

# NOAKHALI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY



## Department of Economics

Course Title: Public Economics

Course Code: ECO 2207

**Topic of Assignment:** Limitations of Public Policies in Bangladesh and their prospective solutions.

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**Introduction:** Public policy is best described as the broad area of government laws, regulation, court decision, and local ordinances. Public policy is generally not a tangible thing but rather is a term used to describe a collection of laws, mandates, or regulations established through a political process. A major aspect of public policy is law. In a general sense, the law includes specific legislation and more broadly defined provisions of constitutional or international law. Everyone has a stake in the public policies enacted by federal, state, and local governments. It is a goal oriented or purpose action, not random or change behaviour. Policy is based on law and is authoritative and legally coercive.

## **THE LIMITATION OF PUBLIC POLICY OF BANGLADESH AND IT'S PROSPECTIVE SOLUTIONS**

### **The limitation of education policy:**

The government should keep an extra focus on education policy. If we see the [2021-22](#) budget, the finance minister announced that the total allocation of the education sector is 71951 crore to which is 11.11% of the total budget. Although the allocation for education has increased compared to the current financial year, it has decreased as per GDP. According to Azizul Islam, "the proportional allocation for education and health in our country is relatively low. And in the coved situation, there is a need to increase spending in the education sector. So it is not justifiable. A large part of the budget goes to teachers' salaries. So students and more research do not get enough allocation for teachers that's why we do not innovate technological prosperity. We are also seeing the results of keeping the lowest allocation in the education sector year after year. Bangladesh ranks 112nd out of 136 countries in the knowledge index. Our position is even lower in terms of the higher education sector or primary education. We are being made a foolish nation by keeping less allocation in this sector year after year. There is a separate sector in the world called research and development. Which is outside the education sector. There are about 125 countries in the world that spend at least one billion dollars every year in this sector. It has been observed that the more those who spend in this sector, the more they are developed. Nepal is on that list. But Bangladesh is not. Because we do not have any allocation in this sector. And

another main problem is our education policymakers failed to create a long-term education system. It's modified over two or three periods.

The education system, lack of moral learning, almost no relation to study subject with job sector, lack of suitable development model are the main problem of our education policy.

### **Prospective solution:**

- An urgent matter that needs immediate attention is the reform of the examination system.
- Teachers need to arrange training
- Technology based education system needs to be promoted
- Allocations for research should be increased
- Education ministry must be applied Long-term education policy
- Corruption in the education sector must be eradicated

### **Limitation of health policy:**

Of our country views, corruption is the biggest problems in public sector management. The government of Bangladesh spends substantial amounts of resources on health services but dissatisfaction is often expressed over availability and quality of these services. In 2019 we face covid 19 pandemic and this pandemic reveals the incompetent health care of Bangladesh. 2019 national budget 4.9% are booked for public health care. A huge amount of money government are booked for public health, but how much we use it properly! Because of over corruption and decision delaying people don't get proper treatment in general hospital. They don't have enough sit, enough ventilation facility, shortage of ICO etc. That's why a survey found that 77.3% of patients receive healthcare facilities from private medicals. Consequently, a large share of the population suffered, and many of them died without proper medical supports. Improper synchronization among the responsible bodies, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Directorate General of Health Services, and test laboratories' executives and workers, could be a reason for such mismanagements. On the beginning Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promptly declared 19 incentive packages of USD 12.13 billion to ameliorate people's sufferings from the pandemic. But it is a matter of concern how effective these measures could be amid the intensifying nationwide corruption. Whereas mismanagements were paralyzing the health sector, increased

corruption worsened the situation to a greater degree. If we see one of the short view of health sector corruption picture,

Medical equipment for Tajuddin Medical College, The proposed expenditure was USD 20.70 million that was at least 10 times higher than the actual expenditure. Also, the products were of poor quality. Website development, The proposed expenditure was USD 1.18 million, and the original expenditure was USD 9438. Safety goggles, The proposed expenditure was USD 59/piece, and the market price was USD 12/piece. The coronavirus testing rate in Bangladesh (0.34%) is the second lowest in South Asia only after Afghanistan. We brought higher price covered 19 testing kit, shortage of Laboratory. It is how we spend our money, so we don't get proper outcome. It mostly suffer poor, lower-middle class and rural people.

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### **Prospective solution:**

- The health sector must be kept free from political biased and corruption
- Ensure quality health-care services for all based on equity. Extend the coverage of quality health-care services
- Establish a community clinic to provide primary health care for every citizen.
- Prioritize emergency care.
- Ensure modernization and adaptation of medical education and technology

## **Limitation of transformation and communication policy:**

In the [2021/22](#) budget, about 12% has been allocated for transport and communication. In the last few financial years, a lot of money is being spent in the transport and communication sectors, And we see that the government is also doing a lot of developmental work is being done including Padma Bridge, Metrorail, flyover, Dhaka Chittagong 4 lane road. But it remains to be seen how much of this allocation work is being used. In the beginning, Padma Bridge was a project worth tk 10,000 crore. The budget has increased due to the addition of the railway line The budget for the Padma Bridge, which was tk 10,000 crore, is now around tk 40,000 crore. The cost of construction materials in the world has not increased much, but the cost of Padma Bridge has almost 4th time the previous budget. Errors in the design of almost all the bridges, roads and freeways in Bangladesh and the increase in budget seems to have become a national disease. Work on the Rs 350 crore Tejgaon-Mouchak flyover has been completed at a cost of about Rs 1,500 crore. The Sonargaon section had to be demolished after construction due to design defects This has resulted in loss or increase in expenditure of about 75 crore rupees The four-year work of Dhaka-Chittagong Charlane has been completed in almost 12 years Expenditure increased almost four times The duration of Tongi-Sayedabad Expressway was three years, the budget was six thousand crore taka. Time has passed more than 9 years. Three years ago it was known that the budget was increased to 24 thousand crore taka. Lack of proper planning, flaws in design, dominance of incompetent people, political instability, excessive corruption etc for suffering to not finding expected result . Costs are rising due to not being able to work on schedule and at the right time, for which other sectors are also suffering. If the policy is made without considering the issues, the government will have to bear a lot of subsidy.

## **Prospective solution:**

- Corruption should be handled strictly
- All development projects should be completed on time
- Expansion and modernisation priority for transport and communication
- Quality and safety should be maintained during construction of infrastructure

- Long-term planning needs to be planned in a planned way
- **Limitation of administrative policy:**

The development of Bangladesh is still suffering from numerous and diverse governance-related inefficiencies and complexities. If we say the specific one, at first come out the corruption problem. We suffer it mostly and a huge national administrative loss we can calculate. Inefficiency of Bureaucracy, Bangladesh is not efficient in management and administration. Our bureaucracy is very poor especially in capacity building and policy implementation. Improper and non-observance of the rule of law.

There are enough laws but it is very rare in implementation in Bangladesh. Poor decision making and planning, no effective measures are yet to be taken by the administrators. Shortage of trained personnel, which is the most obvious and widely noted difficulty. Shortage of trained personnel, The shows and widely noted difficulty. The shortage trained and widely noted difficult, personnel generally affects all levels of administration, but in particularly acute with regard to support administration. Great waste of limited talent: There are often large numbers of skilled people in administration but with the wrong skills. People who studied liberal arts become an administrator.

This is a very common phenomena in Bangladesh that administrator comes from various disciplines through public service recruitment examination who have no knowledge on administration but knowledge on other subjects. Lack of coordination, in implementation of policy and project at the top as well as field level of administration. The marginal revenue falls short of the marginal cost of tax collection due to unreliability of local administration. That is why; tax collection could not reach at desirable level. Lack of transparency in every level of administration in Bangladesh. It should be an organizational goal so that administration can transparent especially related to public service. Rapid Turnover, sometimes it is observed that a skilled administrator is shifted around from one position to another due lack of skilled person in another department. Some of it is voluntary and due to the lack of uniform systems of pay, classification, and advancement.

- **Prospective solution:**

- Appointments should be made on the basis of qualifications and subject matter skills
- There should be a corruption free administration system
- Need to increase skills thorough training
- Must plan efficiently and be aware of implementation
- We have to keep honest manpower free from political influence
- The activities of the government agencies should be kept free of brokers and necessary laws should be implemented

### **Limitation of Agricultural Policy:**

Agriculture is the main impetus of our economy. This year, the budget has proposed to allocate Tk 31,995 crore in the agricultural sector. Which is 5.3 % of the original budget. 5.39 % of the original budget of the last financial year was allocated to agriculture.

The agriculture sector in Bangladesh employs around 38.3% of the labor force and contributes to 12.7% of the GDP and ensures higher food security for this country. This contribution to GDP can be even more substantial, given that this country has alluvial soil. But the limiting factor that holds this sector back is soil erosion and lack of technology. The amount allocated for Agriculture in FY [2021-22](#) is BDT 319.12 billion which is 7.4% higher than the amount allocated in FY [2020-21](#)

The government should focus of this sector. Last year, when the Corona outbreak led to the collapse of other sectors, including the service sector, which contributed the most to GDP, the agricultural sector become our protection.

Recently, the agricultural sector has faced an extreme crisis because the lackings of proper

policy. Achieving high growth in the agricultural sector is the key to reducing import dependence on other food products, including self-reliance in the agricultural sector, and developing non-food agricultural products. Not enough subsidies are being given in agriculture, our farmers are not getting fair price. Crops have to be sold at lower prices due to import during the harvest season. Also the use of technology in agriculture is not seen that way. Even if the government takes initiative for training of farmers, it is not enough. If the government does not provide adequate subsidies to agriculture, if there is no separate allocation for technology and training, if the allocation for agriculture is not increased further, the agricultural sector will be in crisis. The lack of coordination of the government is not able to take urgent decisions to the root level at the right time. Moreover, due to corruption, not all the allocations are being used by the farmers or for the betterment of agriculture.

### **Prospective Solution:**

- Allocation should be determined for the use of technology to improve the agricultural sector
- Farmers need to be trained to use advanced technology
- Imports must be stopped during the seasonal period
- Subsidies should be increased in the agricultural sector and incentives should be provided to the farmers.









