Bangladesh and Global Studies

Class Seven



National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

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Bangladesh and Global Studies

Class Seven

Revised for the year 2026

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

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Preface

The importance of formal education is diversified. The prime goal of modern education is not to impart knowledge only but to build a prosperous nation by developing skilled human resources. At the same time, education is the best means of developing a society free from superstitions and adhering to science and facts. To stand as a developed nation in the science and technology-driven world of the 21st century, we need to ensure quality education. A well-planned education is essential for enabling our new generation to face the challenges of the age and to motivate them with the strength of patriotism, values, and ethics. In this context, the government is determined to ensure education as per the demand of the age.

Education is the backbone of a nation and a curriculum provides the essence of formal education. Again, the most important tool for implementing a curriculum is the textbook. The National Curriculum 2012 has been adopted to achieve the goals of the National Education Policy 2010. In light of this, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has been persistently working on developing, printing, and distributing quality textbooks. This organization also reviews and revises the curriculum, textbook, and assessment methods according to needs and realities.

Secondary education is a vital stage in our education system. This textbook is catered to the age, aptitude, and endless inquisitiveness of the students at this level, as well as to achieve the aims and objectives of the curriculum. It is believed that the book written and meticulously edited by experienced and skilled teachers and experts will be conducive to a joyful experience for the students. It is hoped that the book will play a significant role in promoting creative and aesthetic spirits among students along with subject knowledge and skills.

In the Bangladesh and Global Studies for Class VII, sociology, history, civics, economics, and population related issues have been presented in an integrated way. With this, students will get a clear picture of the society, environment, history, tradition, culture, and socio-economic and political conditions of Bangladesh. Along with these, it will be them build their status and identity on a large scale. It is hoped that by practicing the contents, they will make themselves as responsible global citizen. By using the acquired knowledge, they can play an important role in the development of the society and provide solutions to the global problems.

It may be mentioned here that due to the changing situation in 2024 and as per the needs, the textbook has been reviewed and revised for the academic year 2026. It is mentionable here that the last version of the textbook developed according to the curriculum 2012 has been taken as the basis. Meticulous attention has been paid to the textbook to make it more learner-friendly and error-free. However, any suggestions for further improvement of this book will be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the book as writers, editors, reviewers, illustrators and graphic designers.

October, 2025

Professor Robiul Kabir Chowdhury
Chairman (Additional Charge)
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Chapter One

Struggle for Liberation and Mass Movements of Bangladesh

In 1947, two independent states named India and Pakistan were established. Pakistan was divided into two parts, West and East Pakistan, which were located far from each other. East Pakistan was mainly a home to Bengali Muslims and Hindus. Ever since the establishment of the state of Pakistan, Bengalis have been subjected to exploitation, oppression and discrimination. They started struggle and movement against these disparities consistantly. Among them, the Language Movement in 1952, the East Pakistan Provincial Council elections, the anti-military rule moverment, Education moverment were remarkable. In addition, the Six-point movement of 1966, the historic Agartala Conspiracy Case, the cultural rights movement, the Eleven point movernment, the mass uprising in 1969, and the elections in 1970 played a major role in the awakening of Bengali nationalism. Through these movements and events, the Bengali aspiration for self-determination became intensified. The people were inspired by the desire of an independent Bangladesh. As a result, the armed Liberation War started in 1971 with the spontaneous participation of the people. Bangladesh achieved independence through this blood-shedding Liberation War. In this chapter, several important events of Bangladesh's liberation struggle and mass movements are described.

By the end of the lesson, we will be able to-

1. describe the causes and events of the Language Movement;
2. analyse the significance of the Language Movement;
3. describe the achievements of the United Front government;
4. discuss the Six Point Movement;
5. explain the historic Agartala Case;
6. discuss the events and importance of Mass Upsurge of 1969;
7. explain the landslide victory of Bangalees in the general election of 1970;
8. explain the ever present disparity between the East and West Pakistan.
9. describe the events of the 1990 Mass Uprising;
10. describe the events of the July Mass Uprising of 2024.

Lesson 1: The Language Movement



Central Shaheed Minar

After the independence of Pakistan there is confusion about the policies and ideologies of the state. The situation can be called a crisis of solidarity and unity. The main logic for the establishment of Pakistan was that the Hindus and the Muslims were two different nations. Muhammad Ali Jinnah pioneer of the two-nation theory, declared in the National Assembly only after a few days of the independence of Pakistan, "Forget identities like Muslim-Hindu-Buddhist-Christian or Panjabi-Bangalee-Sindhi-Pakhtun, everyone will now be Pakistani only." Although they spoke about united Pakistan, their means were always Islam, the religion, and Urdu, the language. Thus they stood against all other religions, languages and cultures. They even took a stand against the rich heritage of Bangla literature. The then Pakistani government took hostile position against the literary writers like Rabindranath, Michael and Bankim.

The multi-linguist Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah along with many other intellectuals and litterateurs came forward with a view to protecting Bangla language, literature, culture and heritage. Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah in one of his speeches at this period said, "It is obvious that we are Hindus and Muslims, but it is more than a truth that we are Bangalees. It is not an ideology, rather it is a fact. Nature in her own hands has awarded us with such resemblances as Bangalees. We have no scope to hide that with our garlands-tilak-tuft or cap-lungi-beard."

Soon after independence of Pakistan, the issue of its state language came up. The conscious and literate Bangalees of East Bengal raised their voice in favour of Bangla. But the then Pakistan government started conspiracy to make Urdu the state language.

In March 1948, the Father of Pakistan and first governor general Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared- Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan in a meeting with teachers and students at Curzon Hall of Dhaka University. When he gave this declaration, the students shouted out in protest "No, no, no." Educationists, litterateurs, intellectuals and most of the political leaders of this country supported Bangla language in this issue. Dhirendranath Dutta, a member of the national assembly and later a martyr of 1971, proposed Bangla as the state language of Pakistan.

But the prime minister Liakot Ali Khan strongly encountered of this proposal. Sadly, many Bangalee members of Muslim League also stood against the proposition. But it was rational only for Bangla to get the status. The then population of Pakistan was 6 crore 90 lakh of which the Bangalees were 4 crore 40 lakh. Urdu was not even the mother tongue of the rest two and a half crore.

The Pakistani ruling group tried to impose the language of the minority On the majority Bangalees. The Bangalees did not demand Bangla as the only state language, they only wanted the recognition of Bangla as a state language alongside Urdu.

Many initiatives were taken to ensure the right of mother tongue in this country. on 2nd September 1947, a cultural organization named Tamaddun Majlish was formed under the leadership of Professor Abul Kashem of Dhaka University. The first booklet on the language movement "Pakistaner Rastrabasha Bangla Na Urdu"(the state language of Pakistan – Bangla or Urdu) was published by Tamaddun Majlish.The All Party State Language Committee was formed by the combination of politicians and the students of Dhaka University. Besides, among the youths Kazi Golam Mahbub, Shawkat Ali, Gaziul Huq, Mohammad Toaha, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Oli Ahad, Abdul Matin etc. were also active in the language movement.

A strike was called on 11 March 1948 to further press the rightful demand for Bangla. Most of the leaders including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Oli Ahad and Kazi Golam Mahbub were arrested. Many students were wounded due to brutality of the police force. This also could not stop movement for the language. Dhaka University and many other academic institutions went on strike in protest of this incident. The students continued with their movement. They decided to lay a siege at the Pakistan National Assembly during its winter session in 1952 in Dhaka and place a memorandum. The day was set on 21st February.


Shaheed Salam


Shaheed Safiur


Shaheed Jabbar


Shaheed Rafiq


Shaheed Barkat

The Muslim League-led government under the chief minister of East Bengal Nurul Amin decided to resist the students. The provincial authority imposed section 144 in Dhaka University area. It prohibited more than four persons to get together and bring out procession. But the demonstrating students would not obey that. They were ready to take any courageous steps in order to uphold the dignity and right of their mother tongue. In a meeting held the previous night, the students decided to violate section 144 to perform the procession.

The Armed Police pounced on the demonstrating students on that day. First, they charged batons and shot tear gas. That could not control the protesters. Then they opened fire on the procession led by Abdul Matin and Gaziul Huq. Rafik Uddin, Abdul Jabbar and Abul Barkat were spot dead at this, while numerous others were injured. They were admitted into Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Abdus Salam died under treatment. On 22 February, police again fired on a student-crowd rally and killed Shafiur Rahman and Oliullah, a 9-year-old boy. Besides, some anonymous people also died on 21 and 22 February. All of them are language martyrs.

On 23rd February, students of Dhaka Medical College built a mausoleum on the spot where the students were killed on 21st February. This temporary mausoleum was replaced by a larger one in 1963. Today, it is known as the Central Shaheed Minar.

Significance of Language Movement

The Bangalees poured their blood and established the dignity of mother tongue. The East Pakistan legislature decided in favour of Bangla as one of the state languages. In 1956, the first constitution of Pakistan also gave this recognition as it included Bangla as one of the state languages. Thus, the Language Movement met its successful ending. Finally the conquest of the Banglee nation was achieved. Both Bangla and Urdu were declared state languages and this brought victory for the Bangalees as a nation.

The success of the people's lawful movement for their mother tongue strengthened the nationalist spirit among the educated Bangalees. Besides, the pride in Bangla language, Bangla literature and thousand years' heritage, the Bangalees also regained their confidence.

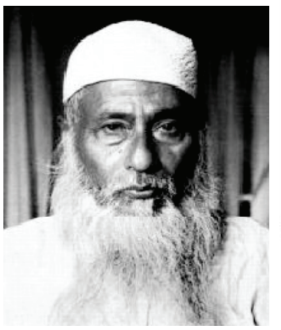
The whole world pays respect to this movement for language by the Bangalees. Our language movement received international recognition in 1999. UNESCO declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day on November 17, 1999. All nations around the world observe this day as a tribute to their respective mother tongues. They also recall the supreme sacrifice of the Banglees endured during the Language Movement.

Activity 1: Describe the language martyrs along with pictures.

Lesson 2: United Front

Conspiracies of Pakistani rulers since its inception led the people of East Bengal to feel aggrieved. People of different opinions built unity on the issue of self protection and development. Muslim League the ruling party, turned into a symbol of conspiracy and repression. With a view to establishing the rights of the Banglaees by defeating the Muslim League, all the major political parties and their leaders formed an alliance ahead of the election of the East Bengal Provincial Assembly on 14 November 1953. This alliance is known as the United Front. The Awami Muslim League, Krishak Shramik Party, Nejam-e-Islami, Gonotantri Party, Pakistan khelafot e Rabbani Party joined the United Front during this election. This front has a significant role in our movement towards liberation.


Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fajlul Huq


Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani


Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi

Formation of the United Front and 21- Point Manifesto

The election of 1954 was not the national assembly election of the two parts of Pakistan. It was only a provincial election of East Bengal.

This election is a milestone in the history of our struggle against the oppression of the West Pakistani rulers. More specifically, it wanted to put up resistance against the Muslim League's actions to undermine Bangalee nation, Bangla language and culture. Sixteen parties including the ruling Muslim League contested the election. But the main contest took place between United Front and Muslim League. The Front was led by three veteran leaders: Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi.

The United Front announced their 21 points in the manifesto to the public. It proposed the recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan, cancellation of Zaminder system, nationalisation of jute industry, introduction of cooperative farming, and compulsory free primary education through mother tongue for implementation. It also included cancellation of all unjust laws violating human rights, construction of Shaheed Minar for the language martyrs, declaration of 21st February as a public holiday and autonomy to East Bengal. The establishment of Bangla Academy for the development of Bangla language and literature was also a point in it.

Result of the Election

The Muslims and other religious followers had separate seats allotted in 1954 election and voting was also held separately. The United Front achieved a landslide victory with 223 seats out of 309 in this election. With only 9 seats, the Muslim League had a disaster. Independent candidates and other parties won the rest of the seats. Newspapers and magazines at home and abroad termed this victory of United Front a "Ballot Revolution".

This election was the first-ever adult franchise of East Bengal. Bengali nationalism worked as an inspiration for Bangalees to cast votes for United Front. The crushing defeat of Muslim League proved that one could not deceive the people using religion for oppression. It also proved that no government could expect to continue ruling while being suppressive and oppressive against language and culture of a populace. This new nationalistic spirit has motivated the Bangalees in the later political events. On the other hand, Muslim League came to be known as an anti-people party. Later, the party split into several factions and withdrew from power in Pakistan.

Reasons behind the Defeat of Muslim League and Victory of United Front

The post independence role of Muslim League angered the Bangalees. Besides, the success of Language Movement inspired them towards a change in the political landscape of the country. The United Front presented diverse opinions and ideologies under one banner which had an effect on the voters. The election manifesto also sufficiently mirrored the hopes and aspirations of the population. Apart from recognition of Bangla language, and provincial autonomy, the manifesto reflected demands of all walks of people of our society. The 21-point programme is also a reason for the success. The United Front presented a unique mixture of old and young leaders and workers. The young workers worked vigorously for the front. Misrule, price-hike, oppression, factionalism, corruption, disparity between the two parts of Pakistan can be termed as some of the reasons for the crushing defeat of Muslim League.

Activity 1: Write the main features of 21-point manifesto of the United Front.

Activity 2: Make separate tables containing the reasons behind the defeat of Muslim League and Victory of United Front

Achievements of Bangalees

The Pakistani ruling class never refrained from hatching conspiracies since independence. Always the same trend continued. Using special powers, they dissolved the United Front government within two months. A civil government was formed under the new constitution. However, President Iskandar Mirza declared martial law on 7 October 1958 on the pretext of deterioration of law and order situation in the country. Later, General Ayub Khan ousted Iskandar Mirza from the presidency and proclaimed himself as the new President. All activities of political parties were banned from 1958 to 1962. Many leaders were sent to jail. The Bangalee students came forward to fill up the political vacuum. Ayub Khan presented a new constitution which shattered the democratic aspirations of Bangalees. The students of East Bengal took to the streets. The movement grew stronger with the declaration of national education policy. This education policy is known as Sharif Commission. The commission recommended Urdu as the sole medium of education in both parts of Pakistan, cancellation of free education and reducing opportunity to higher education.

There was massive protest from the students on this part. The government was ultimately forced to cancel the Sharif Commission's education policy.

Lesson 3: The Six-Point Movement

On 5 February 1966, a conference of the opposition parties was held in Lahore. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proposed the six- point programme there to regain all kinds of rights for the Bangalees of East Pakistan. Mainly these six points were the demand for autonomy of the province. The people of East Pakistan would have the full right to rule themselves while staying united with western part of Pakistan.

The Six-Point Demand

1. A new constitution has to be written according to the spirit of historical Lahore Declaration of 1940 to make Pakistan a true Federal state. The country should be based on parliamentary form of government. The parliament and legislatures should be formed with adult franchise. The legislatures should have the sovereignty.

2. The federal government at the center will have the authority of defence and foreign affairs of the country. All the rest affairs will be dealt by the provincial governments.

3. Two separate but freely convertible currencies for two wings have to be introduced. The responsibility of currency should be in the hands of provincial government. There should be two independent central banks for two wings. If this is not feasible, there should be one currency for both the wings. But that should be done ensuring stoppage of the flight of capital from East to West Pakistan.

4. The power of taxation and revenue collection should be vested on state governments. The federal government would get a fixed share of the collected revenue by the state government.

5. There has to be two separate accounts for the foreign exchange earnings of the two wings. Each state government should have full rights over the earned foreign exchange and should contribute to the federal government equally or in a ratio to be fixed. The constitution should empower the units to establish trade links with foreign countries.

6. East Pakistan should have a separate paramilitary force.

Reaction to Six-Point Demand

General Ayub Khan, the martial law administrator, got afraid of the six-point demand. He realised that such autonomy for East Pakistan would end all their exploitations. They were also worried about independence of the wing some

day. That would reduce the foreign exchange earning of Pakistan because the greatest source of foreign exchange of Pakistan was jute of the East. However, this earning was diverted to civil and military sectors of the West instead of the East Pakistan. Bangalees hardly had any higher position in job sector. This monopoly for the West Pakistanis would end with the autonomy of the East. Therefore, the conspiracies began again. Many cases were filed against Awami Leauge leaders in various districts of the province. Leaders and workers of the Awami League were arrested.

Activity 1:	Explain the beginning of anti-martial law movement.
Activity 2:	Mention some of the reasons behind student movement of 1962.

Lesson 4: Historic Case of Agartala

In 1968, the then Ayub government brought about an allegation of subversive activities against some civil and military personnel of East Pakistan. It was actually aimed at stopping the six-point movement. The Pakistan government filed a case named Agartala Conspiracy Case. The case was filed against 35 people including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as accused. The case stated that the accused had been attempting to create an independent state by separating East Pakistan with Indian support. The ultimate goal of the government was to prove all 35 along with Sheikh Mujib as enemies of Pakistan and award them capital punnishment. Thus they wanted to silence political agitations altogether. In the face of massive protests led by Maulana Bhashani, involving students and the general people, the military government was compelled to withdraw the case and release all prisoners.

11-Point Movement

Students of Dhaka University took to the streets with 11-point alongside the six points. This started mass demonstration . The 11-point demands included introduction of direct adult poll and parliamentary democracy, complete autonomy for East Pakistan, nationalisation of banks, insurances and heavy industries, lessening of tax and revenue for farmers, freeing of all political prisoners and withdrawal of all their cases.

Lesson 5: The Mass Uprising of 1969

In January 1969, Chhatra League, Chhatra Union and Jatiyo Chhatra Federation formed an all party "Chhatra Songram Parishad" with a view to ousting General Ayub Khan. Students started agitation programmes in favour of their 11 points alongside the six points of Awami League. The government started using police atrocity to suppress the agitation. On 20 January 1969, when the police opened

indiscriminate fire on agitating students in Dhaka, Asaduzzaman, a student of the department of History of the Dhaka University, was killed. This killing transformed the agitation into a mass uprising. On 15 February 1969, Sgt Zahurul Huq, an accused of the Agartala case, was shot dead in captivity condition at Kurmitola cantonment of Dhaka. Dr. Shamsuzzoha, a Rajshahi University teacher, was brutally killed by the Pakitan Army personnel on 18th February. At that moment, he was busy pacifying the agitated students. News of these killings lit the fire of discontent among the mass people. Failing to sustain the tides of the movement, the military-led government was compelled to withdraw the Agartala case and free all the accused unconditionally on 22 February 1969. Finding no other way, the frightened General Ayub Khan resigned from the presidency on 25 March. He handed over the presidency to General Yahiya Khan. Thus the students and the people obtained another success in their movement.



Shaheed Asad



Shaheed Sgt. Zahurul Huq



Shaheed Dr. Shamsuzzoha

Lesson 6: General Election of 1970

President Ayub Khan resigned from the presidency handing over power to the army chief Yahiya Khan. Soon after assuming power, Yahiya Khan attempted to pacify Bangalees. He pledged to hold a general election in 1970.

The general election of Pakistan National Assembly was held on 7 December 1970. There were a total of 313 seats in parliament of which 169 were allocated to East Pakistan and the rest to West Pakistan. In the National Assembly, the main competitors were Awami League and Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Awami League won 167 seats in the National Assembly while PPP got 88. Mentionable that Awami League got the majority in East Pakistan, while PPP got the majority in the West. Later, on 17 December of the same year, the provincial election was held. Awami League came out as the majority with 298 of 310 seats of the Provincial Assembly of

East Pakistan. The rest of the seats went to independent candidates and other palitical parties.

Significance of the Election

The results of Election in 1970 increased the pace of our movement towards liberation. The overwhelming victory obtained by Awami League reflected the cherished desire for recognition of our race as a separate identity since 1947. The demand for autonomy was also validated in the mandate.



Bangabandhu in 1970 Election Campaign

Activity 1: Describe the results of 1970 General Election.

Lesson 7 & 8: Disparity between East and West Pakistan

Ever since the birth of Pakistan, it was seen that instead of freedom and liberation, Bengalis received only discriminatory treatment from the West Pakistani rulers. The relation between the two wings was that of an exploiter and the exploited class. The huge disparity and discrimination between the inhabitants of the two wings of pakistan was visible in every strata of life like politics, administration, military, economy education, culture etc. This was deliberate attempt to keep the Bangalees dominated. But the Bangalees demonstrated their discontent about that through various ways. Finally, they created a new country Bangladesh through the War of Liberation.

Political Disparity

Being created with a distance between thousands miles, the Bangalees were politically discriminated again in the newly created Pakistan right from the beginning. Although the Bangalees were majority, Karachi of West Pakistan was selected as the first capital instead of Dhaka. The West Pakistanis were automatic choice in all positions including Governor General, Prime Minister and members of cabinet to different administrative posts.



Poster of discrimination between East Pakistan & West Pakistan

Among the 211 ministers in the central cabinet during the period of 1947-71, only 95 of them were Bangalees. Among the 62 ministers during Ayub regime only 22 were Bangalees. Again these Bangalee ministers were never allotted important portfolios.

The Ayub regime ((1958-69) regularly awarded imprisonment and financial penalties with a view to disqualifying in election by means of martial law orders and ordinances. Rulers showed reluctance in provincial and national elections to obstruct the democratic process. They overthrew the elected government of the United Front in 1954. The rule of East Pakistan remained nonfunctional. In 1958, the path to democracy was blocked by introducing military rule. The government even conspiratorially filed the historic Agartala Case against 35 people including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This was done in order to suppress Bangalee politicians.

Although the Awami League won the election of 1970, they never invited to form the government. This transformed the demand for autonomy under united Pakistan into the demand for complete freedom of Bengal.

Disparity in Administration

Most of the qualified people in a new and developing country generally want to join the government service as profession. If the country puts some kind of obstacle to that or creates some discrimination, that is a violation of fundamental human rights. Constitutions also award this right to choose own profession. Despite having qualification, Bangalees were always deprived of joining appropriate higher administrative posts. The West Pakistanis used to appoint their own people in key positions and in larger number so that they could control Pakistan. Majority in the government service hailed from West Pakistan although Bangalees had larger population. The top level appointments in key ministries like defence and foreign affairs were traditionally out of reach for East Pakistanis. Bangalees constituted only 23% of class 1 job holders. The same discrimination was also ever present in appointments to banks, railway, corporations and other government controlled offices.

Disparity in Defence Forces

Discrimination was ever present phenomena in army, navy and air force too. The three headquarters of Pakistan defence forces and ordnance factory were situated in West Pakistan. Only 5% of the officers in defence forces were Bangalees. Again, only 4% personnel of the army were Bangalees. Though the navy and air force saw apparently higher recruitment the number was still scanty. 60% of total budget of Pakistan was allotted to defence maximum portion of it was expended in West Pakistan. Promotion was discriminatory. That is why, the six points proposed by Awami League considered the defence affairs with due seriousness. Because of the negligent attitude of the central government, the border of the East Pakistan laid unprotected. This insecurity was the best reflected in India-Pakistan war of 1965.

Disparity in Economy

The central government was the supreme authorty of powers in Pakistan. Head offices of all banks including the central bank, insurances, commercial and industrial

enterprises were situated in West Pakistan. Though the lion's share of earned foreign exchange of Pakistan was to the credit of the East Pakistan, she never got more than 21 % of its share. 34% of foreign aid was allotted to East Pakistan. However, Bangalees were forced to carry the burden of foreign loans. Only 31 % of whatever was imported from abroad was allocated to East Pakistan.

It experienced insignificant progress due to this negligence in allocation of resources. On the contrary, West Pakistan was developed by means of our money. Besides, significant amount of resources were smuggled out of East Pakistan to West Pakistan. 2000 million dollars of the export oriented income from the east were transferred to West Pakistan. A symbolic poster of that time is presented above to portray the disparity. A cow is grazing in East Pakistan (Bangladesh at present) while a person from West Pakistan is milking that cow. It means production takes place in East Pakistan, while the profit is enjoyed by West Pakistan.



A symbolic poster of econimic disparity

Cultural Discrimination

There had been deliberate attempts by the Pakistani rulers to suppress Bangla language, literature and culture right from the birth of Pakistan. Since 1947, they tried to impose Urdu as the state language. The Bangalees had to sacrifice some valuable lives to establish the right of our mother tongue in 1952. Though the constitution of 1956 recognised Bangla as the second state language, the conspiracies never came to a stop. They changed the name of East Bengal into East Pakistan at that period. There were attempts to write Bangla in Urdu alphabet. There were endless restrictions over movies, plays, and newspaper and book publication. Broadcasting Rabindra Sangeet on radio and television and observance of Bangla New Year were forbidden. Thus numerous means were used to hurt the cultural strata of Bangalees.

Reactions against Discrimination

The Bangalees are fighters. They protested against injustice during the Mughal and British period. Silence towards the discriminations of the Pakistani rulers was never in their mind. The Language Movement was the initiation of anti-Pakistan agitation. Although for a brief period, the Bangalees had their first taste of power when they formed government defeating Muslim League in 1954. The student agitations against the Sharif Commission began the movement against martial law government of Ayub Khan. Literary conferences and cultural movements in the 60's were the staging ground for anti-Ayub agitations. A cultural renaissance occurred all over the country including

Dhaka and Chittagong during the celebration of Biswa Kabi Rabindranath Tagore's birth centenary in 1961. The cultural movements were further stimulated with the birth of "Chhayanaut" in the same year. This cultural outfit regularly organised various cultural events and celebration of different festivals. This trend towards cultural autonomy continued throughout the 60's. In 1966 the six points' proposal was a plan to get rid of all discriminations and attempt to run their own country. When the government rejected the rightful demand of The Bangalees, they started 6 point and 11-point movements.



Major Ziaur Rahman's Declaration of Independence

The mass uprising forced the government to withdraw historic Agartala case and Ayub Khan to resgin from his presidency.The Awami League won absolute majority in the general election of 1970. This victory was indeed a huge step towards the goal of our independence. But the Pakistani rulers started hatching conspiracies to delay the transfer of power to the Bangalees and playing different games. On 25 March1971, at midnight, the Pakistani military occupation forces launched a sudden attack on the unarmed Bangalees and started genocide. They attacked Rajarbagh Police Line. News of the attack was telecast from police lines Telex message. Bangabandhu was arrested on the same night. On 26th March, Major Ziaur Rahman from Kalurghat radio station of Chattogram declared the independence of Bangladesh. He then declared independence again on 27th March on behalf of Bangabandhu. The war of liberation began. Finally, 24 years of exploitation and discrimination of Pakistanis came to an end with the victory of the people on 16th December 1971. As a result, Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country in the world in exchange of the blood of three million martyrs.

Activity 1: Make a list of areas of discrimination against the then East Pakistan by the West Pakistani rulers.

Activity 2: Paresent a comparative picture of discriminations and disparities in defence and economy that the West Pakistani rulers adopted against East Pakistan.

Activity 3: Identify the areas of political and cultural discrimination between the East and West Pakistan.

Activity 4: Discuss what happened as a result of discrimination by the West Pakistanis.

Lesson 9: Mass Movements and the July Mass Uprising of 2024 in Bangladesh

The people of Bangladesh have repeatedly struggled for equality, human dignity, social justice, and democracy. In their struggle for rights many have sacrificed their lives. The mass uprisings of 1990 and 2024 hold a significant place in the history of protecting democracy and citizens' rights in Bangladesh.

The Mass Uprising of 1990:

In the post-independence Bangladesh, democracy and good governance could not progress uninterruptedly. In 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman introduced a one-party system called Bakshal through the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. Later, President Ziaur Rahman reintroduced multi-party democratic system in 1979. However, in 1982, Chief of Army Staff Hussain Muhammad Ershad ousted the then-elected President Abdus Sattar and imposed military rule in the country. To end Ershad's autocratic rule and establish democracy, students and the general people launched a protest movement. After several years of anti-Ershad protests, the movement gradually turned into a mass uprising. University students played a leading role in this movement. Various political parties, professional organizations, and the general people joined the movement, which soon spread across the country. As the continuous movement intensified, on 27 November 1990, General Ershad declared a state of emergency. On the same day, when Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon was martyred by pro-Ershad gunmen in the Dhaka University area, the movement took a violent turn. Defying the emergency, students and the public took to the streets. Eventually, in the face of intense mass protests, General Ershad was forced to resign on 6 December 1990. This movement became known in history as the "Mass Uprising of 1990." It marked the revival of parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh.

The July Mass Uprising of 2024:

The term "July Mass Uprising" refers to the combined movement of students and the general people in July–August 2024, which included the quota reform protests, non-cooperation movement, and a mass movement to end fascist rule. This uprising stands as one of the most significant milestones in the history Bangladesh. On June 5, 2024, when the High Court issued a verdict reinstating the quota reservation system in government jobs, the students of Dhaka University started a movement. Soon,



Shaheed Abu Sayed

students from all over the country joined the movement. During the movement, on July 16, Abu Sayed, a student of the English department at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur was martyred by police. Furthermore, when five more protesters were martyred during the movement, on the same day, it spread throughout the country. In response, the Hasina government began a brutal crackdown to suppress the student-public uprising. Protesters were even shot at from helicopters. Nearly 1,500 people were killed, including at least 132 children. This indiscriminate killing further intensified public outrage. Across the country, students and general people organized various types of unconventional programs in the social media including "March for Justice" and "Remembering Our Heroes." Protest graffiti appeared on walls, unconventional slogans and the active participation of women gave momentum to the movement. Opposition political parties, teachers, and other professionals also joined the movement. Students and the general people across the country began occupying the streets demanding the resignation of Sheikh Hasina and her government. The coordinators of the Students Against Discrimination movement announced a “March to Dhaka” towards the Gono Bhaban on August 5. In the face of the mass uprising the then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign and fled to India. A people’s government was established in the country. This uprising has earned a unique place in contemporary history.

Activity 1: Discuss in groups how the Mass Uprising of 1990 played a role in re-establishing parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh.
Activity 2: In the July Mass Uprising, what aspect of the then-government was revealed by the killing of over a hundred children? Present this in a poster.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which member of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly proposed Bangla as the state language?

a. Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi
b. Dhirendranath Datta
c. A.K. Fazlul Huq
d. Manoranjan Dhar

2. What were the reasons for the lack of unity in the country even after the creation of Pakistan?

i. Inequitable distribution of resources
ii. Neglect of the demand for autonomy
iii. Disrespect toward the language of the majority population

Which of the following is correct?

a. i
b. i and ii
c. i and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 and 4.

Rimi was attentively watching a television program. In one scene, a leader, with a strong voice, declared support for implementing a political decision at a gathering of students and teachers. The students protested with shouts of "No, no."

3. Which movement does it remind you of when you read about the speech of the leader described in the passage?

a. Language Movement
b. Mass Uprising of 1969
c. Non-Cooperation Movement
d. Liberation War of 1971

4. What were the significant achievements of that movement?

i. Rise of national consciousness
ii. Constitutional recognition of the language
iii. Attainment of the status of a separate nation

Which of the following is correct?

a. i
b. i and ii
c. i and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions

1. Event 1: In country 'A', people of various linguistic backgrounds lived. However, the ruling class chose one language for official state affairs. This led to protests by speakers of other languages. Eventually, the rulers were compelled to recognise all languages.

Event 2: In a certain country, various political parties participated in a national election. Among them, Party A won about 99% of the seats in the National Assembly. In the Provincial Assembly election, Party A won all but 12 seats. However, when the ruling authorities hesitated to hand over power, the country erupted in turmoil.

a. How many seats did the United Front win in the 1954 election?
b. How does the Language Movement strengthen national consciousness?
c. Which historical event in former East Pakistan is referred to in Event 1? Explain.
d. "The election mentioned in Event 2 resembles a pre-independence election in our history, which led us toward independence"—Evaluate this statement.

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain Mohammad Ali Jinnah's Two-Nation Theory.
2. What were the reasons behind the Muslim League's defeat in the 1954 elec tion?
3. Explain the main causes of the July Mass Uprising.

Chapter 2

Culture and Cultural Diversity of Bangladesh

Due to the combination of different ethnic groups, the people of Bengal are diverse in shape and appearance, again it has cultural diversity because different ethnic people with different languages live together. However, rural and agricultural cultural elements are more prominent in this rural and agrarian country. As many rivers and wetlands surround the country like a net, the culture of the people is influenced by rivers and the seasonal variations. To understand the cultural backdrop of the people of this country, it is necessary to know this diverse background.

By the end of the lesson, we will be able to-

1. explain Bangladeshi culture in relation to various languages, religions and communities;
2. describe the diversity present among different communities;
3. describe both rural and urban cultures of Bangladesh;
4. describe the folk culture of Bangladesh and its elements;
5. describe cultures of various ethnic groups of Bangladesh.

Lesson 1: Introduction to Cultural Diversity in Bangladesh

Cultural Diversity According to Religion

Religion plays a very significant role in people's personal and social life. People of different religions have been living in Bangladesh since time immemorial. Therefore, the influence of religion on the social behavior is noticeable.



Muslim Eid Festival

In this country, Islam was mainly preached by Sufis. The Muslim community also got enriched by the people coming from Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Afghanistan during the middle ages. Over the centuries, a huge Muslim community has risen in this country. The Muslims have two religious festivals the Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha. However, in line with the ancient tradition of their agro-based rural ancestors, people of different religions in this country have been living in harmony. People from both communities contributed to the flourishing of different folk songs such as Puthi recitation, Baul, Murshidi songs and most folk arts including Nakshi Katha.



Hindu's Religious Festival

The Hindu community of Bangladesh has been worshiping various gods and goddesses since time immemorial. Major Hindu festivals are Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Sara Swati Puja, Janmashtami, etc. The practice of fine arts like making idols of the deity and decorating, making pots, etc. are common. Again, there is the practice of devotional dance, music, and worship song and aarti. Various ethnic groups living in the hills and mountains belong to Buddhism. They have festivals and traditions of worship also.Their major festivals are Buddhapurnima, Prabarana Purnima, and Water Festival etc.

There are Buddhist and Christian communities in Bangladesh. The Buddhists are the followers of Gautom Buddha. They arrange festive functions during the Buddha Purnima. The Christians also celebrate different religious functions.



Buddhist religious function

The Christmas is a big celebration of the Christians where other communities are invited. The people of ethnic groups of the country have different religious and social festivals. Major festivities of these people include the New Year, spring and wedding ceremonies.

Although there are differences in observance of religious functions and other rites, the basic teaching of all the religions is peace and harmony. The common people of Bangladesh have followed the same spirit from time immemorial.

Cultural Diversity Based on Language

Although most people of Bangladesh speak Bangla language, there are some inhabitants whose mother tongues are not Bangla. For example, Chakma, Marma, Garo, Khasia, Monipuri, Santal, etc. Thus, language also brings about cultural diversity in Bangladesh. Although Bangla is the main language here, over the ages, many other languages have mixed in it. Over the thousand years, people of various nations have come to this land. Their languages have left influence on Bangla. That is why Bangla language contains evidence from many languages including Austric, Dravid, Sanskrit, Pali, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Portuguese and English.

Cultural Diversity According to Ethnicity

Apart from religion and language, ethnicity also contributes to the cultural diversity in Bangladesh. Each religious tribe of the country has different rites and festivals. They also differ in respect of their lifestyle. The communities have differences in food habit, clothing, marriage ceremonies, property inheritance, birth celebrations and funeral rituals. Thus, diverse cultural trends are created by ethnicity.

Diverse Cultural Mixture

As a result of the coexistence of the diverse communities in Bangladesh for many years, the exchange and interaction between different cultural and religious groups, and communities is ever present. As a result, one culture influences another culture. In this way, cultural coexistence and exchange occur between people of different religions and communities. This mixing occurs in language, food, clothing, festivals, rituals, and customs. In this way, the culture that we observe in this country through the coexistence and mixing of different cultures can be called 'Bangladeshi culture' in one word.

Activity 1:	What kind of influence does religion have in our life and culture?
Activity 2:	Explain the influence of language over our culture.
Activity 3:	Describe diverse cultures based on ethnicity in Bangladesh.

Lesson 2 & 3: Rural and Urban Culture of Bangladesh

There are both villages and towns in Bangladesh. Once, Bangladesh used to be called a large village. Agriculture was the main source of our economy. Rural farmers used to harvest crops in their fields. At a stage, there grew up towns but the influence of villages was traceable in these towns. Later on, changes started to take place. Large cities and their inhabitants started to grow. It grew hard to depend only on agriculture. Therefore, people started setting up industries. Production of commodities began. Employment in these industries also led more people to become inhabitants of towns. Towns became the hubs of trade and commerce. Thus life of city people grew different from that of the rural areas. However, they did not get alienated from the culture of each other.

Rural Culture of Bangladesh

What people do, think, and use all contribute to their culture. Thus the rural culture is associated with various professions, behaviour, the creation by the rural people. Some mentionable professionals and artisans of village areas are farmers, fishermen, blacksmiths, potters, boatmen, tailors, village doctors, snakecharmers, exorcists, teachers, businessmen, imams and other clergymen. The culture of all of them is called rural culture.

The rural culture of Bangladesh can be divided into two patterns:

a. socioeconomic life based b. festivals and recreational patterns.

a. Culture Oriented with Socioeconomic Life

Rural life is mainly oriented with agriculture. Some people have their own fields. They run their lives consuming their harvest and selling the surplus in the market. Those who do not own fields, earn their livelihood working in others' fields. Their lives are also agriculture-oriented. Earlier, people used to plough their lands with cows. Irrigation



Farmers cutting paddy

used to be done manually. Nowadays, besides cow and plough there are tractors and power tillers to plough the lands. Shallow machines or deep machines are there to irrigate lands.

Even a few years back, the saying was, Bangalees are fond of fish and rice. Granaries were full with paddy. Laborers used to get their share from it in exchange of their labour. Rivers, streams, bogs and ponds used to abound in fish. A net was enough to catch and meet the daily demand for fish. Now, most of these rivers and streams have filled up. Residues of insecticides and chemical fertilisers from fields are getting mixed with water and killing small fries and spoiling eggs of fishes. Though fish is not very available in the villages, villagers still eat rice, fish, vegetables, and lintel according to their ability. Homemade cakes and pies are prepared for consumption. Many villagers cultivate vegetables and meeting their own need, sell the surplus.

Once, villagers used to wear simple dresses. Males used to work in their fields with lungis only or at best vests or fotuas on top. Their clothes in festivals were pajama-panjabi or shirts.

Females generally used to wear cotton saris. Now, the urban influence has brought certain changes. Adolescent and young males wear pants and shirts besides shirt and *lungi*. Females use frocks and *shalwar-kamiz* besides saris.

In accordance with regional availability of raw materials, villagers earlier used to live in clay huts, or houses made of wood, bamboo with tall grass roofing. Now thatched tin roofing and brick buildings are also available.

Once the villagers used to move on foot for communication. In some areas, there were bullock carts. Boat was the means of communication during the monsoon. Now as roads have been constructed, rickshaws and motor vehicles ply on them. Boats now are modified with engines.

Majority of population in Bangladesh are Muslims. They are followed by the Hindus, Buddhists and Christians. In rural areas, they observe their respective religion and live in harmony.

b. Festivals and Recreation

The village people of our country have been observing different kinds of festivals for ages. People of all religions participate in some of them and some are of a particular religion.

Boisakhi Mela (a fair in April), *Nobanno* (a festival after the late autumn harvest), *Haalkhata* (Opening of new accounts book) of business people, boat race, marriage ceremonies, etc. are observed by all people. Earlier, special arrangements for nightlong *jatra* (opera), *palagaan, kobigaan* (poetry with rhythm), etc. were made in rural areas as means of recreation. Although they are not lost yet, but they are not that frequent now.



Boat race

The Muslims observe Eid-ul Fit'r and Eid-ul-Azha as their main festivals. In addition, Shab-e-Barat, Shab-e-Miraj, Eid-e-Miladunnabi, and Waz Mahfils are also observed with a somewhat festive spirit.

The Hindus celebrate various pujas (worshipping) like Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja, Swaraswati Puja, Dol Purnima, Raash, and Roth Jatra (charioting), etc. There are also many rituals among the Hindus.

The Buddhists celebrate various festivals including Buddha Purnima and Maghi Purnima. Similarly, the Christians observe the Christmas and Easter alongside other customs of their religion.

Urban Culture of Bangladesh

Urban culture of Bangladesh can also be divided into two patterns-

a. socioeconomic life based b. festivals and recreational based.



An Urban view

a. Socioeconomic Life-based

In many respects, urban culture is different from rural culture. Rural people care about their neighbours. They get together in festivals and other programmes. That is why the social bond in villages is strong. Compared to this, social life in towns is limited. There may not be that much communication even among the dwellers of the same building. Urban children grow up in their respective homes or flats. It is very tough to find open field in towns. Children do not get opportunity or place to play or run about.

Urban people remain busy with their profession. Some mentionable professions of towns are service, teaching, medical, business, running industries, etc. At present, garments factories have been set up in big cities. Males and females of villages migrate to the cities taking jobs in these factories. Some of these rural people also become rickshaw pullers, van drivers or pushcart peddlers or coolies and day-laborers. Some

features of rural culture are accompanying them and influencing urban culture. Similarly, urban culture is also affecting rural culture. Although the urban people generally eat rice, fish, meat, vegetables, etc. there are also some distinction. They visit fast food shops; they eat sandwich, burger, etc.

Dress pattern of the urban areas is spectacular. There are many diversity in urban peoples clothing.

b. Festivals and Recreation-based

Like the rural people, the urbanites also observe religious festivals. Apart from them, some festivals get different colour in urban areas. Pohela Boisakh (Bangla New Year) and Pohela Falgun (Opening of Spring) in the city areas has special colour and splendor. Nowadays, even the Ekushe Boi Mela (Book Fair of February) is observed like a festival. Enjoying stage play is also a popular recreation among the urbanites besides watching television and cinema.

Activity 1: Identify the socioeconomic life oriented cultures of rural areas.
Activity 2: Compare between the rural and urban cultures in respect of festivals and recreational patterns.

Lesson 4: Folk Culture of Bangladesh and its Different Elements

The culture that has been followed and maintained by the common people through out the ages is generally known as folk culture. There are many elements of folk culture. Following is a discussion on folk culture of Bangladesh and its elements.

Concept of Folk Culture

By the term folk culture, we understand culture of common people as well as their society. Folk culture has its origin in the mouth of people, in their thoughts and activities. This culture has transcended from generation to generation.

People have been maintaining folk culture from the ancient age. Since it is basically an oral tradition, it has undergone some changes in accordance with time. The culture started from the agrarian rural society. Folk culture is formed based on some customs or rites. Some of them are:

Out of Fear: Fear of ghosts is an old presence in folk life. Although there is no scientific base of ghosts, yet the fear of ghosts is deeply rooted in folk society. The

idea of ghosts is originated from the belief, "Though people die, their soul is immortal". People believe in it and they also believe that many souls roam about the earth even after the death of its mortal body. The wicked souls turn into ghosts and scare people. Thus people imagine different kinds of ghosts like *mamdo bhoot, pechapechi, shakhchunni, petni* etc. Folk culture also imagines some remedial traditions to these ghosts like *jharfuk* (exorcising), *holud pora* (incense of turmeric), *Marich pora* (incense of pepper), etc.

Gaye Holud (Saffron Ceremony): *Gaye Holud* is a mentionable part of marriage rituals in our society. Different kinds of functions are observed centering gaye holud.

To Remedy Diseases: People irrespective of Hindus and Muslims receive pendants, amulets, *panipara* (enchanted water) from *peer fakirs, sadhu-sonnasis* or *moulavi-purohits* in order to get rid of sufferings from diseases.

To be saved from a Bad Omen: The folk belief is that a wrong eye can curse a person. This is generally called ominous eye. To be saved from this, it is customary to draw a black tip (a small circle of kohl) on the side of forehead of a baby.

To invite Rain: Farmers become tensed during the time of a prolonged drought. They grow afraid that the situation will harm their crop. Rural females observe a rite at these times. They carry a kula house to house, singing or reciting odes to rain. The females of these houses pour water on the kula with the hope that rain will pour down from the sky. This practice is rare due to the introduction of modern irrigation system.

Elements of Folk Culture

Subjects that have touch of folk culture are known as elements of folk culture. Usually, these elements are of two kinds: materialistic elements and non-materialistic elements.

a. Materialistic Elements: The elements of folk culture that have shapes can be held or touched belong to this kind. For example:

Folk craft: weaving shell-craft, bell metal-craft, clay-craft, cane-craft, nokshikatha, etc.

Folk Science: Spinning wheel, plough, scythes, etc.

Folk cart: Boat, Palanquin, etc.

Apart from these there are folk games, folk utensils, folk instruments, folk food, folk medicine, folk ornaments, etc.

b. Non-materialistic Elements: Cultural elements that cannot be held or touched are born in the minds of folk people and are maintained and spread orally, they belong to this kind. The main element of this group is literature. This kind of literature is not written down. People have endeared them in their hearts. This kind of literature is also known as folklore. Some examples of this kind are folk tales (*kissa)*, folk songs, proverbs and sayings, lullabies, Khona's sayings, riddles, folk operas, folk treatments, folk games etc. Besides, there are folk festivals and spells belonging to this group.

Activity 1: Find out elements of folk culture in the elements used regularly in your family.
Activity 2: Compare between material and non-material elements in culture.

Lesson 5: Culture of Different Ethnic Groups of Bangladesh

The majority of the people of Bangladesh are Bangalees. But there are about 50 ethnic groups living in this country. Their rites and customs, food habit, dress and festivals reveal their unique cultural identity.

Habitats of Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh

A number of ethnic groups reside here in Bangladesh. Most of them live in Chittagong Hill Tracts. These groups include Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Bawm, Khumi and many others.

Garos and Hajongs live in greater Mymensingh. The Khasias and Monipuris live in Sylhet area. The Santals and Oraons are there in North Bengal, in the districts Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Dinajpur. The Rakhains hail from Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali.

Activity 1: Identify the locations of various ethnic groups on the map of Bangladesh.

Cultures of Ethnic Groups

Each of these ethnic communities has its unique culture. Below is an introduction to these:

Religion: Once different ethnic groups worshiped nature. This devotion and dedication is still there among them to a large extent. They believe, man is subservient to nature, not the vice-versa. That is why, nature and the necessity to preserve it is ever present in all their rituals, customs, social rites and everyday life. But gradually, they came in touch with the colonists and grew habituated with the modem urban state. Religions, beliefs, customs and rituals education and culture of modem civilisation started to have impact upon their lives. Many groups have accepted new religions, e.g. *Chakmas, Marmas, Rakhains* and many others have resorted to Buddhism. The *Garos, Santals, Oraons* and others have accepted Christianity. But all these groups still continue to revere nature in their spirit of life. For example, each clan in an ethnic group

bears a symbol of identity which is usually various elements like trees, animals and birds.

Festivities: A common major feature of festivities among ethnic groups is prevalence of dance and songs. Kirton and dance tribute to Radha-Krishna are the most favourite among the Monipuris. They call it the Gopi Dance. They observe Holi during the spring with due splendour. Oraons new year starts in Falgun month. They observe Fagua to welcome the new year. The Santals observe Sohrai, Baha, and Paska Porob, etc. with festivities. Currently, Boisabi Utsab is celebrated as a unified festival by the ethnic communities of the Chittagong Hill tracts, bringing together the three festivals of the Tripura's Boisuk, the Marma's Sangrai, and the Chakma's Biju. The Marmas and Rakhains celebrate Jal Uthsob (Water festival) with due glamour during the new year. It must be mentioned that most of the festivals of these ethnic people are still related to the harvesting season.

Common Beliefs: Very much like the other ethnic groups of the world, the ethnic groups of our country also hold some collective beliefs among them. For example, a full moon and the dark phase have special significance among the Monipuri and other Buddhist groups. They celebrate the full moon with religious and cultural rites. These groups also conform to various prejudices. For example, the Oraons do not construct houses or do the roofing during the month of Poush. The Garos never sweep the house and throw trash away at night from the same belief. The Barmans tell to abstain from eating radish during the month of Magh. The Khiangs prescribe to warm their hands on fire a bit before touching a neo-natal; otherwise, they believe misfortune may come for the baby.

Marriage: In various ethnic communities, the brides and grooms are permitted to choose each other before marriage, but all the processes are done according to family and social norms. Customarily most of them forbid marriage outside the clan. Besides difference in the rites of marriage, they also bear diverse beliefs and attitudes regarding marriage. Wedding as well as marriage proposals are forbidden in the month of July among the Pangkhoyas in fear of misfortune. Mahatos abstain from marriage in the month of Agrahayon. The Garos and Khashias are maternal societies. As the daughter is entitled to inherit all properties of her mother the husband of daughter has to live compulsorily with his in laws' family.

Dress and Ornaments: Most of the ethnic groups weave their own clothes. The Chakma males mainly wear shirt and lungi. The lower parts of their female dress are known as 'Pinon' which generally has prevalence of red and black colours. They wear a special kind of blouse as the top. The dress of Marma females is known as *'Thami'*, Oraons wear dhoti and shirt. Many minorities adorn themselves with various ornaments. Chakma females use bangles, necklace and earrings. Santal and Oraons females put on ornaments in their hands, neck, ears and fingers of legs. From the ancient time, the

Oraons ornaments are *Kankhuli* (on ear lobes), *Tipar Pata* (on upper portion of ears), *Nolok* (on nose), *Nakchona* (flower motif on nose), *Hashuli* (on neck), etc. Garo females put on traditional costumes like *Dokmanda, Doksarees*, etc. and use ornaments like *Khokanil, Rikmachu, and Penota*, etc. Other minorities also have their special ornaments.

Food and Drink: Many ethnic groups believe some animals as symbol of their clans. This belief is known as Totem. Usually, the ethnic people do not eat their totem. The Monipuri group has traditional ban on meat and narcotic drinks. Their menu during religious festivals also forbids fish. Each ethnic group has its one or more favourite foods. The Garos are fond of 'Nakham' (dried fish). Fondness for home made cakes and pies is so prominent among the Oraons that they observe special programmes on Poush Sonkranti and 13th of Bhadro only to eat cakes and pies. Nappi or Sindol (a special recipe with dried shrimp or small fries) is highly popular among the groups living in Chittagong hilly districts.

Activity 1:	Identify some of the cultural features of the ethnic groups.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. In which season is the Nabanna festival celebrated?

a. Rainy season b. Autumn
c. Late autumn d. Winter

2. There is diversity in the culture of Bangladesh because—

i. Bengalis are a mixed race
ii. The country has diverse seasons
iii. People of different languages live here

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. ii and iii
c. i and iii d. i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 3 and 4

Even though the roof of Mongpru's house was damaged, he couldn't repair it since it was the month of Poush. They believed repairing it would bring misfortune.

3. Which ethnic group's belief is reflected in the passage?

a. Manipuri b. Oraon c. Khiyang d. Garo

4. Important information about this ethnic group includes—

i. They celebrate Fagua

ii. They currently follow Christianity

iii. They do not throw household waste outside at night

Which of the following is correct?

a. i b. i and ii c. i and iii d. i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions

1. Rakin lives in the village of Patarchar. Every year in late autumn, when the new rice is harvested, his family makes traditional cakes and puddings. They share these treats with neighbours. Last year, Rakin also went to watch a traditional play with his father. He enjoys life a lot. On the other hand, his cousin Abir lives in their flat in Comilla. His father is a doctor, and his mother is a school teacher. Both are very busy. Abir stays alone most of the time and eats sandwiches or burgers when he is hungry.

a. What is meant by the material elements of folk culture?

b. What is the culture of Bangladesh? Explain.

c. Which type of urban culture is reflected in the passage? Explain.

d. Do Rakin and Abir enjoy the same kind of entertainment? Give your opinion.

2. Shanta and Antara study at the same university. Shanta belongs to a small ethnic community in the Mymensingh region. Antara visits Shanta's home there and learns that Shanta's father lives at her mother's house. Roads in their area have improved. People from their community are now getting educated, which has brought changes in their food, clothing, etc.

a. What is Gopi dance?

b. What is meant by Baishabi?

c. Which ethnic group does Shanta belong to? Explain.

d. Do you think other ethnic communities, like Shanta's, have experienced lifestyle changes? Give reasons to support your answer.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why is the turmeric ceremony considered part of folk culture?

2. What is a totem? Explain.

3. How is urban culture influencing rural culture?

Chapter Three

Growth of a Child in a Family

Family is the first place for the growth of a child. The socialisation of the child starts from the family. Family has reached to what it is today through evolution over ages. Since the dawn of civilization, the most vital institution of human society is family. It is the smallest unit of the society. This chapter describes nature of family, socialisation of children and other related matters.

By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-

1. explain the concept and nature of family;
2. compare the rural family with the urban family;
3. analyse the role of changing concept of family in the socialisation of a child;
4. describe the roles of different members of family and mutual relationship in the socialisation of a child;
5. qualify to develop social relations by acquiring human and social virtues and act in a disciplined manner.

Lesson 1: Concept and Nature of Family

Family is a social institution. Human race has evolved from the family and with them, the society has also advanced. When some people are bound together by virtue of marriage, relationship, or parental descent and they live together, it is known as family, which constitutes a social institution.

Each member of a family has their own specific responsibilities. Members of a family are tied deep with each other. Affection, love and such kind of emotions are keys to this bond. Family plays its role as the primary institution of society. The most important among them are maintenance of the clan and socialisation.

All societies are constituted with families. But the nature of family is not the same in every society. The nature of family is also different in characteristics. A few major types of family have been given below:

A nuclear family consists of husband, wife and unmarried children. When children become adults they form a single family. Then a new nuclear family starts. In urban Bangladesh, nuclear families are more in number. On the other hand, a number of families based on blood relation together make a joint family. That is, in a joint family, someone's parents, children, grandparents, uncles, and aunts live together. Such kinds of family are available in rural Bangladesh.

Activity 1: Describe different kinds of families according to their characteristic features.

Lesson 2: Rural and Urban Families of Bangladesh

Various kinds of families are found in rural and urban societies in Bangladesh. There is difference between these families in accordance with villages and towns. Still most of our people live in villages and they are mainly dependent on agriculture. In rural society, joint families are more prevalent, since most households depend on agriculture for their livelihood. But recent changes in economic pattern, professional pattern and ceiling system of property, etc. have brought an end to that. In the rural context of Bangladesh, familial authority is predominantly concentrated in the hands of the father. In rural families where the men are abroad, women have limited but notable opportunities to take part in decision-making.

The urban family pattern is chiefly nuclear family due to limited income and housing problem. The control of families among the educated middle and upper classes in town areas does not lie only on with the husbands, wives' opinions are also given due importance in decision making. In cities, the number of single-parent families is increasing rapidly due to the recent rise in divorces, premature deaths of fathers or mothers, and similar issues.

Activity 1: Write the differences between urban and rural families.

Lesson 3: Changing trends of Families and Socialisation of Children

Changing family means families created due to change of nature of family pattern. For example, urban nuclear families are created as a result of evolution of rural joint families. There are many reasons behind this such as huge population, family feud, divorce, employment of women, etc. Besides, roles of family members of both rural and urban families are also changing. A close look at our own families will confirm this. Once everybody including father-mother, uncle-aunt, grandfather, grandmother, and cousins used to live jointly. Now the changed nature of the towns has reached in the villages too. In a nuclear or small family, members do not think about other's interests rather they seek their own interests and happiness. Nuclear or small families never think about anything but their own happiness, ease and comfort. This is affecting socialisation of children.

The way children grow in a society is called their socialisation. A child takes birth and grows within a family. Whatever they learns from their parents and other members of the family during their growth is considered as their socialisation. It is a process that continues from cradle to the grave. The first influence in socialisation of children is from family. The family plays a vital role in their primary education. Children first learn language and numeracy from their parents. That is the reason family is called an important educational unit. In combined families, children used to be involved in Family profession from their early years. Therefore, family used to be the center for education of children. But nowadays, this role of family has been taken over by other institutions. Children are being educated in general schools, kindergartens, technical schools, madrashas etc. This tells that family does not any more have the role it used to play previously. The role of child education is now vested in the educational institutions.

Family's role in giving religious education to the children is also important. The religious minded people of Bangladesh are well aware about providing religious education to children. Usually, it takes place within the family. The parents, grandparents or other family members used to teach religious values and morality to the children. With the changing times the religious role of the family has weakened. In recent times, children are being taught religious lessons from some unverified sources of YouTube or Facebook. It may hinder the formation of genuine religious values in children which make humane, moral, and benevolent qualities in human life.

So far, rearing children was regarded a unique responsibility of family. But society of present Bangladesh sees rise of various institutions in this respect. They take the responsibility of rearing children with care. They are more available in urban areas. For example, children of working parents are brought up in Child Home, Day Care Centers or some other means.

The relationship between children and members of a joint family is developed on the basis of inter-personal communication and behavior. These inter-personal exchanges act as means of social education for children as the elders used to give them ideas of cooperation, patience, sympathy, sense of security, equal partnership, etc. through their actions. These used to build up the spirit of children. However, due to the decline of joint families, such socialization is almost non-existent now. Wealth and property are distributed and managed through family inheritance. The settling of the equitable distribution of property between male and female members is still determined by the family's religious rules.

Many responsibilities of family have been taken over by various social and government organizations. Responsibilities like education, recreation, economic production, etc. are not that much carried out by families anymore. Recreational activities like visiting parks, zoos, museums, etc. are not done by families. However, birthday celebrations, marriage ceremonies, visiting relatives, watching television, etc. are still done at family level.

Activity 1:	Discuss the changes in the socialisation process of children.

Lesson 4: Role of Family Members and Impact of their Mutual Relationships in Socialisation of Children

Family is vital in socialisation. The good and bad habits of children are results of socialisation in family. Family gives rise to values like social values, citizen conscience, cooperation, fraternity, self-sacrifice and love in a child. Children learn selfishness and self-centeredness from the family. We will learn about roles of family members in socialisation of children and impact of mutual relations in this lesson.

A relationship is built up through the attitude and behavior of family members toward a child. This leaves a mark on the mind of children. The nearest human beings to a child are their parents. Again, among the parents, mother is privileged to be the nearer. As a result, socialisation of a child begins in the hands of the mother. A mother builds up the food habit of a child. The child starts to learn language through their mother. Whatever food the mother provides for the child and makes them eat will determine the food habit and attitude of that child. Mother lulls the child to sleep. Mother teaches the child letters, words, rhymes, etc. All of these affect the child's mind. Their behavior and attitude later will reflect all these.

When parents earn to maintain a nuclear or joint family, they make some family rules and norms. This behavior and values affects the child's socialisation. You may follow the roles your parents and siblings play in your family. You will find that your elder brothers and sisters give you support, sympathy, love and care in various activities. You also learn sense of discipline, rules and regulations, etc. from them. Your behavior in life in future will reflect these. Attitudes and behaviours of grandparents, uncles-aunts

cousins and relatives influence the behavioral pattern of child. These altogether create and strengthen the perception about self in a child. Social scientists believe that children's perception of themselves and the world develops from their family members which later contributes to the development of their identity.

Proper socialisation of a child needs good family environment. The first and foremost need for a good family environment is a good relationship between father and mother. Besides, some other aspects such as avoidance of quarrels and tension in the family, having and showing mutual respect for each other, and sound relationship between the brothers and sisters are some influences on the child's mind. As a result, the role of parents and others becomes important in the socialization of the children.

Urban children of working parents have to depend on home-workers and relatives often. Father and mother of such a family are unable to give necessary time for the children in taking their food, learning lessons, playing or other kinds of recreation. As a consequence, the role of other people become important along with parents in children's socialisation.

Family disorder, domestic abuse, women abuse, child abuse, parental separation, divorce, living in different homes, and death of either parent or both parents create obstacles in the socialization of the child. In these families, the socialization of the child is hindered. The feelings of loneliness, fear, depression, trauma, revenge, self-centered attitude, and various mental problems may be visible in the behavior of these children. So, family members role is vital in socialisation of children. In many cases, proper socialisation of a child is also hindered due to too much authoritarian attitude or too much affectionate attitude of the parents. Therefore, coordination of behavior of parents and other family members should be done to build up the behavior and attitude of children. This kind of coordination can ensure a proper control over a child's growth of behavioral pattern. As a result, the child will grow up as a self-conscious personality.

Activity 1: Coordination of roles of different family members is the best of means to the proper socialisation of children- Show logic in group discussion.

EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the first cradle of a child's development?

a. Family b. Religious institution
c. Educational institution d. Playmates

2. A joint family helps children to—

i. Develop the ability to accept others' opinions
ii. Build religious values

iii. Increase the tendency to help others

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. ii and iii c. i and iii d. i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 3 and 4

Faruk and Hasib are in the same class. Hasib often goes out with his parents and is always cheerful. On the other hand, Faruk does not mingle with anyone and looks gloomy in class. His parents are separated, and he lives with his mother.

3. What is the reason for the behavioural difference between Faruk and Hasib?

a. Relationship among family members

b. Educational environment

c. Behaviour of classmates

d. Relationship between child and family

4. What kind of behaviour might Faruk show in the future?

a. Avoid friends b. Attend school regularly

c. Help classmates. d. Be empathetic to others

Creative Questions

1.Mehrima and Mubasshira are friends. Mubasshira lives with her parents and younger brother. When she visits Mehrima's house, she sees a large dining table where uncles, aunts, and grandparents eat together. After the meal, they listen to stories from grandmother. Mubasshira enjoys the experience.

a. What is socialisation?

b. How does socialisation initially start through the mother?

c. Explain the type of family Mubasshira belongs to.

d. Do you think Mehrima and Mubasshira are being socialised in the same way? Support your answer.

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain the concept of a changing family.
2. Why are today's children not developing a sense of generosity?
3. How is a child's socialisation being hindered?

Chapter Four

Economy of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is an agricultural country. Most of the people of this country live in the villages and the main source of their livelihood is agriculture. But with urbanisation, the significance of industry and commerce is gradually increasing. None of the sectors like agriculture, industry and commerce is less important in a modem country. To develop our country we need to make our economy strong and dynamic in all respects. Therefore, we have to develop all sectors including agriculture, industry, trade and commerce. There is no alternative to this in the modem competitive world.

By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-

1. describe informal economic activities;
2. explain expansion of informal economic activities of rural areas;
3. illustrate informal economic activities of urban areas;
4. explain the role of informal economic activities in national economy;
5. describe types of industries of Bangladesh;
6. evaluate contribution of different industries;
7. understand the future of industries in the economy of Bangladesh;
8. describe major products of import and export of Bangladesh;
9. realise the roles of import and export;
10. explain processing industries;
11. describe the agro product processing of Bangladesh;
12. explain the problems of agro product processing and their solutions.

Lesson 1: Informal Economic Activities of Towns and Villages of Bangladesh

Any work, service or transaction that has economic value is called economic activity. Economic activities of a country can be divided into two types- formal and informal. Activities which do not have fixed wages, are difficult to bring under taxation and are not regulated by the government are generally called informal economic activities. Some examples of such activities are work in one's own land, work in shops and business institutions, household works, and the works of hawkers and day labourers. In underdeveloped or developing countries, most of the economic activities belong to this category. As they have been happening from the ancient period, these activities are also called the traditional sector of economy.

Informal Economic Activities of Rural Areas

Like any other developing country, informal economic activities constitute the main role of the economy of Bangladesh. A rural farmer and his family work in their field from dawn to dusk. They do not get or take wages as they work in their own field. But their work does not reap benefits for themselves or their family only; instead it benefits their society and state as well. The larger portion of the country's food demand is met by their production. Thus, our farmers are contributing to the national economy. The informal economic activities also include works of blacksmiths and potters, cottage industries, shops and other small business enterprises too. These activities play a significant role in keeping our economy dynamic. Although in recent times, use of modem technology is noticed in agriculture and other sectors of rural economy, the traditional or informal sector is still playing its main role. From the perspective of national economy, this sector is also playing an important role.



Agricultural activity



Hawker



Household work

Informal Economic Activities of Towns

The urban population of Bangladesh is constituted with all classes of people, i.e. high, middle and low income as well as destitute ones. Many of the destitute are regarded as floating or temporary, meaning they do not have their own or permanent dwelling. They live in the slums, parks, footpaths and railway stations. The high and middle income people usually engage in formal economic activities like public or private jobs, trade and commerce. The lower income and destitute earn their livelihood through running or working small shops, hawking goods on the streets, selling goods in localities, pulling rickshaws or pushcarts, porters, technicians, helpers and house workers, etc. These are regarded as informal economic activities of towns.

Contribution of Informal Economic Activities to Economy

Most of the people living in villages of Bangladesh harvest paddy, jute, vegetables and fruits, catch fish, rear cows, goats, ducks and poultry, maintain cottage industry, and sell products in the market. Thus they earn their livelihood and play a major role in running the country's economy. In the same way, many lower and middle or even high income people of cities and towns are also engaged in informal economic activities. Thus from the beginning, the economy of Bangladesh is largely dependent on informal economic activities. Even though the importance of formal economic activities is on the increase, the traditional sector did not lose its importance.

Activity 1: Describe one informal economic activity of your region. Discuss how it contributes to the national economy.

Lesson 2: Industry of Bangladesh

Although Bangladesh is an agricultural country, some industries or mills and factories started to flourish here since the British reign. Jute, cotton and textile industries were the major among them. Adamji Jute Mills, the largest of jute mills of the world, was established in Narayanganj during the Pakistan period. During this period, this wing known as East Pakistan fell prey to discriminatory policies of West Pakistani rulers. After we became independent in 1971, new industries and mills and factories were being established in different parts of the country. Once jute was our largest industrial sector, other industries like tea, sugar, cement, fertiliser, leather, rail and engineering industries were there. Presently, Bangladesh has achieved huge success with readymade garment and pharmaceutical industries. Industries can be divided into various kinds relating to their capital, size, production and number of workers, etc.

Large Industries

According to the National Industrial Policy 2016, in the manufacturing sector, large industries refer to those industrial establishments whose value of fixed assets—excluding land and factory buildings—exceeds 50 crore taka, or which employ

more than 300 workers, excluding ready-made garments and labor-intensive industries. Examples of large industries include jute, textiles, sugar, cement, fertilizer, railways, engineering, electricity, etc. These industrial establishments require a significant amount of capital, skilled labor and artisans, engineers, specialists, and experienced managers. The production capacity of such industries is also very high. In some cases, a portion of the produced goods is exported after meeting domestic demand. Large industries are of immense importance to the national economy. These industries serve as the backbone of the country's economic structure



Large Industry Factory

Medium Industries

Medium industries refer to those industrial establishments whose value of fixed assets—excluding land and factory buildings—is more than 15 crore taka and up to 50 crore taka, or where 121 to 300 workers are employed. Examples include light engineering, silk, ceramics, and cold storage facilities. These types of industries play an important role in the national economy by meeting domestic demand and providing employment to a large number of people.

Small Industries

Small industries refer to those industrial establishments whose value of fixed assets—but excluding land and factory buildings—ranges from 75 lakh to 15 crore taka , or where 31 to 120 workers are employed. Examples include rice mills, small footwear or plastic factories, and food processing industries.

Cottage Industries

Usually, the owners or their family members take care of production and sales of the products in this kind of industry. Handloom industries, making of earthenwares, bamboo, cane and wood works, sari or sweet packets, incense sticks, etc. of our country are some of the examples of such industries. One advantage of this kind of industry is that it creates opportunity of self reliance and employs a good number of people.



Cottage Industry

This industry is highly important in the national economy of Bangladesh which has a large population and is industrially backward.

Contribution of Industry to the Economy of Bangladesh

With the expansion of cities and improvement in people's living standards, the role of industry is gradually becoming more significant in Bangladesh. Essential items such as food, clothing, and medicine—not to mention fuel, electricity, and construction materials—are now indispensable in our lives. All of these come from various industries. After agriculture, a large portion of the population depends on the industrial sector for their livelihood. Without it, the unemployment rate in the country would have risen even further. In recent times, the growth of the ready-made garment industry in Bangladesh has created employment opportunities for millions of people, especially women. This is also contributing to the country's social progress. Employment opportunities in the industrial sector are encouraging people to become more interested in education and technology. The use of modern information technology is motivating us to think beyond national boundaries and embrace a global identity. Therefore, ensuring a safe working environment and protecting workers' rights in various industries is essential for the development of these sectors. At the same time, it is crucial for the government to monitor and control industrial pollution; otherwise, the true benefits of industrialization will not be achieved.

Industrial Potential in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a country with great industrial potential. It has a vast human resource. Here, one can easily find ample supply of skilled and unskilled labourers at cheap wages. This interests the foreign entrepreneurs to invest and establish factories here. The readymade garment factories are one such example. Many foreign companies singularly or jointly with our local entrepreneurs have set up garments factories here. Foreigners are showing interest to invest in other sectors too. The government has established some export processing zones in order to attract foreign investment. Besides, the government is also working to increase the port and transportation facilities, upgrade gas and electricity supply systems, starting one-stop service as further incentives for foreign investors. These steps are creating possibilities of further expansion of various industries in future. Recently, the expatriate Bangladeshis are also showing their interest to invest in our industrial sector. These are brightening up the possibility of Bangladesh to become an industrially rich, middle-income country. It will not only lessen poverty and unemployment of the country but also raise the financial status of our people and strengthen our national economy.

Activity 1:	Mention one of the names of small, medium, large or cottage industries of the country and discuss its importance in our national economy.
Activity 2:	Discuss in brief the future prospects of industry in Bangladesh

Lesson 3: Exports and Imports of Bangladesh

Generally, no country can produce all the things of its demands. It has to import some of the products from other countries. Similarly, it exports some of its produces, meeting the local demands. Usually, a country exports products that are produced in abundance. The foreign exchange earned through these exports serves to pay for the import of commodities from other countries as well as bear some developmental expenses. Importing foreign products and exporting products to other countries is called international trade. International trade is a very important part of a country's economy. The modem world order has facilitated international trade more. Now, no country considers producing every commodity of its demand on its own. Instead the consideration goes for easy availability and profitability of production or import. It is done under a certain plan and a set of principles govern that plan. Export-import or international trade is carried out under mutual contracts among different countries. There are some international and regional organisations dedicated to monitor, control and fix tariffs. World Trade Organization (WTO), South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), etc. are some of these. The country which has more exports than its imports in its international trade is called a developed country.

Import Products of Bangladesh

The products that Bangladesh imports from different countries on a regular basis are rice, wheat, pulses, oil seeds, cotton, crude petroleum and petroleum products, edible oil, fertiliser, agro and industrial machinery, yarn, etc. The countries they are imported from include China, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, United States of America, United Kingdom, France and Germany. Imports are conducted both in public and private sectors. According to the Bangladesh Economic Report, the country imported commodities and products worth 34,084 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2012-13. In 2013-14, the total amounted to 40,732 million US dollars. In 2014-15, the total amount of import was 40,704 million US dollars; in 2015-16, the amount was 42,921 million US dollars; in 2016-17, the amount was 47,005 million US dollars; and in 2018-19 fiscal year, the amount was 56,060 million US dollars. In the fiscal year 2023-2024, Bangladesh imported products for 66,725 million dollars. Maximum products were imported from China.

Export Products of Bangladesh

Once upon a time, jute and jute products were our main export goods. Bangladesh used to earn great amount of foreign currency, exporting jute, gunny bag, carpet, etc. For a certain time, these products lost their demand in the international market. Two things have contributed to the reawakening of the demand in jute products- invention of

'genome sequence' or life history of jute by Bangladeshi scientists and global awareness about environment. This increases the probability of Bangladesh being benefitted again with export. Other than raw jute and jute products, Bangladesh also exports readymade garments, frozen shrimp, medicines, tea, leather goods, chemicals, etc. These products and commodities are chiefly exported to USA, Germany, UK, France, Belgium, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, and Japan, etc. According to Bangladesh Economic Report, the country exported commodities and products worth 27,027 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2012-13; in 2015-16, the total income amounted to 34,257 million US dollars; in 2016-17, the export income was 34,656 million US dollars; and in 2018- 19 fiscal year, the export income was 40,540 million US dollars. In the fiscal year 2023-2024, the total earnings from export is 44,475 million USD. The readymade garments were on the top of the list. USA is the largest buyer of Bangladeshi products.

Importance of Export and Import

Bangladesh mainly imports those products from foreign countries that serve the public demand of food and other necessities. Any failure to import these commodities in time will result in higher demand and price hike in the market. That would incite social and political unrest. It imports some of them at advantageous price from some other countries under a trade plan. Bangladesh is no exception. Bangladesh has some regular export products as well. They earn foreign currency for the country. This foreign exchange doesn't only keep the economy dynamic, it is also utilised to the expansion of industries and employment opportunities. We can become self-reliant if we can decrease imports and simultaneously increase our exports. The more we can engage the population to productive sector, the more we will be economically self-sufficient. We have to give due importance to international trade, specifically, export activities, if we want to become a middle-income country.

Activity 1:	Make a list of export and import goods of Bangladesh.
Activity 2:	Write some sentences about the importance of export and import.

Lesson 4: Agro Product Processing Industries

a. Processing Industries:

Transforming a product into another product and preserving it by using knowledge and technology is called Processing. The companies that do this work are known as processing industries. Following other countries of the world, our country also has started to set up industries that transform agro-products into some other commodities. This lets people to meet their annual demands by multi-dimensional use of agro products. Baby food, milk made products, processed fish, meat, sugarcane and vegetables, etc.

help us to meet the demand of people for food. It must be remembered that if we can ensure safe food, it will increase our possibilities. Besides, this kind of industries should also be free from pollution.

b. Agro Product Processing Industries in Bangladesh

In the past, people in our country used to process some food products in traditional ways. For example, parched rice, stuffed rice, dried fish, cakes and pies, rice, curd, whey, etc. Technological advancement of these days has increased the food production as well as improved their processing in a healthier way.

Problems of Traditional System of Processing

- Product cannot be processed as per demand.
- Problems of storage
- No way to ensure that the food is healthy.

Advantages of Modern System

The establishment of agro-product processing industries has created an opportunity for an agricultural country like Bangladesh to make the most use of our total produce. Multi-dimensional use of jute has facilitated people with jutex, jute bag and jute crafts. This helps the farmers get more profit, the entrepreneur more profit and the workers more employment. The users also get better commodities. Partex processing from jute sticks is also earning the country benefit of a new industry. Similarly, nowadays, other industries processing agro-produces like rice, wheat, corn, tomato, potato, milk, fish, meat, sugarcane, hide, cotton, etc. are being set up. Cold storages are preserving tomatoes and people can enjoy tomato throughout the year. Fish nowadays is not only dried, it is also canned or tinned for preserving and later use. Seasonal fruits are preserved and various juicy food is invented with them so that people can meet their nutrition demand throughout the year. Mustard and other oil seeds are processed to make different kinds of oil. Milk processing gives us sweetmeats, curd, butter, cheese and baby food for a longer time. Bangladesh is an agricultural country. Processing the crops, animals, fruits, flowers and seeds our country can easily reap the benefits and get enriched. Nowadays, there is worldwide attempt to process agro-products into medicines and other products closely associated with human beings. Our country can make sufficient advancement from its use. But we should not harm the natural environment using excessive fertilizer, pesticides and electricity. Any kind of development should be sustainable.

Problems in Processing Industries

- Problem of capital
- Problem of technological knowledge and research
- Problem of skilled entrepreneurs and labourers
- Problematic transportation and communication system

- Lack of skilled managers
- Lack of storage facility for agro-produces.

Ways to Overcome the Problems

- Enacting a specific plan and a set of principles for processing of agro-produces.
- Patronising higher education and research for multi-dimensional inventions.
- Creating opportunities for skilled entrepreneurs and labourers.
- Utilising the experience and expertise of developed world.
- Facilitating marketing of the products and venturing export.
- Creating mass-awareness about multi-dimensional use of agro-products and their benefits on human body.

Activity 1: Identify the agro-product procuring industries. Activity 2: Identify the problems in agro-product processing industries.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which country is the largest buyer of Bangladesh's manufactured products, including garments?

a. France
b. Germany
c. United States
d. United Kingdom

2. Bangladesh is a country with industrial potential because—

i. Labour is available at low cost
ii. Government policies are supportive of investment
iii. The quality of products is better than in other countries

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii
b. i and iii
c. ii and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

3. Fruit juice is a—

a. Exportable food
b. Baby food
c. Safe food
d. Processed food

4. The main problems of the processing industry are—

i. Limited facilities to preserve agricultural products

ii. Low export demand

iii. Capital shortage

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii

c. ii and iii d. i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 5 and 6

Mr. Rakib is an industrialist. He has set up a garment factory in Dhaka with an investment of 20 crore taka. Approximately 200 female workers are employed at his factory.

5. What type of industry is Mr. Rakib's factory?

a. Cottage industry b. Small industry

c. Medium industry d. Large industry

6. In which area does Mr. Rakib's factory primarily impact the national economy?

a. Proper use of local raw materials b. Achieving self-reliance

c. Employment generation d. Capital growth

Creative Questions

1. Tamiz Uddin cultivates various crops like rice, wheat, mustard, and corn on his own land with his three sons. His wife and daughters-in-law help with harvesting. In his free time, he runs a grocery shop. His younger brother, Ramiz Uddin, works in a garment factory, and his wife is a government primary school teacher.

a. What is the full form of SAFTA?

b. What is meant by medium industry? Explain.

c. What type of economic activity are Ramiz Uddin and his wife involved in? Explain.

d. Does Tamiz Uddin's family contribute to the national economy? Evaluate.

2. Jarina Begum, a poor widow in a village, once bought bamboo and cane from the market. With her two daughters, she crafted items such as trays, baskets, and vases. Her son Tamjid sold them at the market. Later, with advice from his father's friend, Tamjid took a loan from a bank. They established a factory to make cakes, biscuits, and other food products, earning a substantial profit.

a. What is the purpose of establishing export processing zones?

b. What is meant by informal economic activity? Explain.

c. Which industry category do Jarina Begum's products fall into? Explain.

d. Evaluate Tamjid's contribution to the economic development of Bangladesh.

Short Answer Questions

1. How does poultry farming by rural women contribute to the national economy?

2. What is a cottage industry? Explain.

3. What is meant by the processing industry? Explain.

Chapter Five

Bangladesh and Citizens of Bangladesh

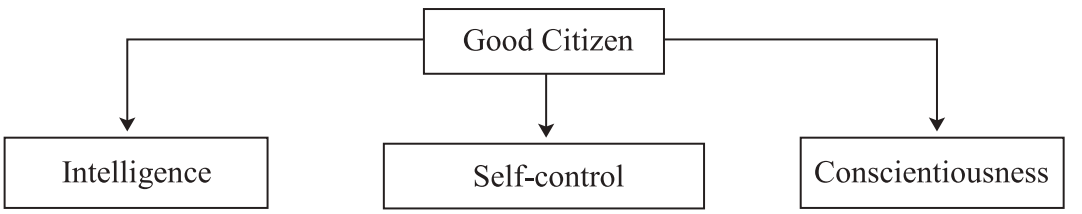
Development of a nation largely depends on the qualification and skills of its citizen. A good citizenry is a resource for a country. Anything but that will hamper national development. A nation's advancement or failure depends on the honesty, competence, and fulfilment of duties and responsibilities by its citizens. That is why every citizen has to be a good citizen. This chapter focuses on necessary qualities of a citizen, obstacles to them and their importance.

By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-

1. describe characteistics of a good citizen;
2. explain the obstacles on the way to become a good citizen in Bangladesh and their remedies;
3. explain the importance of good citizenry in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh;
4. describe ways to obtain rights of citizen and carrying out related responsibilities.

Lesson 1: Characteistics of a Good Citizen

A country needs good citizen for its proper development. Nobody is a good citizen by birth, everyone achieves it. There are some attributes of a good citizen which a citizen grows up to become a good citizen. According to political scientists, a citizen has to acquire three attributes to become a good citizen. Following is a chart of these attributes:



Intelligence: An intelligent citizen is a resource for any nation. To become intelligent, one needs to become educated and acquire knowledge. Therefore,the citizen needs to be rightly educated with necessary education. An intelligent citizenry can play its role in important activities of a country such as electing suitable representative, administer the country with skill, and contribute to the development and success of the country. Parents should educate their children properly. The government is responsible to ensure the arrangements for proper education.

Self-control: A good citizen must have self-control. This attribute keeps them away from dishonest activities (e.g.: corruption, nepotism, selfishness, partiality, etc.). It is an inspiration to obey the rules and work for the society. So, it's not possible to become a good citizen without this attribute. A good citizen always abides by the rules, respects the opinions of others and considers the good of the country as their own. They abstain from injustice and partisanship and work for the betterment of the country. These help building a better state.

Conscientiousness: This characteristic means the sense of good and bad, and the sense of duty. A citizen with intelligence and self-control has to realise the merit of anything before doing that. If it is wrong, they must avoid it and if it is right, they will do it. Again, they have to employ their own conscience to get the correct decision when they are required to solve some social or national problem. Conscience is the ever-awake spirit of a good citizen. Therefore, a good citizen will bear this attribute and inspire others to bear it.

Apart from the above, a good citizen is also required to have some other attributes. They will be aware of their country and its administrative system, will have the mentality to protest any injustice, abide by laws, and will be confident and dedicated. They will always put the country ahead of everything.

So far we have learned the attributes of a good citizen who is a resource of a country. A tree cannot grow without proper fertiliser, soil and care. Similarly, a country cannot run properly when its citizens don't have these qualities. So, the future citizens must attain all these qualities. Then only, we can establish our favourite motherland as a developed and prosperous country in the world.

Activity 1: Write down the attributes of a good citizen and discuss them in groups in the classroom.

Lesson 2.1: Barriers to Being a Good Citizen in Bangladesh

Becoming a good citizen is not that easy for the qualities of a good citizen are influenced by family, society as well as state. Our society has different socio-economic and political problems. These problems influence the growth of a good citizen as obstacles. Below is a discussion on some of these barriers:

Indifference: A general disinterestedness on the part of a populace is called indifference. It is an outcome of various reasons like illiteracy, lack of proper education, idleness, poverty and negation to responsibility. It is commonly noticed in our citizens. A citizen grows uninterested to participate in social and political activities of the state due to this. Even, they do not abide by the duties and responsibilities of a citizen.

Selfishness: This is a great impediment on the way to becoming a good citizen. Under its influence, an individual prefers his own interest to the interest of the country. It easily leads the citizen to become involved in corruption, nepotism and partiality. That is why they put personal and party consideration above qualification when casting their votes. They appoint their own relatives in jobs avoiding the qualified candidates. They involve in nepotism and financial irregularities. All these are barriers to becoming good citizen. These types of activities harm the interest of the nation.

Partisanship: Democracy cannot be effective without political parties. As a result, democratic system generally affects a kind of partisanship. In most cases, this kind of attitude creates problem in becoming a good citizen. Partisan attitude forces him or her to criticise the good deeds of opponents and forsake them. This attitude is an impediment to becoming a good citizen.

Ignorance and Illiteracy: Ignorant and illiterate people do not know as well as understand many things. About one-fifth of our population is illiterate. Again, most of the literate have the minimum education. In consequence, they fail to take proper decision whenever that is necessary. They cannot fulfill the demands of the state assigned to them. Therefore, if we are interested to grow a good citizenry in Bangladesh, we have to make them educated with proper education at first.

Religious fanaticism: The growth of good citizenship is obstructed by fanaticism. Such attitude forces an individual to hate other religions. This leads to discrimination and conflicts. This spoils the national integrity, development and advancement.

Pompousness: This is a negative character in a human being. Under its influence, one sees himself or herself above everybody. He/she does not consider opinion of others. He/she tries to impose own opinions over others. It is also a huge barrier to becoming a good citizen.

Communalism: A sense of communalism arises from the dominance of a majority religion. This mindset can also develop among minority groups if they believe their religion to be the only true faith, superior to others. As a result, peace and harmony among the various communities of the country may be disturbed.

Economic Disadvantage: Bangladesh is a developing nation. About 20% of our population lives below the poverty line. Due to poverty, about one-fifth population of our country cannot read or write. As a result, their intellect cannot bloom. Their conscience also is not that effective. It is a huge barrier to becoming a good citizen.

Lesson 2.2: Measures of Removing the Barriers to Becoming Good Citizens

1. One has to be patriotic after getting proper education. One has to participate in development activities for the nation forgetting about all indifference and laziness.
2. One has to remember that the country is above the individual and forget about any self-interest.
3. One has to be universal instead of being partisan.
4. One has to treat everyone equally irrespective of religion, caste, clan, etc.
5. One has to avoid false pride and give due importance to welfare-oriented opinions. A good proposal of an individual should not be suppressed only with the excuse of majority.
6. Everyone has to be brought to equal status by removing economic disadvantage.

Activity 1: Think about the barriers to good citizenship and write them down on your khatas. Then write the list on a poster and hang it in classroom.

Lesson 3: Importance of Good Citizens in Respect of Socio-economic Development of Bangladesh

As a developing nation, there are various kinds of socio-economic problems in our country. Some of the mentionable among them are illiteracy, poverty, poor economy, weak law and order situation, corruption, massive population, etc. We must get rid of these problems if we want to establish our country as a developed country in this highly competitive world. But the government alone cannot solve these problems. Citizens have to play an active role in this respect. Our population has to grow up as a skilled good citizenry in order to ensure good governance. Good citizens alone can play the necessary role to remove all the barriers to socio-economic development. We know, a good citizen has three attributes: intelligence, self-restraint and conscience. Good citizens are apt and skilled to solve the problems of a state. They understand the socio-economic problems fast and can act accordingly using their intelligence, self-restraint and conscience. Thus they can lead up to the expectation of the country. So, a good citizen is a valuable resource of a country. A good citizenry can remove all barriers and problems from the society and keep the government on the right track. Thus, they can help establish a developed, self-reliant Bangladesh on the globe.

Activity 1: What kind of misdeeds will a good citizen abstain from doing? Work in groups and make a list for presentation in classroom.

Lesson 4: Achieving Rights of Citizen and Being Dutiful

Citizens of all countries of the world enjoy different rights from their countries. In return, citizens also need to carry out certain duties and responsibilities to the state. We are citizens of Bangladesh. We have achieved this citizenship by birth. To live a sound life, we also enjoy certain social, political and economic rights and certain privileges from our government.

Rights of Citizens

"The Constitution of Bangladesh" which is the directive charter for governments mentions certain rights for citizens. These are called basic rights of citizens irrespective of religion, caste, creed, class, and gender. In brief, they are:

1. Right to live
2. Right to property
3. Right of movement
4. Right to follow religion
5. Right to sign contracts
6. Right to think and use conscience
7. Freedom of press
8. Right to hold rallies and meetings

9. Right to form family.
10. Right to language and culture
11. Right to employment
12. Right to health and education
13. Right to abide by laws
14. Right to economic and social justice
15. Freedom of expression
16. Right to elect public representative, etc.

Duties & Responsibilities of Citizens

In exchange of achieving the above stated rights, the state also expects our citizens to carry out certain duties and responsibilities for it. The chief among them are:

1. Allegiance to the country
2. Abide by law and order
3. Use the right to vote
4. Regular payment of taxes
5. Carry out properly all government duties
6. Educate children

All rights, duties and responsibilities are applicable to all citizens. Citizens' mental growth is not possible without these rights. Therefore, it is expected that a citizen will enjoy these rights and will allow others to enjoy them as well. For example, citizens will educate themselves and participate and give support so that others become educated as well. Each citizen will follow one's own religion and will not obstruct others to follow their respective religions. A citizen is free to express own opinions. He/she will also let others to express their respective opinions and respect those opinions. Thus, a citizen is expected to enjoy their his own rights and at the same time, cooperates so that others' rights are held high. One must be careful so that their rights do not violate rights of others by any means.

All citizens are expected to actively carry out their responsibilities to the country. At present, for the sake of development of the country, more emphasis is laid on duties and responsibilities of a citizen than their rights. Therefore, a citizen has to know and understand own duties and responsibilities well. For example, citizens will abide by law and order of the country. They will carry out their responsibilities properly in their workplaces. They will educate their children and cooperate and actively participate in all works that complement to the country's development. Advancement of a country is achieved only when its citizens do their parts properly.

Activity 1: Make and present a work-plan about how you are going to carry out your duties and responsibilities to the country.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How many basic qualities must a good citizen possess?

a. One
b. Two
c. Three
d. Four

2. To be an intelligent citizen—

i. One must study
ii. One must vote for their own people
iii. One must work for national development

Which of the following is correct?

a. i
b. i and ii
c. i and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 3 and 4

Topu was riding a rickshaw when he saw a car hit a pedestrian and try to flee. Topu quickly, with the help of others, caught the driver and handed him over to the police, and took the injured pedestrian to the nearby hospital.

3. Which quality is mainly reflected in Topu's behaviour?

a. Intelligence
b. Self-control
c. Conscience
d. Confidence

4. From Topu's actions, we can conclude—

i. Topu has the qualities of a good citizen
ii. He is a valuable asset to Bangladesh
iii. People like him can help build a developed nation

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii
b. i and iii
c. ii and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions

1. Dialogue between Two Friends

Samiha: Lazin, did you read the news about the rickshaw puller in the newspaper a few days ago?

Lazin: Yes, I did. Even after finding a bag containing one lakh taka left behind by a passenger in his rickshaw, he didn't take it. Instead, he found the passenger's address and returned all the money.

Samiha: People like that rickshaw puller are exactly what our country needs. Truly, his wisdom and awareness are commendable.

a. Who are good citizens?
b. Explain: "Communalism is a major obstacle to becoming a good citizen."
c. Which quality of a good citizen is shown by the rickshaw puller in the stem? Explain.
d. "The quality shown by the rickshaw puller is enough to be a good citizen"—Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Mr. Sobhan and Mr. Shekhar are friends. Mr. Sobhan is a government officer. He recently conducted a peaceful voting process at a polling station. Mr. Shekhar is a prominent businessman and won the Best Taxpayer Award this year. Both are very conscious about their children's education. Mr. Sobhan invites Mr. Shekhar's family to Eid and other festivals. Mr. Shekhar also invites Mr. Sobhan's family to the Puja and other Hindu festivals. Both families celebrate their respective religious traditions freely.

a. What is self- control?
b. Explain: "Indifference is an obstacle to becoming a good citizen."
c. By practising their rituals independently, which rights are the two families exercising? Explain.
d. "Mr. Sobhan and Mr. Shekhar not only enjoy rights but also fulfil duties"—Evaluate this statement.

Short Answer Questions

1. How does selfishness hinder becoming a good citizen?
2. Why are good citizens considered valuable assets of a country?
3 What is meant by the fundamental rights of a citizen?

Chapter Six

Climate of Bangladesh

Though the words 'Weather' and 'Climate' appear to be same, they have difference in their meanings. The natural condition of a particular area of a certain day or time of day that includes temperature, rainfall, wind, storm, etc. is called weather. It is determined by measuring temperature, air pressure and speed, humidity and amount of rain. Weather may change daily or hourly and it actually does so. On the other hand, the average weather of 30-40 years of a particular area is called climate. However, there are some other elements beside the conditions of weather that are counted in determining climate of a place. The climate of an area includes latitude, longitude, distance from sea, heigh from sea-level, wind moment, ocean current, slope of land, soil structure and volume of forest, etc.

Changes in the lifestyle of inhabitants of the area, luxury or development effect in change of climate of that particular area. These factors are resulting in increased temperature all over the world. We have to fight greenhouse effect too due to these Therefore, we need to learn the climate of Bangladesh, changes in climate, effects, reasons for the effects and the ways of tackling the new situations.

By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-

1. describe the climate of Bangladesh;
2. explain the causes of climate change in Bangladesh;
3. discuss disasters related to climate change like cyclone and tidal waves, floods, river erosion, drought, chill, tornado, norwester, etc;
4. describe our roles to mitigate disasters happening due to climate change;
5. describe the impacts of climate change to socio-economic condition of Bangladesh.

Lesson 1: Climate of Bangladesh

As Bangladesh is situated in the tropical region, its climate is known as tropical monsoon climate. Being near to the sea and under the influence of monsoon, neither the winter nor the summer is severe here. The summer is warm and rainy and the winter is dry. The Himalayas, although situated at far north, saves us from the chill wind coming from the north during winter. Therefore, the winter is not too long. Usual temperature in Bangladesh during winter is 9.9-30.7 degree Celsius. But sometimes it comes down to 4°-5° Celsius in north and north-west region. Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Srimongal are the coldest places.

Summer starts from the month of Baisakh, which is mid-April in the English calendar. The average highest temperature of Bangladesh in summer is 34° C and the average lowest is 21° C. Again, sometimes temperature in the north and north-west rises up to 40° - 45° C. The norwester occurs sometimes at the beginning of summer in various places. The coastal areas experience cyclones and tidal waves too. In the rainy season, wind blows with vapour from the south and south-western part of the Bay of Bengal. This is called summer monsoon. This wind causes heavy rainfall in Bangladesh. But rainfall does not occur equally all over the country. Sylhet, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar experience heavy rain. On the contrary, Rajshahi, Pabna and Kushtia have comparatively low rainfall. There is rain during the autumn too, though the amount is very low. River-erosion also increases during the rainy season. April-May and October-November are the high times for tornadoes and cyclones.



Rainy Season

The climate of Bangladesh is moderate. It means effects of favourable and adverse weather is equal here. Being under favourable weather, Bangladesh is evergreen and ever fertile. On the other hand, disasters like storms, tidal wave, flood, drought, norwester, tornado and excessive rainfall occur due to adverse effects and cause a lot of sufferings to people.

Activity 1: Discuss and present in groups, the general characteristics of the climate of Bangladesh.
Activity 2: What kinds of disasters occur due to adverse weather in Bangladesh? Explain.

Lesson 2: Causes behind the Climate Change in Bangladesh

Many causes are responsible for visible changes in climate all over the world. It is also affecting Bangladesh. Weather change does not go accordingly with change of seasons. Amount of rainfall during monsoon is decreasing; winter is arriving late and leaving early; the number of natural disasters is increasing; severity of droughts, floods and tidal waves is on the rise; rivers and canals are drying up. Man-made causes are equally responsible with natural causes for these. The main cause behind climate change in Bangladesh as well as the world is global warming. The polar ice is melting abnormally due to warming. This water due to melting ice is raising the sea-level. As a result, the low-lying southern regions and many countries adjacent to sea are at risk of being submerged. The greenhouse gas is highly responsible for global warming. Gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons, etc. combined are known as greenhouse gas to a large extent. The increased presence of these gases in atmosphere increases temperature of the earth. Human activities are causing this increase of greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide constitutes the largest portion of greenhouse gases. This carbon dioxide gas is produced from power generation, industrial production, electricity consumption, fossil fuels and gas fumes, brick kilns, etc. The percentage of greenhouse gases has drastically increased these days. From this, we can easily understand the danger of climatic change. The causes for climatic change in Bangladesh are almost same as those around the world. However, developing countries like Bangladesh do not use the same amount of fuel as used by the developed countries. Thus considered, developed countries are more responsible for the changes in climate. But we are the ones to bear the maximum brunt of this.



Black Smoke

The temperature of the earth is also rising due to continuous deforestation. Experts opine that a country needs forests that should amount to 25% of its size. But Bangladesh has only 17%. Moreover, with the indiscriminate cutting down of trees and hills, building construction, and other usages, the area of the forest is decreasing. Consequently, the amount of rain in Bangladesh has decreased recently.

Activity 1: What is greenhouse gas? How these gases are contributing to the increase in temperature in Bangladesh? Explain.

Activity 2: What can man do to keep climate normal? Analyse.

Lesson 3: Some Disasters due to Climate Change

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country. Many natural disasters occur here. Some mentionable of them are cyclone and tidal waves, floods, river erosion, drought, cold wave, tornado, norwesters, etc. Besides, Bangladesh is at risk of earthquakes.

3.1: Cyclone and Tidal Wave

When the air of earth surface of a particular place becomes too hot, it blows upwards. As a result, air pressure of that place grows less. This is called depression. At this stage, air from the surrounding places rushes to that depression area with higher speed. This is called cyclone. Most of the cyclones in Bangladesh occur due to depression created in the Bay of Bengal. This kind of depression and storm in sea generate huge waves and the waves in their turn inundate the landmass of coastal areas with great speed. This is called tidal wave. Cyclones and tidal waves have struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh several times. These have killed so many people and crops and cattle have been wiped away. Such a cyclone and tidal wave on 12 November 1970 in our coastal belt killed about a million people. Sid'r and Aila are two examples of cyclones of the recent past. About three million people in 28 districts were affected by Sid'r on 15 November 2007. Aila caused havoc on 25 May 2009 destroying people, birds and animals crops and houses. Generally, the meteorological office forecasts about these cyclones and issue warnings to the people. We can minimise losses if we follow the forecasts and take necessary precautions. We need to prepare for mitigating the impending disaster and take refuge in storm shelters at this time.



Cyclone

3.2: Flood

More or less, flood occurs in Bangladesh almost every year. Almost all rivers of Bangladesh including the three major rivers Padma, Meghna and Jamuna are originated in India. These rivers carry a great water flow from melted water of the Himalayas and huge rainfall in the highland through Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal. Water from rainfall and hills of Bangladesh is added to it and increase the water level of rivers and finally flood the adjacent areas. Floods cause a lot of damage to our people and resources every year. Besides, making unplanned dams in the upstream countries and river grid projects cause floods. On the other side, the rivers carries millions of tonnes of silt every year. A lot of silt is not carried to the Bay and stored at the riverbed. This reduces the rivers' capacity to carry water. So, flood occurs on the river banks and adjoining areas. Crops are damaged severely and that leads to food crises. Many people become unemployed. The country experienced severe floods in 1988, 1998 and 2004. Now scientists say, flood cannot be controlled totally but damages due to floods may be controlled.



Flood

3.3: River Erosion

River erosion is a regular natural disaster in Bangladesh. Every year, especially during monsoon, river erosion occurs in the country. One of the reasons of this disaster is the nature of the course of the rivers. Most of the rivers of the country follow a frequently meandering course. As a result, strong current cannot flow straight and strikes the banks which start to erode. Besides, change of river courses, loose structure of river banks, river filling, unplanned embankments to control rivers and absence of trees on river banks, etc. contribute to the problem too. River erosion causes thousands of acres of cultivable



River Erosion

land, residences and different other constructions to go down to the rivers every year. As a consequence, thousands of people of the country become homeless and destitute losing their employment too. Awareness of the causes of river erosion may minimise the disaster and its resultant damages.

3.4: Drought

Drought is a natural disaster in Bangladesh. Lack of proper rainfall and slide in underground water level cause drought. Almost every year, at the end of spring and advent of summer season, drought occurs in different regions of the country. The severity of drought is visible more in the northern region. Irrigation is hampered and crops are damaged due to lack of water. Besides, lack of rainfall, drought is also caused by construction of dams in the upstream of rivers, deforestation, environmental pollution and the use of surface water in irrigation. There may not be any permanent remedy to this problem. But if we are aware of it and take necessary steps in time, damages can be lessened. For this, we need to test the sub-surface water level and put a stoppage to further pumping if necessary. We should store water during the monsoon. Mass awareness about proper water management and use will also be of help.



Drought

3.5: Cold Wave

Although Bangladesh is not a cold country, mild and medium cold waves are noticed at some years in December-January. Its intensity is noticeable specifically in the northern region. Many people die even due to severe cold wave. The regular life pattern suffers during these times. Ordinary people like day labourers and workers do not get any job. The cold wave damages crops severely. The poor people suffer most as they do not have houses and sufficient warm clothes. Proper and timely initiatives from the government and conscious people may lessen these sufferings to a great extent.

3.6: Tornado

Tornado is one of the most frequent natural disasters in Bangladesh. It is a kind of violent and speedy windstorm. It is created due to low pressure on land mass which occurs in the same place. Tornado is such a natural disaster that cannot be forecasted

or given early warning about. Clouds shaped like the funnel or elephant's trunk gather in the sky just before a tornado. Gradually, this funnel shaped cloud rushes toward the low pressure zone. This cloud moves from one place to another as a whirlwind. A lot spinning goes on inside the funnel. When this trunk-like tornado touches the landmass, it makes a mess of houses, trees, even sometimes kill animals and birds and people of the area. Things are even carried away to different places. It can attack any place all on a sudden and can cause havoc within moments. It is usually of a very short duration- few seconds to few minutes. A very small region falls prey to it. Tornadoes generally occur from the end of Falgun to middle of Jyastho in Bangladesh.



Tornado

3.7: Nor'wester

If temperature of an area rises too high, the wind of that area becomes lighter and goes up. Cooler air from the adjacent areas rushes to fill up that vacuum and creates a storm. This is called the nor'wester. Nor'wester is a storm that is of a very short duration and is regionally originated. Generally it occurs in the month of Baisakh and hence it is known as Kalbaisakhi in Bangla. The storm appears from north-west. It occurs more or less every year.



Norwester

Although not so devastating like tornadoes, it causes damage to lives and properties. It blows away houses, uproots trees, and hampers riverine transportation. It causes serious naval accidents. That is why we need to take extra caution during the season of nor'wester in regards of boat and launch navigation.

Activity 1: Make a list of disasters that occur in Bangladesh.

Activity 2: Write a report on the nature of various kinds of natural disasters and damages caused by them.

Lesson 4: Measures to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change

One of the most discussed issues of the modem world is the effects of climate change. Each of people, society, state and international communities has specific roles to play in order to tackle the situation.

Measures in Cyclone, Tornado and Nor'wester Situation

a. Abiding by the forecast and warning reports of meteorological office;
b. Planting trees around houses;
c. Controlling greenhouse gas emission.

Measures in Flood Situation

a. Constructing embankments;
b. Constructing houses on higher foundation;
c. Dredging the rivers.
d. Taking a strong stand on water sharing and management of common rivers with India.

Measures in Drought Situation

a. Ensuring sufficient forestation;
b. Putting a stop to pumping out sub-surface water after proper testing.

Measures in River Erosion Situation

a. Planting trees on river banks;
b. Maintaining river banks;
c. Dredging rivers on a regular basis.

Activity 1: What can you do in case of flood, river erosion and cyclone situation in your area?

Lesson 5: Effects of Climate change on Socio-economic Sector

Bangladesh is considered in the risk zone of the adverse effects of climate change in agriculture, industry, health, social sectors. The socio-economic sectors where the adverse effects are noticeable are:

Agriculture: Climate change is responsible for immense damage to crops. High temperature and excessive rain stands on the way to get an expected harvest. Flash floods in some places can cause damage to even the paddy that can withstand a certain level of water. Land for aush paddy and jute is lessened due to floods.

Fisheries: Climate change affects the fisheries of Bangladesh from three dimensions: salinity, flood and tidal waves. Increase of salinity of water creates scarcity of fresh water fish. Habitats of fish are damaged when ponds and rivers overflow during floods. Tidal wave contributes to the increase in salinity in inland water.

Health: In coastal and flood-affected areas, sewerage systems go out of order in the face of ever increasing floods. Consequently, epidemics break out.

Industry: Industries largely depend on raw materials. Climate change affects production of agro produces in different areas of the country. Industries suffer from shortage of raw materials due to this.

Social: Climate change has noticeably affected rainfall. Higher amount of rain in short period causes flashfloods and river erosion. Consequently, many people become climate refugee and that is a threat to social discipline .

Activity 1: Make a chart to show the sectors facing damage due to climate change.

Sample Questions

1. In which season does river erosion usually occur in Bangladesh?

a. Summer b. Monsoon
c. Winter d. Spring

2. What causes river erosion in our country?

i. Rivers don’t have straight paths
ii. Weak structure of riverbanks
iii. Too many trees on riverbanks

Which is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii, and ii

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 and 4

Rupsa, a girl from Cox's Bazar, was listening to the radio at home. After hearing a warning, she and her family became frightened and left home for the shelter.

3. What warning did Rupsa hear?

a. Cyclone
b. Earthquake
c. River erosion
d. Tornado

4. Why was Rupsa frightened?

i. The whole area could be flooded quickly
ii. Another tremor might follow the first
iii. Delay in reaching the shelter in time

Which is correct?

a. i and ii
b. i and iii
c. ii and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions

1. Zayan went out with his father. First, they visited the floating market on the Sandhya River. After speaking to a local person, they learned his home was submerged by the river. Now he works as a day labourer. Then they headed toward Kuakata. On the way, they saw many brick kilns. At Kuakata beach, Zayan was disturbed to see plastic bottles and food wrappers littered everywhere. He asked his father why people spoil such a beautiful beach and harm the environment. His father replied, "It's not just these behaviours—many human actions are putting our country and world at risk."

a. What is the weather?
b. Explain the influence of monsoon winds on Bangladesh's climate.
c. What disaster did Zayan learn about at the first location? Explain.
d. Evaluate how logical Zayan's father's statement is.

2. Arif was watching a TV report titled "Natural Disasters in Bangladesh." The first part showed how agricultural land in the northern region is drying and cracking. The second part demonstrated how natural disasters impact life and the environment in the coastal region, which is frequently affected by disasters due to its location.

a. What is a tornado?
b. What is a 'Nor'wester'? Explain.
c. What is the disaster shown in the first part of the report? Explain.
d. Can anything be done to reduce the damage caused by the disaster in the second part? Share your opinion.

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain: "Cold waves disrupt public life."
2. Why do riverbanks erode?
3. How does climate change disrupt social order?

Chapter Seven

Introduction to Population of Bangladesh

Population is a great resource for development of a country. The population of a country has to be proportionate to its size or area. This population has to be educated and skilled. The population transformed into a skilled human resource can become a factor in rapid development of a country. On the other hand, an unskilled population is a burden for the country. We will learn different aspects of population of Bangladesh in this chapter.

By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-

1. compare population of Bangladesh with some regional countries;
2. explain the concept of changeability of population;
3. discuss the reasons behind internal and external migration of Bangladesh;
4. analyse reasons and impacts of maternal and natal mortality rates in Bangladesh;
5. explain the pressure of population against the natural resources of Bangladesh;
6. explain the reasons and impacts of population increase;
7. explain the necessary steps to mitigate population problem of Bangladesh.

Lesson 1: Comparison Among Populations of Various Regional Countries including Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated and developing countries in the world situated in South Asia. The country is heading to become a middle income nation. Its area is 1,47,570 sq. km. According to the census 2022, the total population of Bangladesh is 16,98,28,911 (Sixteen crore ninety eight lakh twenty eight thousand nine hundred and eleven) and 1119 people live here in per square kilometer.

Presently, the annual growth rate of population here is 1.2% which was 1.59% in 2001. Now we will compare the growth rates of various regional neighbours of Bangladesh.

Name of the Country	Annual Growth Rate of Population (2024)
Bangladesh	1.2
India	0.9
Nepal	-0.1
Pakistan	1.5
Sri Lanka	-0.6
Afghanistan	2.8
Bhutan	0.7
Maldives	0.3

Source: World Bank

The above table shows the population growth rate of Bangladesh is higher than India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. On the other hand, the population growth rate of Bangladesh is lower than Pakistan and Afganistan. This rate of population growth depends on birth rate, mortality rate, and on some other reasons.

Comparison the density of population among some regional countries including Bangladesh:

Name of the Country	Density of Population (Per Square Kilometer)
Maldives	1,728
Singapore	8,207
Bangladesh	1,119
India	427
Sri Lanka	338
Japan	330

The above table shows density of population of Bangladesh is almost three time larger than that of India, Sri Lanka and Japan. That means, it is a densely populated country.

Activity 1: Analyse the table in the next page.

Population growth rate of Bangladesh according to the census of different years:

Year of Census	Population Growth Rate (%)
1974	2.48
1981	2.35
1991	2.17
2001	1.59
2011	1.37
2022	1.22

Lesson 2: Changing trends of Population

Population's ability to change is called the changeability of population. It is one of the major attributes of a population. The change depends mainly on birth rate, mortality rate, migration and social dynamism. These determining factors of population change rely upon age, gender, marriage, social structure, religious values, education, profession, etc. The age structure of population of a country is divided into three stages- young, adult and old. Gross birth rate depends on the age of marriage of a boy or girl. Birth rate will be higher in a country where child marriage is rampant. Birth rate and mortality rate brings about change in the population structure of a country. So, it can be said changeability of population means the change of structure of population. Some aspects are closely related with the structural change of population. They are-geographical environment, climate, natural resources, fertility and elevation of land, modern communication system, education, advanced medical facilities, health services, etc. The more a population of a country is educated, the more developed it is. The influence of knowledge towards change tends to bring about change in values and beliefs of people. They are encouraged to form small families. Profession also makes a difference in the birth rate. Birth rate among farmers, labourers and fishermen is high, whereas it is low among doctors, teachers, engineers etc.

Since there are hills and hillocks in the hilly districts of Bangladesh, population is sparse there. Consequently, the density of population is also less in this region. Since the 'chars' are situated away from mainland, population density in these places is also low. On the other hand, the elevated plain land yields high crops due to their fertility and so population density is higher in these places. Industrial areas and mineral rich places also have higher population too. Sometimes, better probability of employment leads people to migrate from rural areas to urban areas. Political instability, war situation, civil war, natural disaster, etc. also influence the structure of population.

The average life span in Bangladesh is 72.3 years. Increase in this feature shows that the mortality rate here has decreased. This decrease means an increase in older people who are considered as a dependent population. This dependent population creates pressure on our limited resources. Massive participation of boys and girls in education , different programmes to ensure women rights and their emancipation, the mass awarwness programmes in favour of small families etc. are playing roles to decrease death rate. Beasides use of modern birth control materials also have a role in decreasing population in Bangladesh. Modern medical facilities have considerably lessened mortality of mother and child. It also affects the change in population. However, we need to take certain measures of increasing awareness and related development programmes to keep the population balanced. The measures that deserve priority are increasing the minimum age for marriage of girls, programmes for alleviation of poverty, emphasize on birth control programmes, ensuring employment and participation in income generating activities etc.

Activity 1: Identify the factors behind change of population in your area.
Activity 2: Changes in population structure is seen due to marriage, religious beliefs and advanced medical facilities- Discuss in groups and find a solution to the issue.

Lesson 3: Reasons and Effects of Internal and External Migration of Population of Bangladesh

When someone leaves their place to go to another place, it is called migration. It is also known as immigration. Migration may take place both in internal or international arenas. We have learned it in class six. In this lesson, we will learn the causes and consequences of internal and international migration.

3.1: Internal Migration

When people move from one place to another inside the country, it is called internal migration. However, when we go to different places for shopping or office we cannot called it internal migration. Internal migration occurs in various ways. There is intra-regional migration, meaning movement from one place to another within a region. Besides, there is village to village, village to town, town to village, town to town, etc. kind of migration. Economic cause is the sole reason for internal immigration.

Causes of Internal Migration

Internal migration does not require any permission or law. It happens due to our necessity and will.

Population in Bangladesh is increasing gradually. Due to the pressure of the increased people, the amount of land per head is decreasing. Jobless and semi jobless people are increasing . The economic crisis compels many to migrate to the cities in search of job. People from river erosion areas are coming to the cities in search of living. Poverty, need and many other reasons are also forcing a portion of rural people to the cities. Modern education, health and medical facilities of the cities are also the causes of rural migration to the cities. Children of rich and able rural people are sent to the cities for better education. Besides people migrate to the cities for better medical facilities. Luxurious lifestyle of cities, better employment opportunity, better scope for investment and business are some of other reasons. But some people are forced to migrate due to frequent natural disasters in this country. The industries being situated in the town and cities is another cause for rural migration. For example, garment and leather industries are in urban areas. For this reason, lacs of people live in the overcrowded slums in the cities. People also migrate for better transportation and communication.

Results of Internal Migration

Internal migration has both good and bad effects in Bangladesh. A portion of the migrated poor people from villages is engaging themselves as rickshaw pullers, drivers, van pullers or industrial labourers. Besides, they are also employed in different positions in commercial organisations. On the other hand, members of middle and high earner farmer families are engaging themselves in service, trade and commerce or other productive jobs.

These migrants are sending their earned money to the family members who live in the villages. Bearing the monthly expenses, the excess amount is again invested in agricultural and non-agricultural production sectors.

Internal migration has benefitted the insolvent rural women most. As they were unemployed, their families used to consider them as burdens. As a result, they were subjected to discrimination, deception, cheating and oppression. Today, only readymade garments industries are employing a huge number of women labourers. Now their status in the family has increased. They get more opportunity to express their opinion and decision. They are spending for the education of the children. They also enjoy some benefits of advanced lifestyle to some extent.

On the contrary, slums have been created to accommodate these migrants in the towns and cities. These slums are spoiling healthy environment of these places. Tendency towards crime, smuggling, kidnapping, drug peddling, human trafficking, social indiscipline are rooted in these slums.

Migration is also increasing the urban population. The migration from urban areas to villages does not affect that much in Bangladesh. In many cases, It is noticeable that educated people go to he villages to take part in the development works like constructing roads, establishing schools and colleges and many others. This helps to develop the rural economy.

Inter city migration facilitates increased skill of employees. It also helps exchange of social and cultural customs and rites. It increases earning and savings. Besides, it also adds to investment which is supportive to economic development.

3.2: Causes of International Migration

Transfer from an independent country to another for job, marriage, residence and even citizenship is known as international migration. People of our country go to various countries for various purposes. Many people migrate from our country every year due to lack of employment, highly competitive job market, adverse climatic condition and political asylum. Besides, many go out in order to go closer to their family. Some also go abroad for getting citizenship, investing in trade and commerce, transfer and promotion in job, participate in cultural activities, and as professionals. There are also some other reasons that you can learn from your reading of the daily newspapers.

Results of International Migration

International migration is highly beneficial for Bangladesh. Remittance sent from abroad is invested in agriculture and industries, banking services, garment industries and many other profitable sectors. Consequently, production in different sectors is increased. Again, a portion of this production is exported abroad. It also facilitates jobs and employment. Our life and livelihood is developed for this.

International migration has many adverse effects too. Some viruses including HIV/AIDS have spread in this country due to these immigrants. Some social and cultural problems also can rise due to it.

Activity 1: Identify the causes and effects of internal migration and present it in a chart.
Activity 2: Identify the causes and effects of international migration from Bangladesh.
Activity 3: International migration plays a role in economic development- Work in groups and show reasons for the statement.

Lesson 4: Situation of mother and child mortality in Bangladesh

Generally speaking, if mothers meet death before they give birth to their children or for reasons after the birth of their children is called mortality of mothers. On the other hand, a newborn up to its one year of age is known as baby. If a baby meets its death during in this one year, it is called child mortality. Child mortality is estimated by the number of babies dead against a thousand new born.

4.1: Maternal Mortality Situation in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh in the year 1980, a total of 650 mothers died per thousand while giving birth to their children. In 1990, the number came down to 574, in 2001, 322 and in 2010 it decreased to 194. According to the World Bank data, Maternal mortality was 176 in 2016. As per the census 2022, it is 156 in one lac.

Causes of Maternal Mortality

In our country, many girls conceive at an early age due to child marriage. These girls do not get proper nutrition due to ignorance, indifference, religious superstition, etc. As a result, they suffer from various complicacies during their pregnancy and die. Besides, there are other reasons like low standard of living, lack of pure drinking water and weak sanitation, lack of female education, lack of medical treatment, risky abortion, and high blood pressure during child birth and eclampsia, etc.

Effects of Maternal Mortality

In Bangladesh, the neonatal suffer from lack of nutrition due to maternal mortality. Consequently, the child loses its resistance to diseases and falls victim to diseases. In many cases, they die. Motherless children suffer from proper socialisation. Alternative milk is required for a newborn due to death of its mother. In these cases, the baby suffers from stomach disorder and some other complicacies. They need doctors. It is an extra burden over the poor family. Sometimes, death of mother causes the family discipline to break down. Father's extra caring role to the child can mitigate the impacts of mother loss in a family.

4.2: Child Mortality Situation in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has achieved great success in controlling child mortality. A report published by UNICEF in 2008 shows the child mortality in 1990 in this country was

149 per 1000. It came down to 69 in 2006. It was further decreased in 2008 with 52 deaths. It was further decreased in 2016 with 28 deaths That proves child mortality is decreasing fast in this country. As per the census 2022, 20 children die at birth among 1000. So, in Bangladesh the child death rate is decreasing fast However, the rate is still much higher than that of the developed countries.

Causes behind Child Mortality

Many of Bangladeshis are still living below the poverty line. As a result, mother and child do not get proper health care and nutritious food. A part of the children die because of poverty. Besides, child marriage is still rampant in the country. As a result, the child becomes weak and malnourished due to early pregnancy. Many cases, these childreri die due to physical complicacies. Still, in this country childrens are taking birth on the hand of untrained rural midwives which increases the rate of infant mortality. Again, malnutrition and sickness of the mother also affect the newborn to suffer from malnutrition. Many diseases rise from malnutrition. As a result, many infants die.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of child mortality in Bangladesh. Many children die prematurely due to their inability to swim, lack of supervision and awareness among adults, and the absence of safety barriers around ponds and water bodies.

Though infant mortality due to measles, polio, tuberculosis, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, etc. diseases have gone down all over our country, still, they cause some deaths in some parts of the country. They add to the death of infants. Irresponsibility of doctors, difference between medical facilities available in rural and urban areas also play a role in higher mortality of infants in villages. Apart from these, lack of education, ignorance, superstition and negligence are also responsible. Another reason is frequent: natural disasters in the country. The cyclone of 29 April 1991 caused deaths to the tota of about 1,38,000 lives in Bangladesh, of which, 50% were children.

Effects of Child Mortality

Death of a child in a family is a very unhappy event. Some of us are familiar with infant mortality in our families. A death of a child creates some sort of disorder in a family. It is hard to accept. This sort of family related loss is difficult to bear.

High rate of child morality is an impediment to socio economic development of the country. The death of a child is a mental breakdown for the earning members of the family which creates disturbance in their regular life. So, we have to be careful about this issue and take necessary awareness programmes to prevent child mortality rate.

Activity 1:	Identify the causes of maternal mortality in your locality.
Activity 2:	Identify the causes of child mortality in your locality.

Lesson 5: Population and Natural Resources of Bangladesh

Natural resources are precious for a country. These resources are the base of its social, political and even economic strength. The stronger a country is in natural resources, the stronger it is financially. You have certainly seen the world map. The map shows how big countries like Canada, Russia, Saudi Arabia and United States of America are. These countries have huge stocks of natural resources. Their stocks exceed their national demand. On the other hand, Bangladesh has forests, mineral coal and gas, hard rock, stones, etc. natural resources. The population of Bangladesh has a pressure on these resources. We will learn about that pressure on our natural resources in this lesson.

Population of Bangladesh is increasing fast. Our country faces troubles to meet the demand of this huge population. Therefore, the country resorts to the resources to fill the need which is creating a huge pressure on them.

Pressure on Forest Resources

Habitation problem for the huge population has created a great pressure for us. To accommodate them we need to build houses. Use of wood and materials of wood in constructing houses is increasing pressure on our forest resources. As a result, forests are destroyed. This causes harm to natural balance. Presently, construction of infrastructures like houses, roads, highways, etc. is going on all over the country including towns and villages. These require huge quantity of bricks, wood, stones, metal, etc. So, we have to be dependent on natural resources. And so, population create a pressure on natural resources.

Pressure on Cultivable Land

Increased population is a huge pressure on our cultivable land. Newer houses to meet demand of houses for increased population mean use of cultivable land. Besides, expansion of trade and commerce, industrialization and urbanization also use up cultivable land. And so, the amount of land is decreasing.

Pressure on Gas and Oil

To meet up daily necessities of huge population, Bangladesh needs to produce huge quantity of commodities. Wood, natural gas and oil are used in the process as raw material and fuel. As a consequence, natural resources are being depleted. Scarcity of electricity is a long-pending problem in this country. Production of electricity requires natural gas and coal which are again putting pressure on our resources. Urea fertiliser is produced in the country; 60% of raw material in its production is natural gas. Vehicles are using CNG as their fuel which also is a pressure.

Pressure on Water Resources

Left off matters from industries are polluting water resources of Bangladesh. It is generating lack of drinking water. Fish living in these waters are dying. Polluted water is flown to the sea through rivers which is also polluting the sea. This is also generating natural disasters.

Activity 1: Pressure of large population is the only reason of depletion of mineral resources of Bangladesh- how far do you support this statement?
Activity 2: Identify the effects of large population on our natural resources.

Lesson 6: Causes, Effects and Solutions to Population Growth of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a populous country. The population of this small country of the world is gradually increasing. The total population of this country in 1974 was 7.64 crore, in 1991 it was 11.15 crore, in 2001 it was 12.93 crore, in 2007 it was 14.06 crore and in 2011 it was 14 crore 97 lakh 72 thousands and 364. In 2011 density of population was 834 per square kilometer. The density of population has gradually increased and become 904 in 2005, 953 in 2009, 990 in 2010, 1015 in 2011, 1103 in 2017 and 1119 in 2022. Now we will know the reasons of population growth in Bangladesh.

6.1: Causes of Population Growth

There is no single reason behind the growth of population. There are a number of reasons behind it, some of which are discussed below

The main reason behind population growth or decline is birth and death. There is great difference between the gross birth rate and gross death rate of Bangladesh. Advance medical treatment and expanded programme on immunization have lessened the gross infant mortality rate here. This is one reason, population is going up. According to one statistics report, every year, some 25 lakh children are born here, while about six lakh people die. That means, 19 lakh people are being added to the population of Bangladesh per year. Therefore, it can be said, the main cause of our population growth is high birth rate and low death rate.

Child marriage, polygamy, religious superstition, and irregular use of birth control measures are contributing to the growth of population. Besides, expectation for boy child among the rural families, poverty, and lack of female education, ignorance and superstitions also play their roles.

Bangladesh has a number of programmes for birth control in government and non- government levels. But lack of coordination among them, lack of proper initiative for implementation and lack of effective communication also hinder them to reach the people. Implementation process of registering birth, death, marriage and divorce is also not in proper shape. Employment for the unmarried young women is slow which is also responsible for the growth of population in Bangladesh.

6.2: Effects of Population Growth

You have learned the effects of population growth in classes four, five and six Due to population growth the dependent population is increasing in Bangladesh. But there will be 40% dependent and 60% independent population in Bangladesh in next three decades. Now if we can make this population skilled and use them properly, the country will develop soon

Over population has an adverse effect on education, health, food, housing, and security. It is largely responsible for social, political and economical problems. If we are not able to turn this population into resources, the country will lag behind.

6.3: Steps for Solution of Population Problem

- We need proper implementation of child marriage act. We have to impose the law of minimum age of marriage strictly (boys' 21 and girls' 18 years).
- We need to create employment for women folk in productive sectors and involve them.
- We need to motivate everybody to take birth-control measures and form smaller families.
- We need to turn the population into human resource. We need initiatives to ensure proper education, training, medical treatment, accommodation, etc. with the view to achieveing this goal, the skilled human resource will not only fit in our national level, they will also do good abroad.

Activity 1:	Identify causes for population problem and discuss the remedies.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. According to the 1974 census, what was the population of Bangladesh?

a. 15.94 crores
b. 11.15 crores.
c. 7.64 crores
d. 5.52 croeres

2. What are the reasons behind the declining death rate in Bangladesh?

i. Increase in education
ii. Improved medical services
iii. Awareness of nutritional food

Which is correct?

a. i and ii
b. i and iii
c. ii and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 and 4

Fauzia, a social worker, has been working in Noyonpur village for five years. There, girls are married off right after finishing grade five. A recent survey showed that 50 babies were born and five died within a year in Noyonpur.

3. What is the reason for the rapid population growth in Noyonpur?

a. High birth rate & low death rate
b. Low birth rate & high death rate
c. Equal birth and death rates
d. High birth & high death rate

4. Solutions to the population problem in Noyonpur include

i. Preventing child marriage
ii. Improving living standards
iii. Emigration

Which is correct?

a. i and ii
b. i and iii
c. ii and iii
d. i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions

1. Notice the table below and answer the following questions

Trend of Population Growth in Bangladesh

1961	5.52 crore
1974	7.64 crore
1991	11.15 crore
2001	12.93 crore
2007	14.06 crore
2011	14.97 crore

a. What is the minimum age for marriage for girls in Bangladesh?

b. How does migration contribute to population growth? – Explain.

c. Explain the reasons for the almost threefold increase in population in 2007 compared to 1961.

d. "Since 1991, the population growth rate of Bangladesh has been gradually declining" – Analyse this statement in light of the textbook.

Question 2

Event 1: The Chowdhury family and the Halder family are known to many in the Kulaura area of Sylhet as successful business families. Yet, the Chowdhurys' ancestral home is in Kishoreganj and the Halder family's original home is in Brahmanbaria.

Event 2: Many people from three to four adjacent villages including Saidpur and Sohagi have been living in the Middle East with their families for about 15 years. Many of their children have never seen the birthplace of their ancestors.

a. What is the crude birth rate?

b. Explain one reason for the increase in the average life expectancy of people in Bangladesh.

c. What type of migration is described in event-1? Explain.

d. Do you agree with the statement "The migration described in event-2 is a key reason for the reduction in the country's population growth rate"? Give arguments in support of your answer.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is meant by population changeability?

2. Explain any two causes of child mortality in Bangladesh.

3. How does over population put pressure on water resource

Chapter Eight

Social Problems in Bangladesh

There are different problems of social life in Bangladesh. Some of them are poverty, population growth, illiteracy, superstition, custom of dowry and child marriage. These social problems have harmful effects on individuals and society. Economic and social advancement of the country is hindered by these social problems. These problems should be addressed and solved. For this reason people have to be conscious.

By the end of this chapter, we will be able to-

1. explain the concept of dowry;
2. analyse causes and effects of dowry;
3. explain the 'Anti-dowry' law;
4. describe measures of social movement to resist and the solution of dowry problem;
5. explain the concept of child marriage;
6. analyse the effects of child marriage;
7. discuss measures necessary to resist child marriage;
8. explain the 'Anti child marriage' law.

Lesson 1: Concept of Dowry, Causes and Effects

One of the major social problems of our country is the custom of dowry. Exchange of dowry is prohibited in the marriage law of the country. Still, in most marriages, groom's side takes dowry from the bride's family.

The money or property that the groom or bride demands and receives from the opposite side during marriage is called dowry. Presently in Bangladesh, the groom's side demands dowry from the bride's side. Few marriages are held without dowry. It has turned into a social vice.



Dowry, a punisiable offence

Dowry is an age-old tradition. In ancient China, the bride used to carry dowry to the house of groom after marriage. Ancient Athens too had the tradition of sending money and property along with the bride to groom's house. There, dowry used to determine social status. In present Bangladesh, dowry takes the form of money, property, valuable furniture and articles given to the groom during marriage. However, according to the marriage act of Bangladesh, exchange of dowry is prohibited.

In Bangladesh, dowry has turned into a deadly social disease. There are many reasons behind it. But poverty is thought to be the main cause of this problem. The groom's side demands money and property from the bride's side because of poverty. The groom wants to establish himself using the money and property of bride's father.

Many wealthy people in Bangladesh give huge dowry in their daughters' marriage. They believe that the dowry will help their daughter to keep her head high in their husbands' families. Not only poverty, being born as a man is considered superior in society, or being born as a woman is considered less respectable also acts as one of the reasons for the dowry system. It degrades the dignity of women. That's why this attitude should be removed. If this attitude is not removed from society, dowry cannot be stopped only by law. Because of this, the dowry system is deeply rooted in the society. This is also a reason dowry has become so deeply rooted in our social psyche. We have laws to check dowry. In many a cases, ignorance about this law is helping dowry get social permanence as a tradition. Again, sometimes, lack of proper enforcement of this law is giving rise to this bad tradition.

Dowry is a practice in all social sections of Bangladesh. Many problems have arisen in the society out of this custom. The main reason behind torture and violence against married women is dowry. The wife is humiliated in her husband's house due to dowry. When the demand of dowry is not met, the wife is forced to leave the husband's house. This sometimes leads to divorce and even death of the wife too.

Incidents such as post marital conjugal quarrel, torture, murder of wife, etc. are happening mostly due to dowry. It acts as the root of poverty, corruption, criminal tendency, early marriage and polygamy in the society. We have to keep in mind that both giving and receiving dowry are equal crimes.

Activity 1: Discuss in pairs your idea of dowry.
Activity 2: Discuss in groups, crimes that take place in society due to dowry and present them.

Lesson 2: Law against Dowry

The anti-dowry act was passed in 1980 in Bangladesh. The law prescribes a highest one year of imprisonment or a fine of five thousand taka as punishment for giving or receiving dowry. One may also be punished with the same if he/she demands directly or indirectly, any form of dowry from the bride's or groom's family. The judge can award both punishments together. Any accomplice in the matter will also be awarded the same punishment.



Punishment due to taking dowry

The anti-dowry act was amended in 1986. According to the revised law, the convict for receiving or giving dowry will receive a minimum of 1 year to a maximum of 5 years' jail sentence. According to the Act Against Women and Child Repression 1983, a convict may be awarded death sentence or life imprisonment and financial penalty if a woman is tortured to death or any

attempt to her death for dowry. To marry a woman against her will and receiving dowry have also come under the provision of severe punishment.

Dowry has created a massive problem in familial as well as social panorama of Bangladesh. We need to be conscious in order to be free from effects of this evil custom. Primarily, we need to raise consciousness in the family to stop dowry. We must abstain from receiving and giving dowry.

We have to motivate all members including girl children of the family to go for higher education. Dowry cannot curse their lives if they become self-dependent.

Activity 1: Explain what is told in the act against dowry.

Lesson 3: Social Movement to resist Dowry

We have to raise mass-awareness in society beside our family if we want to be free from the curse of dowry. For this, we have to organise social movement against dowry.



Rally against Dowry

Social movement is organised social resistance.Violence against women, abuse, and abduction of women are incidents that occur around us every day. Demand of dowry is the main issue behind many of these crimes. We have to make our people conscious of the evil effects of the custom in our neighbourhood as well as in our locality, village and ward. Everyone should be urged to come forward and resist dowry. We have to build anti-dowry attitude in everyone's mind in society.

Activity 1: Make a list of activities you will do in order to raise awareness against evil effects of dowry.

Lesson 4: Concept of Child Marriage and Causes

The term 'child marriage' refers to a marriage where both the bride and groom are children or at least one of them is a child. It is known so as it takes place in the childhood and adolescence of the children involved.

According to Act against Child Marriage 1929, the child marriage restraint Act 1929, Act No. XIX of 1929 and Bangladesh officials' approval of child marriage prevention Act of 2014, the term 'child' refers to a girl under 18 and a boy under 21. Therefore, in a marriage, if a bride is below 18 and a groom is below 21, the marriage is considered as a child marriage and hence, prohibited according to law. It is the same if either of them is below the above mentioned age-limit.

The main cause of child marriage in Bangladesh is poverty. A poor father is somehow unable to provide for his daughter and marries her off to in-law's house. Besides poverty, there is also lack of social security as a cause.

Whim of parents as well as grandparents is also responsible for child marriage. Such guardians sometimes arrange such marriages just to satisfy their own whims.

Another reason behind child marriage is dowry. Parents of many grooms bring minor girls as daughters in law as they get dowry to meet their respective necessities.

Activity 1:	Identify the reasons behind child marriage from your experience in your locality .

Lesson 5: Effects of Child Marriage, Resistance and Law

Child marriage affects the increase in various individual and collective social problems in society. For example, though the minimum age for marriage of a girl and boy in our country is 18 and 21 respectively, yet they are seen to marry earlier than that. This usually leads them to become parents themselves even before they attain full maturity of their physique and psyche. As a result, the adolescent girl suffers from malnutrition and her baby also suffers from weakness and malnutrition. Rate of maternal and infant mortality is increased.

We need to arrange proper education for these children and adolescents. When they become educated, they will be conscious and will have clear idea about the bad effects of early marriage. Child marriage is a punishable crime. We need to step forward to stop child marriage. Parents and guardians of such children must be consulted frankly. Besides, both boys and girls need to be independent. A self-dependent nation can stop child marriage altogether. Specifically, girls need to be conscious about the issue.

According to Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, child marriage is an offence. In the case of this offence, an adult shall be sentenced to two years imprisonment or one lac taka fine or the both. If any adolescent commits the offence like child marriage, he or she shall be sentenced to one month imprisonment or fifty thousand taka fine or the both according to this law. If parents, guardians or any other person arrange the child marriage, shall be sentenced to two years imprisonment or fifty thousand taka fine or the both.

Activity 1: Mention one rule of anti-child marriage act. Activity 2: Identify reasons behind child marriage. Activity 3: What can we do to stop child marriage? Discuss in groups and make a chart.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. In which year was the Dowry Prohibition Act amended?

a. 1980 b. 1983
c. 1986 d. 1988

2. Measures to prevent the dowry system include

i. Educating everyone
ii. Making girls self-reliant
iii. Raising awareness among people

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 3 and 4

Mr. Mizan gave a motorcycle to the groom at his daughter Mariam's wedding. A few days later, Mariam's in-laws sent her back to her father's house to bring more money. When she failed to do so, they subjected her to physical and mental abuse.

3. What social problem did Mariam face?

a. Illiteracy b. Dowry

c. Superstition d. Population explosion

4. Causes of the above problem:

i. Poverty

ii. Dependence of women

iii. Weak enforcement of laws

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii

c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

Creative Question

1. Zahid is the only child of a conservative family. During his marriage, his parents wanted to take valuable gifts and 5 lakh taka from the bride's family for business purposes, but Zahid refused. He explained that he couldn't accept or support such actions. His parents realised their mistake.

a. What is child marriage?

b. Explain the need to encourage daughters to pursue higher educa tion.

c. Which social practice is indicated by Zahid's parents' proposal? Explain.

d. Do you think Zahid's action is sufficient to prevent the men tioned practice? Give your opinion in support of your answer.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is dowry? Explain.

2. How does dowry undermine women's dignity?

3. Explain one reason for child marriage in Bangladesh

Chapter Nine

Rights of Senior Citizens and Women in Bangladesh

Rights are some facilities and opportunities approved by society and state which helps the flourishing of citizens. Nobody can realise their full potential without their rights. The main aim of rights is to facilitate betterment of individual. Ensuring proper enjoyment of all rights and flourishing of physical and mental health, social and economic status by citizens is a responsibility of a modem country. Rights primarily refer to human rights. All rights for human beings are written in human rights declaration. The United Nations published the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' in 1948.This chapter will highlight the rights of the seniors and women.

By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-

1. explain the concept of rights of the seniors and their rights;
2. describe the problems of the senior citizens;
3. describe the programmes for welfare of the seniors in Bangladesh;
4. explain the concept of women rights in the context of Bangladesh;
5. analyse women's position in society and their rights situation;
6. discuss importance of women rights in Bangladesh;
7. describe the rights enjoyed by women in Bangladesh;
8. identify steps necessary to ensure women rights.

Lesson 1: Concept of Rights of the Senior Citizens and their Rights

People above 60 years are generally known as the aged in Bangladesh. People go to retirement from earning their livelihood at this age. The age for retirement for a government service holder in Bangladesh is 59. The retirement age for Justices has recently been raised to 67, for University Professors and some other professionals to 65. In the modem developed countries, people above 60 or 65 are regarded as Senior Citizens. They are awarded special honour, privilege and opportunity. The United Nations also has drawn up certain principles to protect the rights of senior citizens. Besides, the same organisation has declared 1 October of the year as the 'International Day of Older Persons' in order to create awareness about their rights and our responsibilities towards them.

Rights of the Senior Citizens

Rights that determine the independence of the seniors are:

- Right to get sufficient food, drinks, shelter, clothes and medical care;
- Right to work or earn for themselves;
- Right to decide when to retire from physical labour;
- Right to live in a safe and sound environment according to own will and adaptability;
- Right to get suitable education and training;
- Right to live along with family at home.

Rights to Participate

The rights of participation for the senior citizens are:

- Right to participate actively in various policy making and implementation process;
- Right to participate in social welfare activities according to health and ability;
- Right to organisation and participation in movement.

Rights to Care

There are some rights to care for the senior citizens. These are:

- Right to care from the family and society and subsistence;
- Right to medical facility in regard to physical, psychological and emotional health;

- Right to social and judicial access in order to ensure individuality, sustenance and care;
- Right to live in humane and safe condition, rehabilitation, all cares related to social and mental joys.
- Right to dignity and reverence and enjoyment of all basic human rights and freedom for those who live in shelters and care or treatment facilities;
- Right to decision in regards of taking support from the above stated care centres.

Apart from these, the senior citizens enjoy some other rights that ensure their flourishing. These are:

- Right to full flourishing of their talent;
- Right to access educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational activities and access to own properties;
- Right to a beautiful place free from physical and psychological torments;
- Right to good behaviour from all irrespective of age, gender, religion and race;
- Right to get respect and value for contributing to economy.

Activity 1: Who are senior citizens? Write why they should be respected.

Activity 2: What kind of rights to care do the senior citizens enjoy in your family and relatives? Identify them from your own experience.

Lesson 2: Problems of the Senior Citizens

The problems that senior citizens in our society have to face usually are discussed below.

(a) **Familial Problem:** Once, in our country, our families were extended families. At that time, the senior citizens had a kind of authority or role in their families. But urbanisation, industrialisation and changes in our economic activities have broken those extended families into small nuclear families. These newer versions have only the father-mother, children and at best, the home-worker with them. There is no place for the parents or in laws or even if there is, they live a subdued life. They are not properly looked after or taken care of during their illness. They do not get company or somebody to talk to. Consequently, they fall prey to loneliness and melancholy. In many a cases with working parents, senior citizens have to take care of the children, reach them to school, do the shopping and carry out the daily chores. It is sometimes

difficult for them at their age. Sometimes, they are even regarded as burdens.

(b) Economic Problem: Senior citizens suffer from financial helplessness as they do not have an earning and their savings and properties are already distributed to inheritors. They become dependent on their children. They cannot do anything on their own. This situation is more serious in poor and middle class families. Most of the senior citizens become penniless even before they reach old age as they spend all the money in maintaining family, paying for the education and marriage of children. Sometimes, they are also made penniless by natural disasters like floods, tidal waves and river erosions, etc. The children with their insufficient income or ability cannot come to support their parents in misery. They cannot care for their parents even if they have all the will.

(c) **Physical Problem:** People start to lose physical strength as they grow old. Various diseases strike their body. They need a bit of rest and comfort. But most of the elderly people of our country do not get this comfort. They do not even get proper medical facilities in their illness. They do not have the ability to purchase proper medicine and diet during their illness.

(d) **Socio-cultural Problem:** Nowadays, the older reverence, respect and importance paid towards the senior citizens and their opinions are no more noticeable in our society. A number of causes like decadence of social values, lack of moral education, influence of foreign culture, selfish attitudes, etc. are responsible for this. In some families and societies, the senior citizens are considered less important. Their opinions are not counted. They are not provided time and company. They hardly have any scope for recreation and leisure.

(e) **Psychological Problem:** The 'cornered' situation of the aged in family and society generates an inferiority complex in them. They start to feel neglected and helpless. Lack of own support and ability added with physical sickness and loneliness increase this inferiority complex. Loss of memory at old age also makes it more complex for them.

Activity 1:	Mention the problems faced by the elderly people.
Activity 2:	Describe the sufferings of an old man from your own experience.

Lesson 3: Welfare Programme for the Senior Citizens in Bangladesh

The constitution of Bangladesh also dictates to provide social security to senior citizens Presently, there are about 1 crore aged people in this country. There are about 50 countries in the world whose total population is less than that. We have welfare activities for the senior citizens both in government and non-government sectors.

Non-government Programmes

There are a handful of organisations in the private sector that work for the welfare of senior citizens.

- *Probin Hitoishi Songho o Jora Biggyan Organisation*: This organisation is situated in Sher e Bangla Nogor, Dhaka. Its activities include medical treatment facilities, rehabilitation, recreation, observance of religious festivals, etc. Besides, this organisation has established a library for the seniors.
- Bangladesh Retired Government Employees Welfare Organisation: This organisation provides monetary facility to the seniors for education and health issues as donation and zero interest loans.

Besides, there are Bangladesh Women Health Association, Rotary Club, Mother and Child Home, Old Home, Jhora Pata, etc. who also carry out certain programmes for the senior citizens.

Government Programme:

1. **Pension Allowance:** Employees of government, semi-government, and autonomous bodies get pension facilities when they retire or die. It is a long term social security. When an employee goes in retirement after specific years of service for the government service, he or she gets this allowance according to some rules. This is known as pension allowance.

2. **Old Age Allowance:** This programme is run for the benefit of seniors all over the country, specifically, for the helpless, distressed, neglected and poor elderly of rural areas come under its net. The most helpless elderly (minimum age for the female is 62 years and for the male is 65 years) people of each ward of all unions are given 650 taka per month as an old age allowance.

3. **Widow and Husband Abuse Women Allowance:** Destitute widows and husband abused women come under this coverage. There is no age bar to it. As a result, maximum receivers of this benefit are aged women.

Besides, the government is taking up newer programmes for the benefit of senior citizens. The government has enacted law 'The Maintenance of Parents Act-2013 to ensure the rights of the senior citizens. In this act, all the child are directed to ensure the rights of their parents. In the absence of parents, the maintenance of both grandparents is obligated in that act.

Activity 1: Identify the welfare activites of aged persons in Bangladesh.

Activity 2: What programmes can be taken for the welfare of senior citizens in Bangladesh? Give your opinion.

Lesson 4: Concept of Women Rights and Situation of Women and their Rights in Bangladesh

Concept of women rights: We live in a society. We need certain facilities and opportunities to live safe and sound as a member in the society. The chance to fulfill these needs is a kind of right.



Women Rights

Therefore, the term 'rights of women' means those facilities and opportunities a state approves of for its women. Women rights are human rights. The United Nations published the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' on 10 December 1948, approving these rights for people all over the world. According to the charter, all people irrespective of their race, religion, caste, age, gender, etc. qualify to enjoy these rights. In our previous class, we learned these rights. One major and special feature among them is all men and women are equal and they deserve equal rights. United Nations plays a unique role in preserving various rights for the women in education, health, medical treatment, etc. The constitution of Bangladesh also declares to eradicate all discrimination to the women. But we need to learn how our women folk are living. It is really tough to ensure equal rights for women in our society. If we do not know about our rights, we cannot enjoy them. In reality, the main reason for not ensuring equal rights of women and men is our ignorance about the women rights.

Position of Women in Bangladesh and their rights: In Bangladesh, women are lagging behind men in many ways. They are still deprived of economic rights, social rights, cultural rights and many more. They are also victims to many types of discrimination. Many parents in our country still regard a female child a burden. They think their male child, once he grows up, will earn to feed them and take the helm of family. On the other hand, a female child, according to them, will go away to her husband's or in laws' family after marriage and it will cost quite an amount to marry her off. From this point of view, parents prefer a male child over a female child. But the situation is changing now. Girls are coming forward equally with boys to take up responsibilities of parents, family as well as society. Similarly, although slowly, the attitude of society toward women is changing. Many in the society are not yet ready to give the women their due rights because of lack of culture and education and also because of social and religious superstitions. Our constitution as well as government regulations provide women an equal status with men as citizens. They have equal rights as men in service in other professions, and in getting wages. But in reality, women are deprived of these rights in many respects. They are victims of deprivation in family and society as well. A family does not show equal interest in educating their girl child as

they do for a male child. Specifically, in villages, girls are married off at minor age. As a result, girls are not allowed to go beyond primary and secondary levels despite being good students. Besides, there are instances of physical and mental tortures too.

Activity 1:	Discuss why the role of women is important in society.

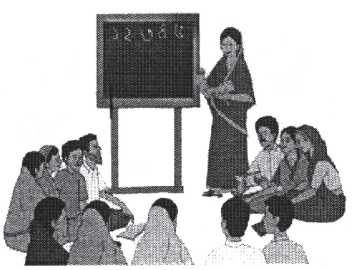
Lesson 5: Women Rights in Bangladesh and Significance of Their Rights

Now, we will learn the rights of women.

- Right to equal status with men;
- Right to participate in all spheres of activities in the national arena;
- Right to equality in the eyes of law and equal access to law;
- Right to access any recreational and refreshment facility and access to any educational institution for admission;
- Right to equality for government service and be considered free of any discrimination;
- Right to individual freedom.

The Importance of Women Rights in Bangladesh

Almost half of the population of Bangladesh is women. Development of country is beyond question keeping this half deprived of their rights or letting them fall behind. Begum Rokeya, the forerunner of women advancement, has compared a man and a woman with two wheels of a car. If the two wheels cannot complement each other the car will stop. Similarly, in the society, if women cannot move forward equally, advancement of society will stop. Women do not only play the roles of mother, sister, daughter, sister-in-law, aunt or grandmother, they also play their role alongside their male partners to maintain the family. They also play the main role of rearing children which is highly important. Women are not limited to traditional homemakers only. They are also earning for the family. They are now showing their excellence in different industries including garments, academic institutions, multinational companies, engineering, medical and defence services. If we provide them proper education, training as well as rights to movement and opinion, they will be able to play vital role in different sectors. This will help advancement of family, society and the country as well. They will be able to contribute more effectively to their families and society and through that, construction of the country.



Equal Rights of Men & Women in education

Therefore, women rights are indispensible for welfare and development of the country as well as the world. Considering this, providing proper opportunity for the women to enjoy their rights and to emancipate has become so vital these days. An educated, self-sufficient and sensible lady can work both inside the home and away from home. That is why, the most important is to let them enjoy their rights to the fullest and to let them flourish to the fullest. The French leader and general Napoleon Bonaparte has described the significance of women in his famous quote "Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation." This highlights the importance of women rights in a country.

Activity 1:	Write down the rights of women in Bangladesh.

Lesson 6: Steps to Implement Women Rights in Bangladesh

The constitution of Bangladesh specifies equal rights to men and women. The UN charter also prescribes the same. Here, equal rights imply all spheres of life including family, society and country where women deserve to be treated equally with men. It is not that women will be able to cast their votes or contest elections; they will have equal access to education, service, employment and wages with men.



Participation of woman in job

The government has taken some steps to allay all discrimination toward the women and ensure equal rights for them. Education for girls up to higher secondary level is made free and these students are provided with stipend from the government. There was a system of writing only father's name to determine the identity of children. Currently writing mother's name has been made compulsory along with father's name. Tough law has been enacted to tackle cruelty against women and acid terrorism. Maternity leave has been increased. Women have started to get some fruits from these measures. However, it may not be possible to see a definite change in the society's attitude unless we can expand education and create mass-awareness. Participation of women in various organizations is a proof that our women folk are coming up.

Activity 1:	Identify the major obstacles on the way to ensuring women rights.
Activity 2:	Discuss some of the measures of government in order to ensure women rights in the country and their advancement.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the retirement age for government employees in Bangladesh?

a. 57 years b. 59 years
c. 60 years d. 65 years

2. Causes of problems faced by the senior citizens in our society

i. Lack of earning ability
ii. Erosion of social values
iii. Decline of moral education

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 3 and 4

Rozina asked her husband to bring toys for their children. He brought a cricket bat and ball for their son, and dolls and toy kitchenware for their daughter.

3. This behaviour of Rozina's husband reflects what type of attitude towards boys and girls?

i. Economic discrimination
ii. Difference in perspective
iii. Difference in affection

Which of the following is correct?

a. i b. ii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

4. Reasons for such behaviour include

i. Some parents still see daughters as a burden
ii. Daughters are given less importance than sons
iii. Parents do not want to spend more on their daughters

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

Creative Question

1. Hafiza lives with her husband and three children. Her husband's single income is not sufficient, so she works as a construction labourer. At the end of the week, her employer pays her 600 taka per day while male workers are paid 800 taka per day for the same work. When she protested, she was told not to return to work.

a. What is a pension?

b. Why is an old age allowance provided?

c. What type of discrimination did Hafiza face? Explain.

d. Give your opinion on how women like Hafiza can claim their rights.

2. Seventy-year-old Siddika Khatun wishes to share stories from the past, but her children have no time to listen. She was not even consulted during her granddaughter's wedding. Her neighbour Jobeda Begum tells her children that they should care for their mother's food, health, and occasionally take her out.

a. Who are considered as senior citizens?

b. Explain the activities of the Bangladesh Government Retired Welfare Association for the elderly.

c. What kind of problem is Siddika Khatun facing? Explain.

d. Do you think Jobeda Begum's advice is appropriate in this situation? Give your opinion.

Short Answer Questions

1. How can discrimination against women be eliminated?

2. How can women be recognized as dignified individuals?

3. Why do senior citizens suffer from psychological problems?

Chapter Ten

Some Countries in Asia

Bangladesh is a developing country in Asia. Among the countries in Asia some are developed and some are not. The second group stands in the status of middle income and developing countries like Bangladesh. But there are huge similarities among the Asian countries regarding standard of life, economic condition, geographical and climatic characteristic, history and culture. Bangladesh has excellent and friendly relationship with many countries in Asia. We have cooperative relationship with them relating to education, literature, culture, commerce, industry, technology, etc. Here we have given a brief introduction of some countries.

By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-

1. describe the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and India;
2. describe the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and China;
3. describe the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan;
4. discuss the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Korea;
5. discuss the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Lesson 1: Friendship and Cooperation between Bangladesh-India and Bangladesh-China

India

India is our nearest neighbuor. It is a large and populous country of South Asia. It is situated at the mid-south of Asia. To its north are the Himalayas, the largest mountain range in the world. To the east is situated the Arakan mountains and Assam and to the west are the Hindukush and the Suleman ranges. The Indian ocean is to its south. The area of India is 32 lakh 87 thousand 240 square kilometers and population is about 144 crore and 17 lakh people. The capital of the country is New Delhi.



Map of India

India is regarded as one the world's oldest and most cultvrally rich civilization. Marks of civilisation of nearly five thousand years old have been found in this country. Cave drawings of Ajanta in south India, innumerable temples and sculptures spread all over the country, Tajmahal of Agra, Kutub Minar and Red Fort of Delhi, etc. bear the mark of ancient civilisations of India. Throughout ages, different foreign powers invaded, ruled and exploited India. Finally, after two hundred years of British rule, India was independent on 15 August 1947. About 70% of its population live in villages while the rest 30% are urban. Paddy, wheat, barley, oat, coffee, and tea are among the chief agro-produces of the country. From the very ancient period, India was famous for its fine textile. At present, they have advanced in steel, cement, machinery, chemical products, fertiliser, and even ship building and car making industries.

India is known as the world's largest democracy. Parliamentary democracy has long been highly effective in the country.

India is a country of diverse people of different sects, religions and languages. People of many religions like Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jainas, etc. live in the country. Bangladesh has friendly relation with India.

China

China is a country of East Asia. Its official name is People's Republic of China and locally, it is known as Jhunghua. The name of its capital is Beijing. The population of China is about 142 crore and 52 lakh people. The area of this third largest country of the world is 95 lakh 98 thousand 89 square kilometres. Geographically, it is situated between India and Russia. To the east of China is the Pacific Ocean, to the west and north are Russia, Mongolia and some parts of India and to its south are the Himalayas. Mountains cover more than one-third of its total land area. The Mount Everest, the highest peak of the world, is situated on the Nepal-China border. Climate of China is mostly moderate but some parts of the country remains covered with ice for a long period of the year.



Map of China

Many races and sects live in China. About 95% of Chinese people are originated from the race Hun Chinese. Besides, there are 56 other races like Juang, Manchu, Hui, Miao, Wighur, Mongol, Tibetan, etc. The language of 95% of its population is Mandarin. The world knows this language as Chinese.

Chinese economy is mostly based on industry and service sector. Paddy is the main agricultural product. Wheat, potato, beat, cotton, tea, tobacco, oil seed, sugarcane, soybean, coco, palm seed etc. are some of the other products. Iron, steel, silk, fertiliser, machinery, cement, paper, sugar and medicine are some of their major industries. China is highly rich in minerals too. Its soil gives away petroleum, iron ore, brass, aluminium, gold, coal, etc. valuable minerals. Its forests provide for more than 32 thousand species of trees and about 1150 species of birds. The Hoang Ho and Yang Tze are the largest rivers of China.

China is divided into 22 administrative provinces and 5 autonomous regions. Literacy rate among this large population is about 97%. Bangladesh has friendly relation with China. Besides, there is economic cooperation between the two countries in industry and commerce. Bangladesh has many agreements with them in terms of development and investment.

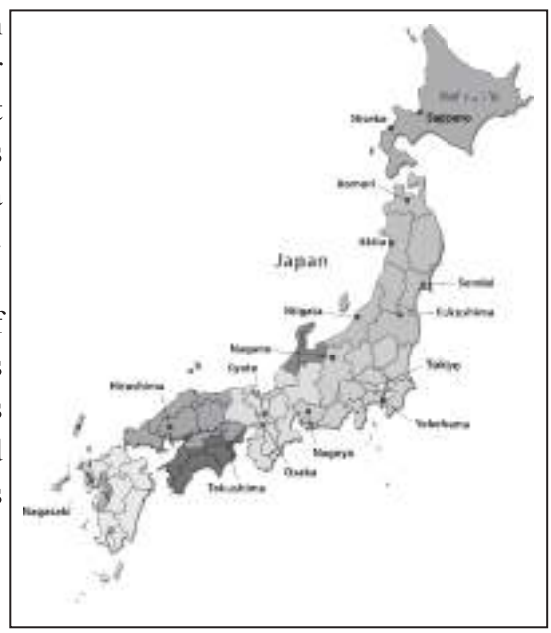
Activity 1:	Make a list of some of our closest neighbours.
Activity 2:	Discuss the importance of the relationship between India and Bangladesh according to your textbook.
Activity 3:	Describe the economic relationship between China and Bangladesh.

Lesson 2: Friendship and Cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan, Korea and Malaysia

Japan

Japan a is country of islands in East Asia. The country consists of about four thousand islands, both large and small. The four main islands among them are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. The sea is on all four sides of the country. It is separated from the mainland of Asia by the Sea of Japan and South China Sea.

The official name of the country is Kingdom of Japan and the local name is Nippon or Nihon. Its capital is Tokyo. It is situated at the farthest east of Asia. That is why, it is also called the 'land of sunrise'. Japan is a small country with regard to its land area. About 12 crore 26 lakh people live in this 3 lakh 77 thousand 708 square kilometres of land. About 99% of its population speaks Japanese language. Literacy rate of Japan is 100% and per capita income is 33 thousand 9 hundred 56 US dollars. Shinto is Japan's major religion.



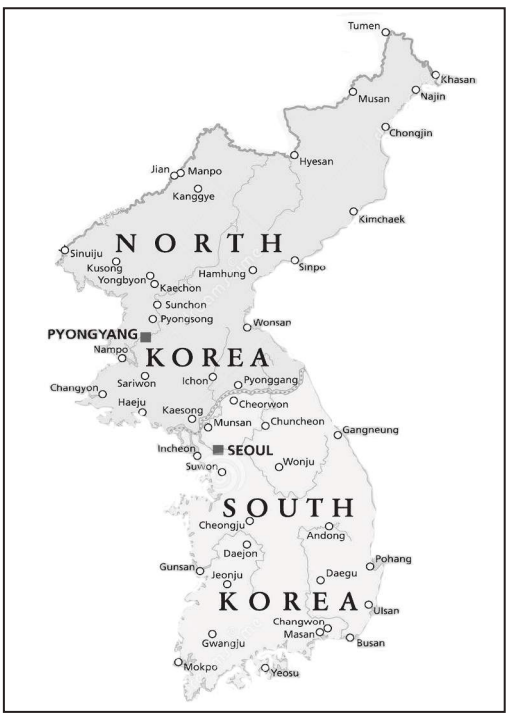
Map of Japan

The climate of Japan is temperate. Effect of monsoon is clear in the north east part of Japan. The summer is humid and the winter is moderately cold. Some of the mentionable crops of the country are paddy, wheat, barley, soy bean, sweet potato, sugar cane, beet, apple and grapes. Its major industries include iron and steel, electronics, ship building and car making, textile, machine tools, medicine, electric appliances, and heavy machinery. Japan leads the world in

industries. The main drive of its economy is industries. It is also rich in minerals, some of which are natural gas, coal, iron, manganese, petroleum, lead, gold, silver, etc. Japan has compulsory education for the age range of 6 to 15. Japan's relation with Bangladesh is friendly all along. It is the main partner in the development of roads and bridges and our industrial development. We have commercial relation with this country.

Korea

The Korean peninsula is situated at the north east of Asia. It is spread from north to south. The distance from north to south is about 1000 kilometres. Most of its northern border lies with China alongside some parts with Russia. Korea was divided into two parts after the Second World War. The parts are named South Korea and North Korea. The official name of the first is Republic of Korea and the second is People's Democratic Republic of Korea. Economic and political systems of the two countries are also different. Most of the land area of Korea is mountainous. The two parts contain a total of about 3,000 islands.



Map of Korea

There are four seasons in Korea. Besides, in different times different kinds of weather are seen . There is a lot of rain in June, July and August. Winter prevails from November to March. Its main agro-products include paddy, barley, cabbage, apple, grape, tobacco, etc. Major industries include petro-chemicals, chemical fibers, ship building, automobile, electronics, etc. Among its minerals are iron, tungsten, lime stone, granite, lead, silver and zinc.

Nationally, the Koreans are monolingual. They have the same physical structure as that of the Chinese and Japanese. But they are different from the Chinese and Japanese in respect of linguistic and anthropological aspects. They speak and write Korean language.

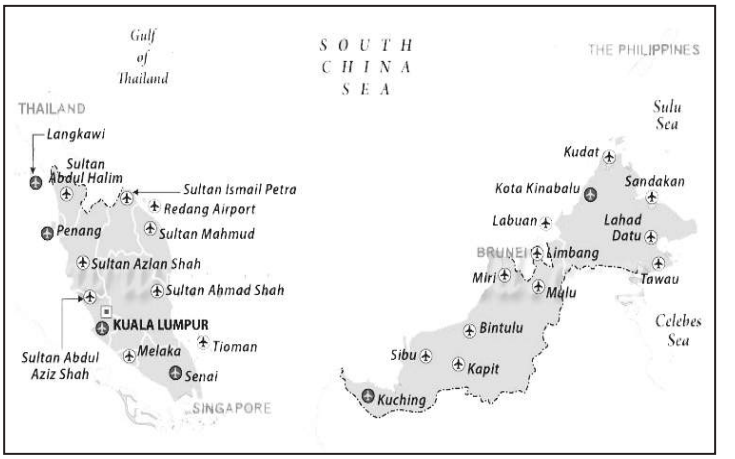
The relation of Bangladesh with Korea, especially South Korea, is very friendly. South Korea has been cooperating with Bangladesh with regard to the

development of highways-roads, bridges and industries. Bangladesh also has commercial relation with South Korea.

Malaysia

Malaysia is an important country of south east Asia. Malaysia consists of 13 provinces and 3 federal regions. The topography is full of variety. Its west is marshland, eastern part is sandy and the middle is covered by mountains ranging toward north and south.

There are followers of Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism in the country. Its capital is Kuala Lampur. Besides, its main cities are Putrajaya, George town, Johor Bahru, Penang, Ipoh, and Kuching.



Map of Malaysia

Malaysian economy is mostly based on industry and service sector. Major industries of the country are rubber, fertiliser, China ware etc. Their notable minerals are tin, iron and petroleum. Railway, road and air-all three communications systems are developed. Georgetown, Klang, Kuching and Penang are their main sea ports. Malaysia has developed in many sectors within short period of their independence. Bangladesh has trade relations with Malaysia. The country has invested huge amount in different EPZ's of Bangladesh. Many expatriate Bangladeshis work in Malaysia. Malaysian labour market is a big sector for us.

Activity 1: Give a brief introduction of Korea and Japan according to the lessons.
Activity 2: Is Malaysia agriculture based or industry based country? Discuss what you know about the economic relationship between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Kuching is the main seaport of which country?

a. Korea b. India
c. Japan d. Malaysia

2. Japan's climate features:

i. Influence of monsoons
ii. Humid summers
iii. Rainy winters

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions 3 and 4

Entrepreneur Mr. Adnan visits an industrialised country in East Asia. The country is surrounded by the sea, and its predominant ethnic religion is Shinto.

3. Which country did Mr. Adnan visit?

a. India b. China
c. Japan d. Malaysia

4. Reasons the country visited by Mr. Adnan is industrialised include

i. High standard of living
ii. Abundance of mineral resources
iii. Rich in agricultural resources

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii
b. i and iii
c. ii and iii
d. i, ii and iii

Creative Question

1. Anindya went to a neighbouring country during his summer vacation with his parents. The country is bordered by the Himalayas in the north and the Hindu Kush and Sulaiman Mountains in the west. It is rich in ancient art and civilisation.

a. What is the capital of Malaysia?
b. What does "multi-ethnic country" mean? Explain.
c. Describe the similarity between the climate of the country visited by Anindya and that of Bangladesh.
d. Evaluate the importance of the friendly and cooperative relationship between the country Anindya visited and Bangladesh.

2. Event 1: Mr. Shafiul went on vacation to a Southeast Asian country. The country is surrounded by the sea, and its natural scenery is truly charming. Though the country consists of islands, four islands play the key role in the economy.

Event 2: Mr. Muaz has been working in an East Asian country for a long time. Though the country is one of the most populous in the world, it is economically quite developed.

a. What is the name of world's largest mountain range?
b. Why is India considered one of the oldest civilisations in the world? Explain.
c. Describe the climate of the country Mr. Shafiul visited.
d. Provide a comparative analysis of the economies of the countries in Stem 1 and Stem 2.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is the nature of Bangladesh's relationship with South Korea?
2. What is the nature of Bangladesh's economic relationship with Malaysia?
3. Why is Japan called the "Land of the Rising Sun"?

Chapter Eleven
Bangladesh & International Cooperation

All independent countries of the world enjoy sovereignty. The government of a country is responsible to run the country smoothly so that welfare, development and prosperity of the people as well as country are ensured. To achieve this, the governments of different countries run multidimensional programmes. However, some issues are there which a country cannot solve on its own. In these cases, they require help from other countries or organisations. This necessity has given rise to the idea of regional and international cooperation and accordingly, some organisations have flourished. The United Nations is the topmost among them. This chapter highlights the importance of international cooperation and different aspects of the United Nations.

By the end of the chapter, we will be able to-

1. explain the concept of international cooperation and its significance;
2. describe the structure of the United Nations;
3. describe the objectives of the United Nations;
4. describe basic principles of the United Nations;
5. describe activities of different branches of the United Nations;
6. describe the role of United Nations in establishing peace around the world;
7. describe the role of Bangladesh in international peacekeeping forces.

Lesson 1: International Cooperation: Concept and Significance

The Concept of International Cooperation

At present each and every country in the world constitutes its foreign policy in accordance with its own benefit and welfare. Fundamentally, these policies emphasise ensuring their national interests by means of mutual dependence with others. A country builds up political, economic and military relationship with another. All countries are spread over seven continents. Although each of them is an independent and benevolent state, none of them is completely self-dependent. Besides, there are certain necessities and problems in these countries. Eradication of them needs support from other countries and organisations. For example, our country Bangladesh has problems like fuel crisis, environmental problems, health and education issues. As a developing country, our government cannot solve all these on its own. As a result, Bangladesh is taking support from other countries as well as organisations. Again, some countries in the Middle East and Africa have racial conflicts and war as well. As a consequence, multinational forces including Bangladeshi forces are working there to maintain peace. That way, all countries around the world survive through mutual cooperation.

The above discussions show that although independent, all countries need mutual support and maintain friendly relation among them. This is true not only in case with a handful of nations within a region, but such relation can be stretched up to the farthest corner of the globe. Significance of such cooperation has given rise to various organisations like the United Nations, the OIC and the Commonwealth, etc. They lend their support to countries and thus contribute to global advancement.

Importance of International Cooperation

Present age is the age of mutual dependence. And in such an age, there is no alternative to mutual cooperation. That is why, countries are building up cooperation of various kinds and nature among them. A country may need such assistance in its education, health, agriculture, economy, environment, weather, communication and technology, etc. sectors. In many instances, a country lends direct or mutual treaty-based assistance to another. Sometimes, they also provide support through international organisations. The recipient countries try to utilise this support from other countries alongside their own initiatives in order to solve their problems. Again, there are some issues that involve more than one country.

Such issues obviously require mutual support. Keeping this in view, mutual cooperation is given emphasis by all countries of the present world.

Below is an example of mutual cooperation. Reading it, we can learn of its importance more clearly.

Example 1: Including Bangladesh, there are many countries in the world that have numerous population illiterate. Education is the key to all developments. But these countries are unable to educate all their people due to their poor economy. UNICEF, UNESCO and some other organisations come up with assistance for such countries for eradicating illiteracy.

The United Nations took up "Millennium Development Goals (MDG)" to make these countries free from illiteracy by the year 2015. To achieve this, UN provided financial and technological assistance to these countries. Since the MDG programme reached its deadline, UN has now taken up "Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)" which has started in 2016. This charter clarifies the UN promise for extension and standardisation of education.

The above example shows how important international cooperation is. Such assistance help many countries to solve many major concerns prevailing in those lands.

Activity 1: Write a brief report on international cooperation.

Lesson 2: The United Nations and its Structure

Background of the United Nations

We know that there took place two world wars within a span of only 25 years at the first half of the 20th century. The World War I started in 1914 and the World War II started from 1939. Many countries of the world got involved in these wars. These wars were great impediments on the prosperity of human civilisation. That is why, there were simultaneous attempts to establish peace. From this view, after the WWI, League of Nations was formed in 1920 with the idea of maintaining



The Headquarter of the UN

peace. However, the organisation could not achieve permanence due to self-righteousness of some countries. The world experienced yet another world war from 1939. This WWII caused massive destruction to many countries. Japan was devastated by nuclear attacks. Lakhs of people were killed.

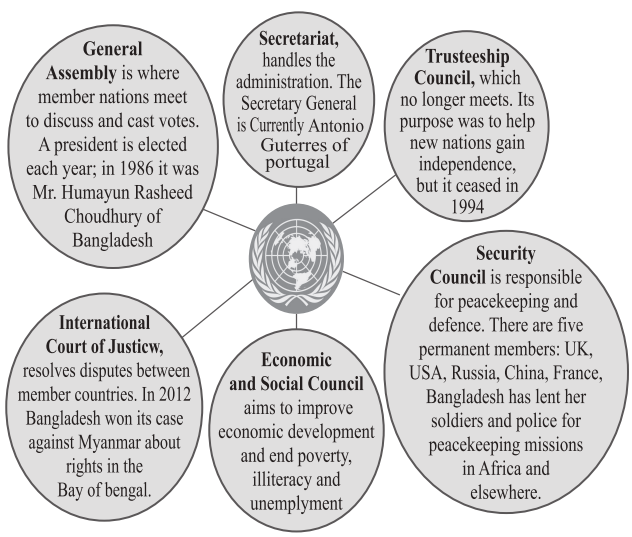
The world got shocked and awed at the devastation caused by WWII. They started to think of world peace. They also started to think of avoiding wars for the betterment of humanity. The idea was to achieve worldwide peace and prosperity by means of cooperation among the countries. The world leaders began the process of establishing the United Nations from 1941. Winston Churchill, the then British Prime Minister, and President Roosevelt of the USA initiated the idea and other world leaders participated in discussion. As a result of long discussion, the United Nations was formed on 24 October 1945. This way, the United Nations came to light in order to save the world from any further war and its devastation.

Structure of the United Nations

The United Nations is structured with six organs:

1. General Assembly
2. UN Secretariat
3. The Trusteeship Council
4. The International Court of Justice
5. The Economic and Social Council
6. The Security Council

The six administrative branches of the UN



At the beginning, the UN had 51 members. Now they are 193. The Secretary General is the chief administrative officer. The first Secretary General was Trygve Lie of Norway. The present Secretary General is Antonio Guterres of Portugal. The UN is headquartered in New York of the United States of America. Bangladesh became a member of the UN in 1974.

The United Nations has its own flag. The colour of the flag is light blue. A globular map of the world is set on white in the middle of the flag. On the right and left sides of the globe are two wreaths of olive leaves.

There are six official languages in the United Nations. They are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Any of the six languages, if used by someone inside the UN, is automatically translated into the other five. However, English has predominance.

Activity 1: Write a brief essay on mentionable events during the formation of the UN.

Lesson 3: Objectives and Basic Principles of United Nations

The Objectives

With the aim of establishing world peace and cooperation the main objectives of United Nations are as follows:

1. To promote world peace, discipline and security, resisting all offending actions that threaten peace;
2. To promote freedom and basic rights for all human beings irrespective of race, caste, language and gender and ensure everyone honours them;
3. To promote international cooperation in order to solve economic, social, cultural and humanitarian crisis;
4. To promote freedom for all colonies and their people.

The Basic Principles of UN:

The United Nations has seven basic principles. All member countries get their membership of UN with their pledge to abide by these. They are:

1. The organisation is based on sovereign equality of all its members;
2. All members shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the charter;
3. All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means;
4. All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state;
5. All the membr states of UN will follow the policy taken by the UN and refrain from any actions taken by the UN.
6. The organisation shall ensure that non-member states of the United Nations act in accordance with these principles ;

7. The United Nations will not intervene the internal affairs of any country. However, The UN can interfere if any country carry out aggressive activities on others.

Lesson 4: Activities of the United Nations

The United Nations is involved in multidimensional activities for the betterment of humanity and development of member states as well. Some of these are mentioned below:

1. To ensure peace, cooperation and security;
2. To impose economic and diplomatic sanction against aggressive states;
3. To deploy peacekeeping forces in order to establish peace and stop war;
4. To take support from regional organisations;
5. To engage in activities in order to solve unemployment, meet crises related to education, agriculture and health issues and ensure rehabilitation in a member state;
6. To mitigate all international disputes through International Court of Justice.

Group Activity 1: Make a report on the basis of reading newspapers and other reports mentioning two examples of implementation of objectives and principles of the UN.

Lesson 5: Role of the United Nations in Maintaining World Peace

The United Nations was born due to demand for world peace against the backdrop of devastations of World War II. One of the main objectives of the UN was to promote peace in the world. The United Nations has achieved considerable success in this regard. Although there are some failures, still, its contribution is noteworthy. The greatest success of the United Nations is that there had been no more World Wars since its inception. Within a span of only 25 years before it came into being, the world saw two World Wars. The Security Council is one major organ of the United Nations. It is responsible for the maintenance of world peace.

The UN charter has empowered the Security Council to take all necessary combined actions in order to ensure peace and security. Wherever something happens that may threaten prevalence of peace and security of the region, the United Nations through its Security Council steps in to control the situation. Thus the United Nations works for maintenance of world peace. It has become successful in a number of countries. The United Nations brought an end to a long-standing civil war and emergence of South Sudan as an independent state, which is a fine example in this regard.



Peace keeping force of Bangladesh in the UN

Besides, various socio-economic issues, violation of human rights in various countries and regions also threaten the world peace. Keeping this in view, the United Nations also conducts various kinds of socio-economic development efforts. A brief discussion on these kinds of activities run by the United Nations is given below-

- Whenever there is a conflict or war between its member states or even within a state, the United Nations through the Security Council attempts to mitigate that conflict. It sends Peacekeeping forces to the places of conflict. It even goes on the offensive if deemed necessary.
- Environmental pollution and climate change are major concerns of the present world. The United Nations is working to the effect of preserving environment and fighting climate change.
- One major aspect of establishment of world peace is ensuring human rights. The United Nations is working to ensure rights for people all over the world through implementing its charter of human rights.
- Illiteracy is a curse for humanity. The United Nations is implementing various programmes to eradicate illiteracy through UNICEF and UNESCO.
- Many countries of the world are victims to hunger and poverty. It is an obstacle on the way to peace. Therefore, the United Nations is working to eradicate poverty and hunger from these countries.

- Besides, the United Nations also has initiatives to meet the population crisis of the world, establishment of women rights, refugee crisis, prevention and resistance to natural disasters, etc. These initiatives act as supports for world peace.

Activity 1: What role does the United Nations play to maintain world peace at present?

Lesson 6: Role of Bangladesh in Peacekeeping Forces

Bangladesh is one of the major contributing countries in UN Peacekeeping Forces. Bangladesh has been playing an active role in maintaining world peace since it received membership in the United Nations in 1974. The country sent its first contingent of armed forces to peacekeeping forces in the year 1988.

As of May 2024, members of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Police were deployed in 63 missions in 43 countries. The countries where Bangladeshi forces have been engaged so far are Congo, Haiti, Ivory Coast, East Timor, Iraq, Kuwait, Namibia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, West Sahara, Mozambique, Ruanda, Cambodia, Somalia, Uganda, Georgia, Liberia, etc.

Bangladesh has sent a total of 1,94,856 personnel to the peacekeeping forces till May 2024. In terms of numbers, Bangladesh is one of the leading countries in this regard. Members of Armed Forces of Bangladesh have gained considerable good name in these peace missions. These Armed Forces and Police personnel have thus gained a dignified identity for the nation and its flag as well.

This participation and faune did not however come without a price. Till May 2024, a total of 168 members of Bangladesh contingents in peacekeeping operations met their deaths in accidents and conflicts. Yet, the excellence of Bangladeshis continues to grow. Noteworthy to mention, besides their male colleagues, the female members of Armed Forces of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Police are also working with the same kind of excellence.

The position of Bangladesh in UN Peacekeeping Forces is indeed like a bright star. This contribution of Bangladesh has been recognised by the appointment of some high officials of Armed Forces of Bangladesh to the post of Commander or other higher posts. This also has increased the status of Bangladesh in the world. This participation in Peacekeeping Forces is economically beneficial for the country too.

Activity 1: Highlight the contribution and sacrifice of Bangladesh for the sake of world peace through examples. You may take help from the newspapers and magazines.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the key to all kinds of development?

a. Hard work b. Education
c. Resources d. Health

2. Bangladesh's participation in peacekeeping forces—

i. Has made Bangladesh widely known
ii. Has enhanced Bangladesh's prestige
iii. Has opened the way for earning foreign currency

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii
c. ii and iii d. i, ii and iii

3. Which council of the United Nations holds the main responsibility for maintaining world peace?

a. General Assembly b. International Court of Justice
c. Economic and Social Council d. Security Council

4. Which of the following is not a function of the United Nations?

a. Ensuring peace and security
b. Taking action against aggressive states
c. Assisting in elections
d. Resolving disputes of the International Court of Justice

Creative Questions

1. In 2012, all the union chairmen of 'A' upazila gathered and appointed the upazila chairman as the head of the council. They formulated policies to ensure justice, discipline, and security in every union and pledged to follow them. They started working to resolve disputes, develop the area, and provide fundamental rights for the people. As a result, peace and order were established, and people began to live safely. When a dispute arose between two unions, the upazila chairman of 'A' intervened and resolved it. Inspired by the success of 'A' upazila, other upazilas also became interested in adopting similar policies.

a. What is the League of Nations?

b. Explain the UN's fundamental principle: "All member states of the United Nations shall have equal rights and equal sovereignty."

c. The process of resolving disputes between the two unions in the stem— which UN principle does it resemble? Explain.

d. "The peace efforts of 'A' upazila are similar to the United Nations' global peace initiatives"— Give your opinion.



A Bangladeshi army doctor is providing medical care in the United Nations mission in Sierra Leone.

a. Who was the first Secretary General of the United Nations?

b. "Receiving cooperation from regional organisations is one of the UN's responsibilities"— Explain.

c. What role is the force shown in the picture of the given stem playing in global peace and security? Explain.

d. Do you agree that the force shown in the picture has helped increase Bangladesh's reputation and honour abroad? Express your opinion.

Short Answer Questions

1. How do countries around the world manage to coexist peacefully?
2. How is it possible to solve major problems of various countries?
3. How did South Sudan achieve independence?

The End

2026 Academic Year

Class Seven : Bangladesh and Global Studies

আলস্য দোষের আকর।



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