



Syed Abul Hossain's personal contributions and achievements for sustainable social development: A study at Madaripur in Bangladesh

Md. Shahidul Islam^{1*} and Afroza Banu²

¹ Lecturer, Department of English, D. K. Ideal Syed Atahar Ali Academy and University College, Dashar, Madaripur, Bangladesh

² Assistant Professor, Department of English, Islamic University, Kushtia, Bangladesh

Correspondence Author: Md. Shahidul Islam

Received 24 May 2022; Accepted 12 Jul 2022; Published 1 Aug 2022

Abstract

This study has attempted to investigate Syed Abul Hossain's personal effort and contribution to sustainable social development at Madaripur in Bangladesh, and his achievements for his effort and contribution. The researchers of this study have visited the developed areas by Syed Abul Hossain physically and made interview sessions with the common people and the members of the local government institutions of Madaripur for collecting primary data. And articles, published journals, and research papers were the sources of secondary data for this present study. The study has presented different theories of social development, Syed Abul Hossain's biographical information, his contribution to sustainable social development, and his national and international achievements. The finding results of this study reflect that, to Syed Abul Hossain's personal effort and contribution, Dashar which was an undeveloped area has got a furnished shape and become a role model of social development not only in the country but also in the world. For Abul Hossain's personal effort and contributions, this area is now on the world map with furnished and developed structures. Thus, personal effort and contribution can play a great and positive role in sustainable social development.

Keywords: social development, social development theory, Syed Abul Hossain, personal contribution, achievement, Bangladesh

Introduction

Sustainable Development refers to a commitment to "leave no one behind". Sustainable social development requires visionary policies for inclusive development. If everyone is to benefit from economic gains through proper education, education facilities should be within their reach. Social development ensures the well-being of every individual in society so that they can reach their full potential. Because the success of a society is related to the well-being of each and every citizen. Social development means investing in people. Barriers should be removed so that every citizen can make their dreams true with confidence and dignity. If the people are well-educated, trained to enter the workforce, and able to make a decent wage, they must be better equipped to meet their basic needs and be successful. And their families will perform well and the society will benefit from this development. From this theory, well-hearted people are working and contributing to ensuring sustained social development. And this study has investigated Syed Abul Hossain's contributions and achievements for sustainable social development at Dashar, Madaripur, Bangladesh.

Literature review

The development of a society depends mainly on the education system or the educational system of the people. And education depends on people's ability to invest in learning opportunities. For the shortage of education opportunities, many children of primary school age cannot attend school. By providing education and learning opportunities, a country develops its human capital. And the development of a country is closely linked with human capital. In a study of 20 countries, Burnett

and Thomas (2013) ^[3] found the economic cost of out-of-school children ranges from 1 percent of GDP to 10 percent of GDP, with the largest losses faced by countries experiencing slow growth. O'Neill (1995) ^[14] has opined that educational under performance also contributes to economic inequality between rich and poor countries.

Educated people save products because savings products help their families manage education expenses. Prina (2015) ^[15] reported a 20 percent increase in spending on education among households that opened free bank accounts in Nepal. In an exceedingly separate study in Nepal, access to savings accounts was related to improved education levels and better professional aspirations among daughters of female account holders (Chiapa *et al.* 2014) ^[4]. Nudges that encourage good savings habits even have been effective. Some studies are conducted in Bolivia, Peru, and therefore the Philippines on this issue. These studies have found that savings increased by 6 percent when people received text messages reminding them to place away money (Karlan *et al.* 2016) ^[9].

Some studies have shown that small, short-term loans, commitment products, and direct debit services can help households pay expenses like tuition fees (Morduch 2007, Ashraf *et al.* 2003) ^[13,2], in a field study of Filipino migrants in Rome, quite 27 percent of participants expressed interest in a product that allowed remittance senders to pay school fees directly back home (Klapper. 2016) ^[11]. The same study has shown that simply labeling remittances for education raises remittances by over 15 percent (De Arcangelis *et al.* 2015) ^[6]. Hopwood, *et al.* (2005) ^[8] have stated that a society plans to make progress towards sustainable development and for this, the society needs to determine both its current status and any

required change to sustainability. Such benchmarking is depending on the conceptualization of social sustainability because of the dearth of consensus (Griessler and Littig, 2005)^[12], however, social sustainability indicators remain contentious (Hicks *et al.*, 2016)^[5]. It has been noted that the shortage of a coherent, clear, and utilizable conceptualization implies that the choice of indicators is commonly grounded within the availability of indicators and therefore the political agenda (Griessler & Littig, 2005)^[12] instead of in theory. In addition, the concept of social sustainability has multiple, diverse dimensions, a number of which aren't easily quantifiable (e.g. social equity), resulting in a tendency to use a subsection of the broader social development indicators that are available rather than rigorously defining the key indicators that specifically measure the social sustainability aspect of social development (Hopwood, *et al.* 2005)^[8]. More optimistically, Hale *et al.* (2019)^[7] have agreed that while social sustainability indicators are also contested, this doesn't necessarily mean that the indications lack value or are inherently social constructions co-opted by a political/economic process. And that they have argued that the simplification of complex social realities into shorthand symbols may be a fundamental process necessary for communication and democratic decision-making, especially when using the indications to move towards a better future. Thus, the literature review of this study reflects that social development refers to a qualitative change in the structure and framework of a society that helps a society to realize its aims and objectives better. Development is a process by which society is changed structurally for some specific results. Now, this process has picked up in speed and intensity and society has witnessed a great change with this structural development. Development depends on many factors and these factors influence the results of developmental efforts. For the effective change of a society, an effective motive is an essential precondition. And this motive must enable us to overcome obstructions that impede social change. Social development also requires resources such as capital, technology, supporting infrastructure, and personal and government effort.

The objective of this Study

The objective of this study was to make an investigation into Syed Abul Hossain's contributions and achievements for sustainable social development.

Methodology of this Study

The present study has been conducted depending upon the primary sources that is the original contributions and achievements of Syed Abul Hossain for sustainable social development, which have been observed, analyzed, and interpreted critically. By using the descriptive method, it has presented the data collected by observing and through an interview session with the general people and the members of local government institutions of the selected area of this study. The social development process has also been discussed in this present study for ensuring the ways of sustainable social development. This study has used the analytical, interpretative,

and comparative research methodology for conducting the research. In addition, secondary data have been collected from research reports, journal articles, and criticisms on sustainable social development.

Syed Abul Hossain

Syed Abul Hossain is an educated, meritorious, skilled, and very popular leader of Bangladesh. He is a well-hearted social developer and dynamic person. For sustainable social and national development, his contribution is remarkable. This educationalist, Syed Abul Hossain was born in a solvent Muslim family on 1st August 1951, in Dashar, Kalkini, Madaripur, Bangladesh. He was a very meritorious student from his childhood. He was a student of Nabogram and Dashar primary schools, Medhakul and Goyla high schools, and Gournadi College. He received his honors and LLB degree from Dhaka University. He was also a brave freedom fighter of the country and a successful businessman. He has become a Member of Parliament in Bangladesh four times and become minister several times. He has received national and international recognition for his direct contribution to sustainable social development in his birthplace and other places in the country.

Syed Abul Hossain's contributions

From direct observation and interview sessions with the people of Dashar, Madaripur, and the members of local government institutions, it is found that Syed Abul Hossain is one of the greatest contributors to the social development in Bangladesh. And for his vast contribution in the fields of education, social development, politics, economics, and writing, he has already achieved international recognition. Now, he is a man of the world. He has made Kalkini a role model of development nationally and internationally through his own efforts and contributions. And he is also working relentlessly for sustainable social development. Mr. Hossain is a reputed person who has established many educational institutions in Madaripur. Moreover, he has helped and funded to establish many educational institutions in several parts of the country. He has established three intermediate colleges, four university colleges, more than one hundred and seventy-five community primary schools, and a number of high schools and madrasahs in Kalkini, Madaripur, Bangladesh. Students from different parts of the country study in these institutions. As a social developer, Mr. Hossain has developed this place as a role model for sustainable social development area not only in Bangladesh but also in the world. And he has done it through his personal efforts and contributions. He has played a great role in the economic progress of the country profoundly. As a writer, he has written more than 20 books on several topics with pragmatic and practical knowledge. It is also mention-able that Mr. Hossain is a brave freedom fighter. He fought for the independence of the country in 1971. However, he has a direct contribution to the independence of the country. Thus, Mr. Hossain's contributions in the field of education, politics, economic development, social development, and in the field of writing are remarkable.

Colleges established by Syed Abul Hossain



Fig 1: D. K. Ideal Syed Atahar Ali Academy and University College by Syed Abul Hossain





Fig 2: Dashar a Flooded Area of Madaripur Developed by Syed Abul Hossain



Fig 3

Syed Abul Hossain's Achievements

Mr. Hossain is an international figure now. He has achieved national and international awards and recognition for his profound contribution and his personal effort for sustainable social development. For his direct participation in the independence war of the country, the government of Bangladesh has considered him a brave hero of freedom fighters. For his positive thinking about politics, and for his good activities for the common people of his parliamentary area, Mr. Hossain has been elected four times as a member of parliament getting a large number of votes. Several times, he has become the minister of Bangladesh. Mr. Hossain has got gold medals and awards for his contribution in the field of writing. Syed Abul Hossain is mainly known as a social thinker and developer. For his contribution to the field of social development, Mr. Hossain has got more than twenty-two national and international awards. He has got the India Independence award, Sher-E-Bangla award, Motahar Hossain award, Dr. Wazed Mia award, Eschewer Chandra Chandra Biddasagor award, and many others. Indian writers' conference has honored him "Shikkha and Somajsheba Ratno

(Educationalist and Social developer) for his personal effort and contribution in the field of social development. American Bio-logical Institute has honored him as "Man of the Millennium" for his national and international contributions.

Discussion on the Findings

Syed Abul Hossain is working relentlessly to ensure education for every people in his area by establishing a number of university colleges, Intermediate colleges, high schools, primary schools, and madrasahs. Mr. Hossain has sustained the opportunities for the people to educate these people for sustainable social development in Bangladesh. To Hossain, education is the first pillar of sustainable social development. Social development ensures the well-being of every individual in society so that they can reach their full potential. Because the success of a society is related to the well-being of each and every citizen. Social development means investing in people. Barriers should be removed so that every citizen can make their dreams true with confidence and dignity. If people are well-educated and trained to enter the workforce and are able to make a decent wage they are better equipped to meet their basic

needs and be successful. Their families will also do well and the whole of society will benefit. From this thought, Syed Abul Hossain is working for the purpose of making sustain social development by ensuring education opportunities for everyone.

Conclusion

Many countries in Asia and the Pacific have achieved impressive economic growth and reduced poverty, but have not succeeded in closing the gaps between the rich and poor, nor in providing equitable access to vital services such as health care and education. These gaps disproportionately affect the development program of society. But Syed Abul Hossain by his own effort and contribution has succeeded in closing the gaps between the rich and poor and in providing education opportunities in the research area. He has created educational opportunities for people in the research area by establishing a well-structured infrastructure for the education of all. In short, by creating sustainable education opportunities for everyone in a fair and just way, Mr. Hossain has sustained social development through his personal contribution and effort. His contribution is remarkable to sustainable social development.

References

1. Allen Franklin, Demircuc-Kunt Asli, Klapper Leora, Martinez Peria, Maria Soledad. The foundations of financial inclusion: Understanding ownership and use of formal accounts, *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, 2016; 27(C):1-30.
2. Ashraf N, Gons N, Karlan D, Yin W. A Review of Commitment Savings Products in Developing Countries. Working Paper. Tokyo: Asian Development Bank, 2003.
3. Burnett N, Thomas M. Exclusion from Education: The Economic Cost of Out of School Children in 20 Countries. Washington, D.C.: Results for Development Institute, 2013.
4. Chiapa C, Prina S, Parker A. The Effects of Financial Inclusion Beyond Financial Outcomes. Cleveland: Case Western Reserve University, 2014.
5. Christina C Hicks, *et al.* Social drivers forewarn of marine regime shifts, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.1284>
6. De Arcangelis G, Joxhe M, McKenzie D, Tionson E, Yang D. Directing Remittances to Education with Soft and Hard Commitments: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-Field Experiment and New Product Take-Up among Filipino Migrants in Rome. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2015; 111:197-208.
7. Hale RP, Bain R, Goodbred S Jr, Best J. Observations and scaling of tidal mass transport across the lower Ganges-Bramaputra delta plain: implications for delta management and sustainability. *Earth Surf. Dynam*, 2019; 7:231-245, doi: 10.5194/esurf-7-231-2019
8. Hopwood B, Mellor M, O'Brien G. Sustainable Development: Mapping Different Approaches. *Sustain. Dev*, 2005; 13:38-52.
9. Karlan D, McConnell M, Mullainathan S, Zinman J. Getting to the Top of Mind: How Reminders Increase Saving. *Management Science*, forthcoming, 2016.
10. Karlan D, Ratan A, Zinman J. Saving by and for the Poor: A Research Review and Agenda, *Review of Income and Wealth*, 2014; 60(1):36-78.
11. Leora Klapper, Mayada El-Zoghbi, Jake Hess. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Financial Inclusion Washington, DC 20006, 2016. All publications are available online at www.cgap.org
12. Littig B, Griessler E. Social sustainability: A catchword between political pragmatism and social theory. *International Journal of Sustainable Development*, 2005; 8(1-2), 65-79.
13. Morduch J. The Unbanked: Evidence from Indonesia. The Financial Access Initiative, NYU Wagner Graduate School. New York: New York University, 2007.
14. O'Neill Donal. Education and Income Growth: Implications for Cross-Country Inequality. *Journal of Political Economy*, 1995; 103(6):1289-301.
15. Prina S. Banking the Poor via Savings Accounts: Evidence from a Field Experiment. *Journal of Development Economics*, 2015; 115:16-31.
16. Alokito Campus, March-April, 2019
17. Alokito Campus, September-October, 2019
18. SyedAbul Hossain, "Amar Kotha", 2016.
19. Siraj Uddin Ahamed. "Shikkha Bistare Syed Abul Hossain", 2013.