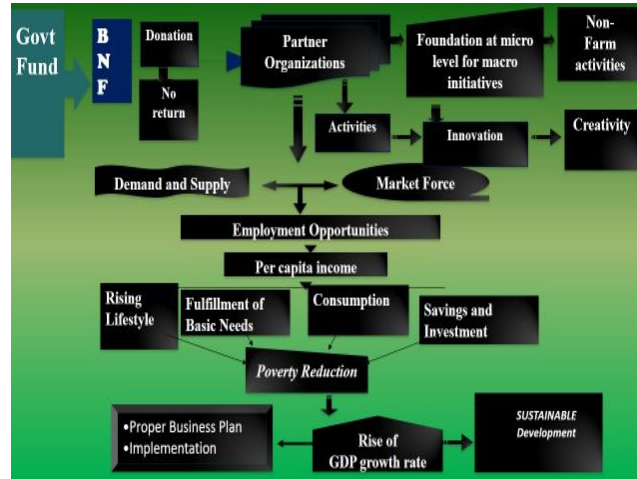
3. OBSERVATIONS: COMMENT FROM NGOS AND BENEFICIARIES

- Though NGOs put emphasis on honesty of fund management of BNF but process of getting installment is lengthy and regarding monitoring system they do not relatively feel comfortable.
- Maximum NGOs thought that if BNF grant will increase then their goodwill to get fund from other NGOs will be easy.
- NGOs think that more involvement of BNF fund importance on digitalization process and environment process.
- Creating awareness of BNF from Head office has been suggested by two NGOs for which they suggested news /media /social networking process by the public relations officer.
- Some NGOs think that BNF should come forward with marketing strategy and setting up business incubator.
- NGOs request for more involvement of implementation of SDGs through BNF by the Govt.
- While visiting different NGOs we found that though one NGO's address is Dhaka but it is working at another district.

- Beneficiaries sometimes misled by Partner Organizations from which organization fund they are getting.

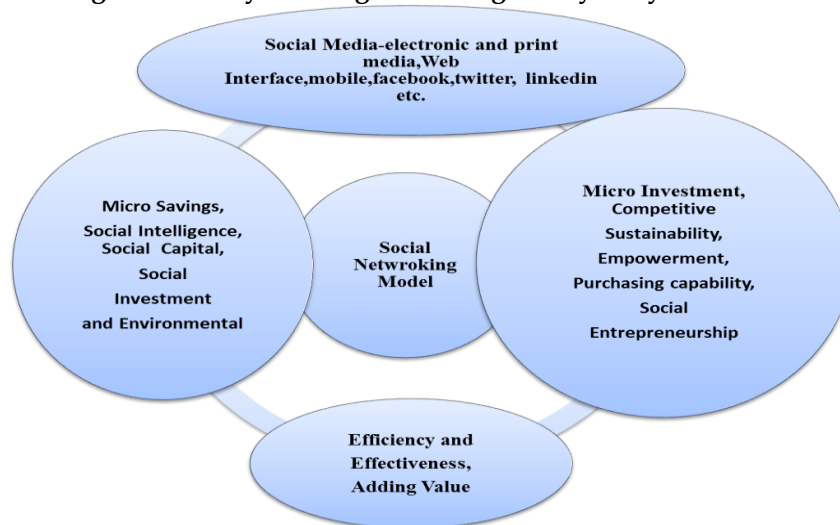
Author has developed following:

(a) BNF Grant Model:



(Source: Developed by the author).

(b) Model Indicating Community Banking –needs regulatory body to control



(Source: Developed by the author).

Key Recommendations were made by the author

- BNF can work as financial intermediaries between micro savings to transform Micro investment;
- BNF can establish business incubator for micro and small entrepreneurs;

- BNF can be involved in the process of implementation of some SDGs with more rigorous manner such as:
 - SDG 1-End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
 - SDG 6- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 - SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
 - SDG 12-Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Unless BNF has its own training institute it can train its manpower through Dhaka School of Economics for which a MOU can be signed.

In the Conclusion part of the book the author suggested that

- There was significant association between NGOs role for innovation and production and giving the right training/education. Through the binary logistic regression, the author observed that 57.2% NGOs who received funds are sustainable without BNF fund.
- Sustainability of BNF's partner organizations will help Bangladesh to attain sustainable development goal (SDG) by 2030 as government of Bangladesh is very keen for socio - economic development.
- BNF grant model is appropriate. NGOs are giving priority to women members by financial and training support to achieve the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG- 5).
- BNF can participate in developing lifestyle of underprivileged people :
- To rehabilitatee refugee of victim of Natural disaster;
- To provide training to Trainers of Autistic personnel and support them;
- To support through creating employment opportunity of Dalit and Indigenous group of people;
- BNF can train their officials in the field of Entrepreneurial economics/development /environment through arranging Post graduate diploma or another Master's degree program in DScE so that capacity could be built up among the officials.
- BNF can also take a project for preparing jute bags for wholesalers of different products which will be least value addition and competitive with plastic bags through creating nano entrepreneurs by giving grant through their POs.

4. FUTURE RESEARCH WORK

A project may be undertaken by the BNF to test the theory developed by Ali(2016) how BNF can work in the process of social networking and Community banking to transform from micro savings to Micro investment for betterment of the empowerment of the people.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Mahboob Ali did a good research work. The book may be awarded for wonderful research work. The language of the book is very lucid except few typing errors. I recommend this book for research feternity and policy makers. Thus, it is a good piece of research work.