

BS Notes

1. Define and distinguish equity and equality, write in your own words- requirements for women empowerment in the contemporary time?

Equality: It is treating everyone identically, giving them the same needs and regardless of their needs or starting points. It's the "one size fits all" approach, which rarely fits anyone perfectly.

Equity: It seeks fairness by recognizing that people have different needs and challenges. It tailors resources and opportunities to level the playing field and ensure everyone has an equal chance to thrive.

Women empowerment requires addressing specific challenges and opportunities within the country. Here are some tailored considerations for women's empowerment in Bangladesh:

1. Education:

Addressing dropout rates: Implement strategies to reduce the dropout rates of girls from schools, especially in rural areas.

Vocational Training: Provide vocational training programs to enhance skills and employability for women.

2. Economic Opportunities:

Microfinance initiative: Support and expand microfinance initiatives to enable women to start and sustain small business.

Agricultural support: Provide training and resources to women in rural areas for active participation in agriculture and related activities.

3. Health and well-being:

Material healthcare: Improve access to quality material healthcare services, especially in rural and remote areas.

Awareness programs: Conduct health awareness programs, focusing on reproductive health and hygiene.

4. Political participation:

Quota system: Support and enhance the effectiveness of the existing quota system for women's representation in political offices.

Political Training program: Provide training programs to build the capacity of women for active participation in politics.

5. Cultural and social norms:

Community engagement: Engage community leaders and influencers in discussions to challenge harmful norms and practices.

Media campaigns: Launch media campaigns to promote positive changes in societal attitude towards women.

6. Technology and access to information:

Digital Literacy programs: Implement programs to enhance digital literacy, ensuring women an access information and communication technologies.

E-government services: Promote the use of technology in delivering government services to facilitate women's participation.

7. Networking and mentorship:

Women's networks: Facilitate the creation of networks that connect women in various fields, providing support and mentorship.

Corporate mentorship programs: Encourage the sector to establish mentorship programs for women's business.

8. Financial inclusion:

Access to banking services: Expand access to banking services, promoting financial inclusion for women's in both urban and rural areas.

2. Is women's representation in politics satisfactory? Justify in the context of Bangladesh.

Assessing the “satisfactory” representation of women in Bangladesh's politics is a complex question with no easy answer. While have been made, significant challenges remain. Here's a nuanced view:

Positives:

- **Constitutional guarantee:** Bangladesh boasts one of the world's strongest constitutional guarantees for women's political participation. Fifty reserved seats in parliament ensure a minimum 20% female representation, a remarkable achievement compared to the global average.
- **High-level positions:** Bangladesh has witnessed its first female Prime Minister (Sheikh Hasina) and speaker Parliament (Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury), demonstrating women's potential for leadership at the highest levels.
- **Local representation:** Increasing numbers of women are contesting and winning seats in local government elections, bringing their voices closer to communities.

Challenges:

- **Reserved seats vs. direct elections:** While reserved seats create a baseline, they remain separate from directly elected seats, potentially limiting women's political power and agency.
- **Party politics:** Political parties often struggle to fulfil their quota of women candidates in leadership positions, indicating entrenched patriarchal structures within the system itself.
- **Social barriers:** Political expectations and gender stereotypes can discourage women from entering politics, hindering their ability to campaign and win elections.

- **Violence and harassment:** Political campaigning and holding office can be dangerous for women in Bangladesh, with reports of harassment, intimidation, and even physical violence.

3. Show the difference between GDP and GNP. Compare between any two south Asian economies in the context of economic growth.

Both GDP (gross Domestic Product) and GNP (Gross National Product) measure a country's economic size, but they do so from different perspectives:

GDP:

- Measures the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country's borders, regardless of the nationality of the producers.
- Focuses on domestic economic activity, including output from foreign-owned companies within the country.
- Commonly used for international comparisons.

GNP:

- Measures the market value of all final goods and services produced by a country's citizens, regardless of where the production takes place.
- Focuses on the income earned by a country's residents, including income from foreign investments and overseas branches of domestic companies.
- Less commonly used but provides insights into national income and citizen well-being.

Comparing Economic Growth: India vs. Pakistan:

GDP growth:

- India: In 2023, India's GDP is estimated to grow at 6.8% making it the fastest growing large economy in the world.
- Pakistan: Pakistan's GDP is projected to grow at 4.2% in 2023, experiencing a slower but steady recovery.

GNP growth:

- India: Due to its large diaspora and significant foreign investment, India's GNP growth is typically slightly higher than its GDP growth.
- Pakistan: Similarly, Pakistan's GNP growth tends to be above its GDP growth due to overseas remittances and income from assets abroad.

4. Illustrate the reasons behind Bangladesh's current reserve crisis?

Bangladesh's current reserve crisis, with foreign reserves dipping to concerning low levels, is a complex issue with multiple contributing factors. Here's a closer look at the key reasons;

1. Rising import cost:

- The global rise in fuel prices due to the Ukraine war has significantly increased Bangladesh's import bill for energy.
- Prices of essential commodities like food and raw material have also surged, further straining reserves.
- The depreciation of the taka against the US dollar has made imports more expensive in terms of local currency.

2. Slower export growth:

- The slowdown in major economies has dampened demand for Bangladeshi exports, particularly garments, impacting earnings and foreign currency inflows.
- Ongoing supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic and geographical factors have hampered export efficiency and competitiveness.
- Rising competition from other garment-producing countries has put pressures on Bangladesh's export market share and profit margins.

3. Financial account deficit:

- The FDI into Bangladesh has slowed down in recent years, impacting the availability of foreign currency.
- Remittances from Bangladeshi workers abroad, a crucial source of foreign exchanges, have seen a slight decline due to economic conditions in host countries.
- Bangladesh opted for early repayment of some external debt to a temporary depletion of reserves.

4. Policy factors:

- The central bank's attempt to stabilize the Taka through interventions in the foreign exchange market has put additional pressure on reserves.
- Bangladesh's dependence on garment exports makes it vulnerable to external shocks in that sector.

5. Define "Blue Economy" and give suggestions how Bangladesh can increase its economic influence in the international blue economic ecosystem

According to the World Bank, the Blue economy is the “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihood and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.”

Economic influence in Bangladesh:

- **Oil, gas, minerals:** Scientist have found about 30 Billion tons of oil deposits in the Bay of Bengal. It is found from the research that amount of mineral-gas is much that if gas can be extracted from the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh will be able to use it for next 100 years.
- **Renewable energy:** Kaptai Dam, on the Karnophuli river is the only hydroelectric power station in Bangladesh known as Karnaphuli hydroelectric power station of 230MW.
- **Tourism:** Travel and tourism contributed 2.7% GDP in Bangladesh. On overseas 81% all the international tourist arriving in Bangladesh visit Cox's Bazar, most desired marine tourist destination in Bangladesh. So we should promote marine tourism by developing costal resorts, diving sites.
- **Aquaculture developing and marketing:** We should expand the production of a variety of seafood product and promote them in market through effective marketing strategies.

This is how Bangladesh can increase economic influence in the international blue economic ecosystem.

6. "Sustainable and eco-friendly use of sea resources should be the key motivation behind economic development of Bangladesh"-develop an argument for the statement.

Using sea resources in a sustainable and eco-friendly way is crucial for Bangladesh's economic growth. Here's why:

1. **Abundance opportunities:** Bangladesh has a long coastline and the Bay of Bengal, offering diverse marine resources. Fisheries, salt production, tourism and emerging sectors like offshore wind energy can create jobs and boost development if managed responsibly.

2. Delicate balance: Despite the potential, overexploitation and environmental damage pose threats. Unsustainable fishing and pollution harm ecosystems, worsened by climate change. Thus, sustainability is not just a choice but a necessity for economic success.
3. Green development: Embracing a sustainable “Blue Economy” model has numerous benefits. Sustainable fishing ensure long-term food security, eco-tourism brings in revenue while preserving the environment, and ocean renewable energy provides clean power and opportunities.
4. Global Recognition: With a growing global awareness of environmental responsibility, Bangladesh can gain by being a leader in sustainable marine resources management. Developing a “green brand” can attract premium prices and secure long-term market access.
5. Empowering communities: Sustainable practices empower coastal communities, offering skills in aquaculture, resource management, and eco-tourism, thus builds economic independence and resilience climate impacts.
6. Legacy for the future: Prioritizing sustainability ensures a healthy ocean for future generations, term food security, economic opportunities and a thriving coastal environment.

7. If proper initiative is not taken, will the demographic dividend of Bangladesh turn into a resource curse? Recommend steps to avoid it.

Demographic dividend is a boost in economic productivity that occurs when there are greater number of people in workforce than the number of dependents.

Through demographic dividend in a country like Bangladesh brings potential economic benefits it may pose a problem in country’s social-economic exit.

Population growth: High population in Bangladesh means more people among when there is discipline, which can cause problems in achieving limited resources, property dispute uneven clashes.

Climate change: relative climate change can provide enough problems which leads to exploitation of resources established in food production.

Dependence on remittance: Bangladesh has a significant diaspora and a reliance on remittances sent back by expatriates can create problems if these remittance decrease due to global economic change or crisis.

Step to avoid demographic dividend being a curse:

1. Invest in education and skill development: Ensure quality education and vocational training. Ensure skilled and trained teacher.
2. Promote job creation: Encourage growth of diverse in industries for employment opportunities. Support entrepreneurship.
3. Long term