

An Evaluation of the Trade Relations of Bangladesh with ASEAN: Justification of Being a Future Member

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Abstract

The government of Bangladesh wants to reduce the dependency of export from West by creating new market to East and South East Asian countries. The paper aims to evaluate the present trade performance of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries and to provide the strategies to develop this trade relationship. The data of export and import of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries has been analysed for the period 1999-2010 in this study. The study has used financial ratio, percentage, mean, growth, covariance, and hypothesis test etc. for analysis of data and drawing inferences. Our results indicate that the growth rates of export are fluctuating but increasing positively and the average growth rate of export is 16%. The average import from ASEAN is 16%, while the average export to ASEAN is only 1.6%. The growth rates of trade deficit are positive with increasing trend and the average growth rate of trade deficit to ASEAN is 18%. The export-import ratio of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries is steady with fluctuating trend and the average export-import ratio to ASEAN countries is 0.06 but the total export-import ratio of Bangladesh is 0.57, which is much higher. To improve the country's overall trade balance, especially trade balance with ASEAN countries some policy recommendations are offered in this paper.

Keywords: ASEAN, Export, Import, Export-Import Ratio, Trade Deficit.

1. Introduction

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN established in 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by five original Member Countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, has, for long, been the only official organization that pursued regional economic integration in East Asia. It is responsible for several economic integration initiatives in East Asia including the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA). As part of the ASEAN vision 2020, it aims to establish an ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community by 2020. Most of these initiatives came about in the late 1990s as part of the shift in ASEAN's policies towards regionalism. This change played out in the form of several regional and bilateral trade agreements. While the agreements were largely between ASEAN economies, many also included South Asian countries like Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. The ASEAN Annual Report 2010-2011, states that the ASEAN region now has a population of about 600 million, which is 8.8% of the world's population, a total area of about 4.5 million square kilometers, which is 3% of the total land area of Earth, a combined gross domestic product of US\$1.8 trillion, and trade volumes are running at more than US \$1.5 trillion per annum (ASEAN, 2011). If ASEAN were a single entity, it would rank as the ninth largest economy in the world. Traditionally, Bangladesh has had very close commercial and other links with most of the ASEAN member countries due to her geographic as well as strategic proximity. These contacts have been reinforced through Bangladesh's participation in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) where Bangladesh has been active as a founding member. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was formed in accordance with the 1992 Singapore Declaration of the ASEAN Summit where the ASEAN Heads of State and Government declared their intention to intensify dialogues with external partners on political and security matters. At present ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has in total of 27 members. Bangladesh formally joined the ARF in 2006-2007. As a comprehensive regional organization, ASEAN provides a venue for the exchange of views and a tentative understanding with the member countries of Southeast Asia. The expansion of ASEAN to a grouping of 10, the inclusion of Myanmar and the emergence of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) process, means that Bangladesh now stands directly at ASEAN's western door and is being drawn still closer to China's strategic periphery. It is therefore the gateway between APT and South Asian states. There is a need for widening and deepening economic cooperation

between ASEAN and South Asian states based on mutual advantage that might, in turn, lead to a greater share of global trade. Bangladesh needs to justify the claim to become the future member of ASEAN, which in turn, might improve the trade relationship with ASEAN member countries.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The majority of the export of Bangladesh has occurred with EU and NAFTA countries, but it is risky due to uncertain problems related with export to these countries and our dependency on them, which may cause serious damage to our economy. So, we have to improve the trade performance with Eastern countries especially with ASEAN countries to reduce the dependency on export to West. In this regard, Bangladesh wants to develop the trade relationship with Eastern countries and has adapted the Look East Policy. As a part of Look East Policy, Bangladesh has become the member of BIMSTEC and ARF. The research aims to evaluate the present trade performance of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries and to provide the strategies to improve these trade relationships. From the relevant literature review it is seen that a very few research has been found on quantitative aspects which motivates us to conduct this research. This research will provide the guideline and explain the importance to become a member of ASEAN.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The present study has two specific objectives:

- i) To analyze the trade performance of Bangladesh with ASEAN in respect of Trade.
- ii) To provide some policies for developing the trade performance of Bangladesh with ASEAN member countries.

1.3 Hypothesis of the Study

To study the trade performance of Bangladesh with ASEAN, we test the following hypotheses:

- i. H_0 : The growth rate of total trade deficit of Bangladesh with ASEAN and the growth rate of total trade deficit with the whole world are equal.
- ii. H_0 : The export-import ratio of Bangladesh to ASEAN countries and the export-import ratio with whole world are equal.

2. Literature Review

Panini (2010) in her study titled “*Institutionalizing Linkages between ASEAN and Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects*” examined that Bangladesh’s moderate economic growth intertwined with economic liberalization and trade linkages with ASEAN countries are expected to strengthen the ASEAN-Bangladesh Relations. Dynamic shift of ASEAN in its structure and relations enables neighboring countries like Bangladesh to seek institutionalization of linkages with ASEAN. Institutionalization of this relationship between ASEAN and Bangladesh fosters investment and trade flows, social and cultural exchanges as well as technical cooperation to cope with the challenges of 21st century stemming from global economic recession and other transnational forces worldwide. Study explores the recent trends and future prospect of ASEAN- Bangladesh relations taking into consideration the policy options within a trans-regional context evolving under the framework of economic realism.

Nag (2005) has conducted a study on “*Trade cooperation and performance in east and south Asia: towards a future integration*”. The article highlights the rationale for, and impact of, *regional or subregional free trade* arrangements in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region and suggests that there is considerable potential for further trade cooperation between the various free trade arrangements formed in the different subregions of ESCAP. In this regard, the paper makes a number of recommendations that emphasize the need for the bigger economies of the region to take the lead in furthering trade liberalization.

Alom (2005) in his study on “*Bangladesh’s Engagement with ASEAN: Retrospect and prospect*” focuses that as part of its reorientation of economic and foreign policy, Bangladesh adopted ‘look east’ policy to engage with the countries to the east (ASEAN+3) to increase trade and investment relations with them. Geographical proximity with ASEAN entertains Bangladesh of a greater scope of mutual cooperation with these countries. It is assumed that Bangladesh’s engagement with East Asia will economically benefit the country and enhance mutual cooperation. Seemingly, the ‘look east’ policy has made a boom in the imports of Bangladesh from the ASEAN countries. But its exports to these countries have remained unchanged.

Sally and Sen (2005), in the combined study titled '*Whither Trade Policies in Southeast Asia: The Wider Asian and Global context*,' analyzed the trade policies in Southeast Asian countries in their wider Asian and global contexts. The paper looks at recent trends in trade and FDI patterns in ASEAN and summarizes key trade-policy features in ASEAN countries. Further, it examines ASEAN countries in international trade negotiations and agreements; first within ASEAN, second on cross-regional FTAs, and third in the WTO, especially in the Doha Round.

Sarmad and Mahmood (1988), in their combined study titled "*Prospects for expanding trade between SAARC and ASEAN countries*", investigate the determinants of trade flows between the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The results show that while the high intensity of bilateral trade of these countries is not explained by high complementarity, a policy of non discriminatory import liberalization in ASEAN countries would significantly benefit the SAARC countries in terms of export expansion.

3. Research Methodology

This paper is an analytical one. Only secondary data has been used for this research work. Data related to ASEAN-Bangladesh relationship and their policies have been collected by focusing on trade (e.g., Export, Import, Trade balance, and Export-Import ratio) and other economic issues from the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank, Export Promotion Bureau Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, and Bangladesh Economic Review. Full use of relevant books, journals and internet sources is made in order to make this study informative and meaningful. We took the data of export and import of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries for 11 years starting from the financial year 1999-2000 to 2009-10. The data has been analysed with the help of different financial & statistical techniques. The study has used financial ratio, percentage, mean, growth, covariance, hypothesis test etc. for analysing data and drawing inferences.

4. Trade Relations of Bangladesh with ASEAN Countries: An Overview

Bangladesh has strong historical trade links with ASEAN countries. The links among Bangladesh, Malaysia and Singapore have been strengthened in more recent times by having shared a common colonial experience, under British rule. The British brought Bangladeshi to work in the plantations and railways of the Malay Peninsula, and most of them stayed on at the end of their indenture or contract. The presence of Bangladesh in South East Asia may also be seen through their natural occupation as traders, particularly evident in port cities such as Singapore, Penang and Bangkok. Brunei recognised Bangladesh quickly with other Southeast Asian countries (Muslim majority nations like Indonesia and Malaysia in particular). Both countries are looking to increase trade & investment such as Bangladesh's pharmaceutical products and Brunei's oil in particular. Brunei also imports manpower from Bangladesh. Education is another part of their relations such as the Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship for Commonwealth Countries. Defense relations are improving although Bangladesh is expecting more trainee officers in the future. Bangladesh signed trade agreement on August 4, 2006 with Cambodia in Phnom Penh. Bangladesh's major export items to Cambodia are readymade garment, footwear and leather goods, knitwear, pharmaceuticals, table wear, home linen, textile, seafood and marine products, tea, potato, jute and jute goods, light engineering products, spices, cosmetics, ceramic, melamine products and toiletries. Major import items from Cambodia are—cotton, edible oil, fertilizer, clinker, staple fiber, yarn, and capital machinery. Indonesia along with other non-Arab Muslim countries such as Malaysia, Turkey and Afghanistan immediately recognised Bangladesh. Relations have gone into different areas such as trade & investment, cultural exchange and peace keeping. Malaysia is the largest ASEAN investor in Bangladesh and Malaysian companies have invested \$1.3 billion in 59 projects in 2007 in areas such as telecommunications, textiles and financial sector. However the trade balance is overwhelmingly in Malaysia's favour, during the 2009-10 fiscal year, exports were a mere 4057.6 million taka compared to 85235.1 million taka in imports. Trading between the two nations are increasing especially in pharmaceutical exports with a number businesses are calling for a Free Trade Agreement to balance out the trade deficit. Many Malaysian companies have shown keen interest to participate in infrastructure projects here such as power generation, sea port development, waste disposal system, construction of roads and highways as well as in the service sector such as education and healthcare. As a part of their interest, recently they have come to an agreement with Bangladesh government regarding Padma Bridge construction. On the other hand, the bilateral ties with Myanmar are good, despite occasional border strains and an influx of more than 270,000 Muslim refugees (known as "Rohingya") from predominantly Buddhist Burma. Both countries discussed the possibility of linking the two countries together in an

attempt to boost their trade and commerce relations. They estimate to complete the 25 km highway at the cost of \$20 million. Another aspect of this plan is to connect the highway to the Asian Superhighway which would connect the two countries to China. Recently, new air service has been inaugurated between these two countries. Singapore and Bangladesh were founders of the Asian Union. A sizable number of Bangladeshi migrant workers are currently working in labor-intensive jobs in Singapore. Bangladesh was the first South Asian and second Asian nation to establish relations with South Vietnam at an ambassadorial level. Vietnam closed its embassy in Dhaka for financial reasons and reopened it in January 2003. Relations between the nations are good and they maintain good cooperation on an international level in organizations such as the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement and ASEAN regional forum. Bangladesh has supported Vietnam as a candidate for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council and requested Vietnam to support its participation into ARF, ASEM, EWEC, and MGC. Thailand is a key country in Bangladesh's "Look East" policy and relations have begun to increase and diversify into different areas. However, with the "Look East" policy is introduced in its foreign policy agenda in 2002, Bangladesh has made a constructive step in exploring its Eastern horizon, namely its South East and East Asian neighbors.

5. Analysis and Findings

5.1 Export Performance

From the table-2 and 4, figure-1 is drawn and from the table-2, 3, and 4, the figure-2 is drawn. The following sections are discussed on the basis of table-2, 3 and 4, and figure-1 and 2. At a glance, it can be seen that the total amount of export from Bangladesh to ASEAN Countries has increased moderately over the period in nominal terms (Tk. 392.15 Crore in 1999-00 to Tk. 1962.68 Crore in 2009-10). The percentage of export to ASEAN countries has not significantly changed over the periods and the percentages of export to ASEAN countries are 1.84%, 1.64%, 1.45%, and 2.25% in the fiscal year 1999-00, 2002-03, 2006-07, and 2009-10 respectively, which is steady with fluctuating trend. While the average percentage of export to ASEAN countries from Bangladesh is 1.6% only. The average growth rate of export is 16% and the growth rates of export are 30.03%, 26.25%, and 3.37% in the year 2000-01, 2004-05, and 2009-10 respectively, which are fluctuating but increasing positively.

5.2 Import Performance

Clearly, the total import from ASEAN countries has increased sharply over the period in nominal terms (Tk. 5768.91 Crore in 1999-00 to Tk. 29296.59 in 2009-10). The growth rate of import has increased over the periods which are 7.44%, 22.59%, 5.90% in the year 1999-00, 2005-06, and 2009-10 respectively. The average growth rate of import from ASEAN countries to Bangladesh is 18%. The percentage of import from ASEAN countries to total import of Bangladesh are 14.88%, 16.88%, 14.02%, 18.97 in the fiscal year 1999-00, 2003-04, 2007-08, 2009-10 respectively, which indicates that the percentage of import from ASEAN countries is slightly decreasing but steady over the last few years. The average percentage of import from ASEAN is 16%, but the average export to ASEAN from this country is only 1.6%. So the amount of import from ASEAN countries is much higher than the amount of export to ASEAN countries from Bangladesh.

5.3 Trade Balance

The trade balance of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries is of great concern. It has always been in deficit over the decades. The total trade deficit has increased over the period (Tk. 5376.76 Crore in 1999-00 to 27333.91 Crore in 2009-10). The growth rate of trade deficit with ASEAN is positive with increasing trend (5.68% in 2001-02, 10.88% in 2004-05, 33% in 2007-08, and 12.64% in 2009-10). The average growth rate of trade deficit with ASEAN is 18%, which is compared with the growth of total trade deficit of Bangladesh under t-test (see table-1).

5.4 Hypothesis Test

- i. H_0 : The growth rate of total trade deficit of Bangladesh with ASEAN and the growth rate of total trade deficit with the whole world are equal.
- ii. H_0 : The export-import ratio of Bangladesh to ASEAN countries and the total export-import ratio with the whole world are equal.

Table-1: Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Growth of Trade Deficit to ASEAN – Growth of Trade Deficit of Bangladesh	2.6970	18.3221	5.7939	-10.4098	15.8038	.465	9	.653
Pair 2	Export-Import Ratio to ASEAN – Export-Import Ratio of Bangladesh	-.5127	2.370E-02	7.174E-03	-.5287	-.4968	-71.7444	10	.000

From the table-1(pair-1), it becomes explicit that the calculative value of t is 0.465, and the table value of t is 2.262 at 5% significance level. It indicates that there is no significant difference between the total trade deficit of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries and the total trade deficit with the whole world.

5.5 Performance of Export-Import Ratio

The export/import coverage expresses the trade balances in terms of a ratio of its components rather than a difference. The export/ import coverage is the ratio of total exports to total imports. It tells us whether or not a country's imports are fully paid by its exports in a given year. The export-import ratios of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries were 0.07, 0.05, 0.09, and 0.07 in the year 1999-00, 2003-04, 2005-06, and 2009-10 respectively, which are steady with a fluctuating trend. The average export-import ratio of Bangladesh to ASEAN countries is 0.06, but the total export-import ratio of Bangladesh to the whole world is 0.57 which is much higher. Here it has been tested with the help of t-test. The result shows that the p-value is 0.00 which is less than 0.05 (from table-01, pair-2). It indicates that the export-import ratio of Bangladesh to ASEAN countries is less than the total export-import ratio of Bangladesh to the whole world. This implies that the import is very high over export.

5.6 Analysis of Exported Manpower

The factors of production are land, labor, and capital. The population of Bangladesh is about 16 crore. We have to develop this huge population as skilled and semi skilled human resources. From the appendix-4, it is seen that the number of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and Singapore were 12402 and 39581 respectively in the fiscal year 2008-09. They sent \$1943.98 million and \$1136.71 million respectively from these two countries as foreign remittance in 2008-09. Beside these there are many people working in Japan and South Korea at present. So, we can get the opportunity of more manpower export to these countries in future.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Bangladesh has to develop the bilateral relationship with the ASEAN member countries. The area of relationship will be in the field of export of goods including non traditional goods, export of manpower, export of services including tourism, culture, and education.
- 6.2 Bangladesh needs to diversify its export items ensuring better quality products to increase exports to ASEAN countries. The country should seek interim concessionary trade arrangement with ASEAN for reducing the existing huge trade gaps that at present favours the ASEAN countries.
- 6.3 Export diversification requires extensive research on foreign markets. So Bangladesh needs to provide a product or service to foreign customers according to their needs to increase sales in the international market.
- 6.4 Bangladesh has to develop the communication infrastructure including: road, railway and deep sea port to attract foreign investment and trade.
- 6.5 Bangladesh has to develop new foreign policy of Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to close the existing trade gap with ASEAN countries.
- 6.6 Bangladesh has to link with Asian High way and Trans Asian Railway as per the desired route (Chittagong-

Teknaf-Meiktela-Kuming) as soon as possible.

6.7 Bangladesh has to negotiate and keep lobbying to become the member of ASEAN which may improve the trade relationship with ASEAN member countries.

7. Conclusion

The export of Bangladesh is mainly with Western countries, which is on average 86%. So, Bangladesh government wants to reduce the dependency of export on West by creating new market to East and South East Asian countries. For this reason, Bangladesh took the Look East policy as a foreign economic diplomacy. The growth rates of export are fluctuating but positively increased and average growth rate of export is 16%. The percentages of import from ASEAN countries to total import of Bangladesh are slightly decreasing but steady over the last few years. The average import of Bangladesh from ASEAN countries is 16%, but the average export to ASEAN countries from Bangladesh is only 1.6%. So the percentage of total import from ASEAN Countries is much higher than the percentage total export to ASEAN countries from Bangladesh. The growth rates of trade deficit are positive with increasing trend and average growth rate of trade deficit is 18%. The export-import ratio of Bangladesh with ASEAN countries is steady with fluctuating trend. The average export-import ratio to ASEAN countries is 0.06 but total export-import ratio of Bangladesh is 0.57 which is much higher. There is further scope of research in this field to identify the ways for increasing the export and improve the trade relationship with ASEAN.

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APPENDIX TABLES:

Table-2(A). Bangladesh's Export to ASEAN Countries and rest of the world, 1999-2010. (Values in Crore Taka)

Year/ ASEAN Countries	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Total Export to ASEAN	World	ASEAN's Share (%)	Growth of Export to ASEAN (%)	Growth of Total Export (%)
1999-2000	0.90	0.17	35.32	0.60	35.79	3.42	4.68	90.40	187.90	32.96	392.15	21266.73	1.84		18.54
2000-2001	2.23	0.09	28.49	0.76	33.01	3.82	4.60	164.09	120.34	52.80	410.24	27652.97	1.48	4.61	30.03
2001-2002	4.64	0.21	29.34	0.00	33.06	4.73	2.62	147.61	69.77	68.08	360.05	25958.99	1.39	-12.23	-6.13
2002-2003	6.48	0.78	44.03	0.00	21.55	8.73	14.98	240.22	79.74	39.14	455.64	27863.95	1.64	26.55	7.34
2003-2004	1.73	4.86	43.64	0.00	36.73	16.49	39.90	176.10	73.22	87.45	480.13	34525.57	1.39	5.37	23.91
2004-2005	3.06	4.92	122.26	0.00	56.04	14.27	28.89	262.13	64.25	101.36	657.19	43589.85	1.51	36.88	26.25
2005-2006	3.27	6.22	101.94	4.19	79.09	71.88	23.40	524.49	158.59	150.51	1123.57	53463.25	2.10	70.97	22.65
2006-2007	2.69	7.54	131.79	1.62	86.74	20.83	37.17	403.41	149.28	154.73	995.80	68466.09	1.45	-11.37	28.06
2007-2008	3.01	5.07	140.22	1.58	141.89	44.67	24.91	314.91	47.18	103.00	826.44	75137.69	1.10	-17.01	9.74
2008-2009	1.99	4.62	135.11	1.95	187.64	34.55	87.80	390.90	243.17	118.97	1206.70	84423.80	1.43	46.01	12.36
2009-2010	1.33	10.73	291.17	64.84	408.76	38.05	246.65	524.70	156.58	219.87	1962.68	87269.10	2.25	62.65	3.37
Total	31.33	45.21	1103.31	75.54	1120.30	261.44	515.60	3238.97	1350.01	1128.88	8870.59	54961800	17.58	212	176
Average	2.85	4.11	100.30	6.87	101.85	23.77	46.87	294.45	122.73	102.63	806.42	49965.27	1.60	21	16
Std.	1.59	3.47	78.42	19.27	114.25	21.50	70.45	150.24	61.75	56.40	491.29	24964.73	0.34	32	12

Source: Annual Export Receipts 2009-2010, Bangladesh Bank Statistics Department

Table-2(B). Bangladesh's Import from ASEAN Countries and rest of the world, 1999-2010. (Values in Crore Taka)

Year/ ASEAN Countries	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Total Import to ASEAN	World	ASEAN's Share (%)	Growth of Import from ASEAN (%)	Growth of Total Import (%)
1999-2000	5.26	0.00	813.31	3.19	542.85	65.88	12.15	3526.78	774.17	25.32	5768.91	38781.89	14.88		7.44
2000-2001	6.76	0.00	1021.78	3.29	796.47	133.26	51.90	4444.37	1078.8	39.51	7576.14	46672.64	16.23	31.33	20.35
2001-2002	1.45	0.00	997.13	3.28	834.35	97.29	65.05	5005.11	912.7	16.45	7932.81	45447.37	17.45	4.71	-2.63
2002-2003	1.38	0.00	1086.3	1.92	980.97	208.09	108.49	5790.94	1029.93	18.92	9226.94	51708.33	17.84	16.31	13.78
2003-2004	1.73	0.00	1423.41	7.56	1500.84	156.34	76.88	5369.68	1409.96	16.15	9962.55	59031.96	16.88	7.97	14.16
2004-2005	3.05	0.00	1595.23	49.23	1694.27	200.50	107.10	5450.35	2014.49	56.84	11171.06	75051.28	14.88	12.13	27.14
2005-2006	2.37	0.00	1921.24	4.72	2228.50	198.36	149.92	5697.00	2165.35	96.73	12464.19	92007.57	13.55	11.58	22.59
2006-2007	2.7	0.53	2449.15	8.11	2309.46	141.94	218.05	7135.00	2862.45	97.36	15224.75	110587.85	13.77	22.15	20.19
2007-2008	9.73	0.70	3059.25	15.05	3092.79	794.45	341.74	8733.00	3429.69	80.44	19556.84	139494.49	14.02	28.45	26.14
2008-2009	2.93	7.08	3497.40	6.07	4838.52	458.55	548.75	12165.84	3709.02	239.22	25473.38	145868.18	17.46	30.25	4.57
2009-2010	3.20	0.00	4603.23	17.54	8523.51	481.89	263.77	10727.64	4381.59	294.22	29296.59	154468.59	18.97	15.01	5.90
Total	40.56	8.31	22467.43	119.96	27342.53	2936.55	1943.80	74045.71	23768.15	981.16	153654.16	959120.15	175.93	180	160
Average	3.69	0.76	2042.49	10.91	2485.68	266.96	176.71	6731.43	2160.74	89.20	13968.56	87192.74	16	18	15
Std.	2.58	2.11	1226.02	13.66	2359.50	221.07	158.19	2712.98	1262.80	93.76	7702.36	43820.76	1.86	10	10

Source: Annual Import Payment 2009-2010, Bangladesh Bank Statistics Department

Table-3. Bangladesh's Trade Balance with ASEAN Countries, 1999-2010. (Values in Crore Taka)

Year/ ASEAN Countries	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Total Trade Deficit	Growth of Trade Deficit (%)
1999-2000	-4.36	0.17	-777.99	-2.59	-507.06	-62.46	-7.47	-3436.38	-586.27	7.64	-5376.76	
2000-2001	-4.53	0.09	-993.29	-2.53	-763.46	-129.44	-47.30	-4280.28	-958.46	13.29	-7165.90	33.28
2001-2002	3.19	0.21	-967.79	-3.28	-801.29	-92.56	-62.43	-4857.50	-842.93	51.63	-7572.76	5.68
2002-2003	5.10	0.78	-1042.27	-1.92	-959.42	-199.36	-93.52	-5550.72	-950.19	20.22	-8771.30	15.83
2003-2004	0.00	4.86	-1379.77	-7.56	-1464.11	-139.85	-36.98	-5193.58	-1336.74	71.30	-9482.42	8.11
2004-2005	0.01	4.92	-1472.97	-49.23	-1638.23	-186.23	-78.21	-5188.22	-1950.24	44.52	-10513.87	10.88
2005-2006	0.90	6.22	-1819.3	-0.53	-2149.41	-126.48	-126.52	-5172.51	-2006.76	53.78	-11340.62	7.86
2006-2007	-0.01	7.00	-2317.36	-6.49	-2222.72	-121.11	-180.88	-6731.59	-2713.17	57.37	-14228.95	25.47
2007-2008	-6.72	4.38	-2919.03	-13.47	-2950.9	-749.78	-316.83	-8418.09	-3382.51	22.56	-18730.39	31.64
2008-2009	-0.94	-2.46	-3362.29	-4.12	-4650.88	-424.00	-460.95	-11774.94	-3465.85	-120.25	-24266.68	29.56
2009-2010	-1.87	10.73	-4312.06	47.30	-8114.75	-443.84	-17.12	-10202.94	-4225.01	-74.35	-27333.91	12.64
Total	-9.23	36.90	-21364.1	-44.43	-26222.23	-2675.11	-1428.20	-70806.74	-22418.13	147.72	-144783.57	181
Average	-0.84	3.35	-1942.19	-4.04	-2383.84	-243.19	-129.84	-6436.98	-2038.01	13.43	-13162.14	18
Std.	3.44	3.91	1153.02	21.92	2246.52	210.30	141.02	2613.95	1243.79	59.22	7261.22	11

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Table-4. The Export-Import Ratio, 1999-2010.

Year/ Countries	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Average
Total Export-Import Ratio to ASEAN (%)	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.06
Total Export-Import Ratio of Bangladesh (%)	0.55	0.59	0.57	0.54	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.62	0.54	0.58	0.56	0.57

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Table-5(A). Country wise workers' remittances, 1999-2010. (US million dollars)

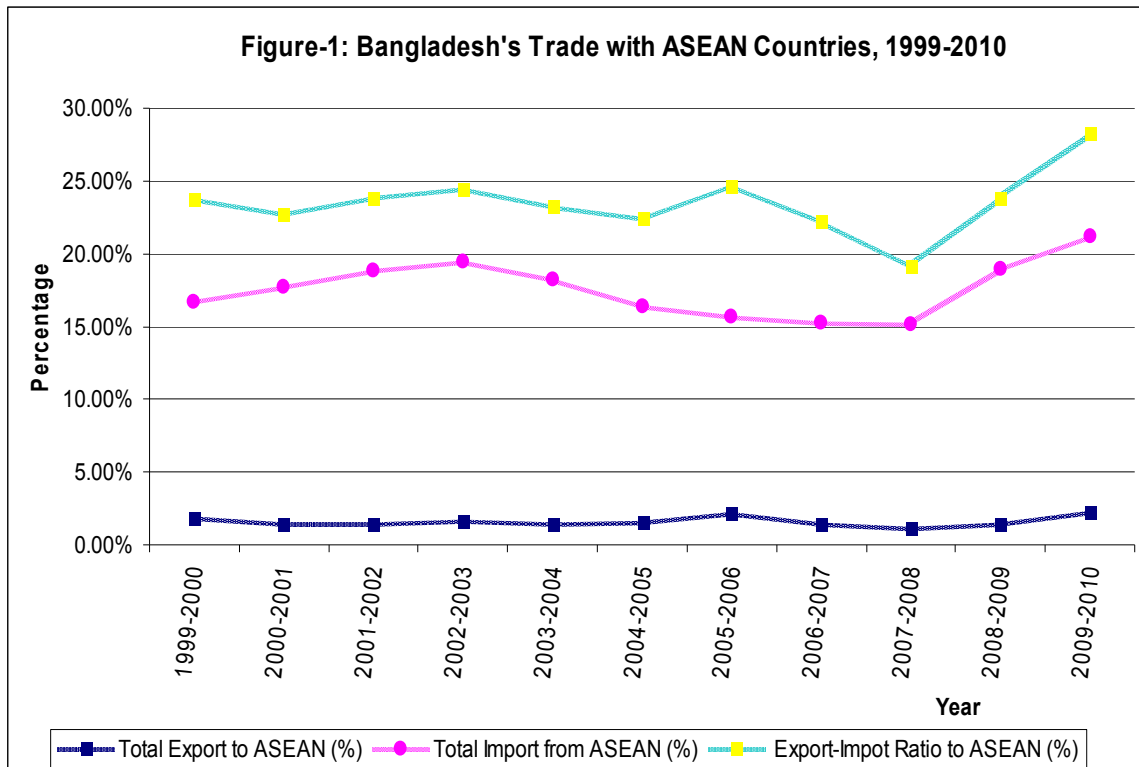
Year/ Countries	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Average
Malaysia	271.87	164.69	269.44	239.75	218.43	156.49	140.26	81.8	633.86	1943.98	587.10	427.97
Singapore	58.51	42.2	82.05	179.84	190.79	294.81	436.3	554.64	892.49	1136.71	193.50	369.26

Source: Bangladesh Bank

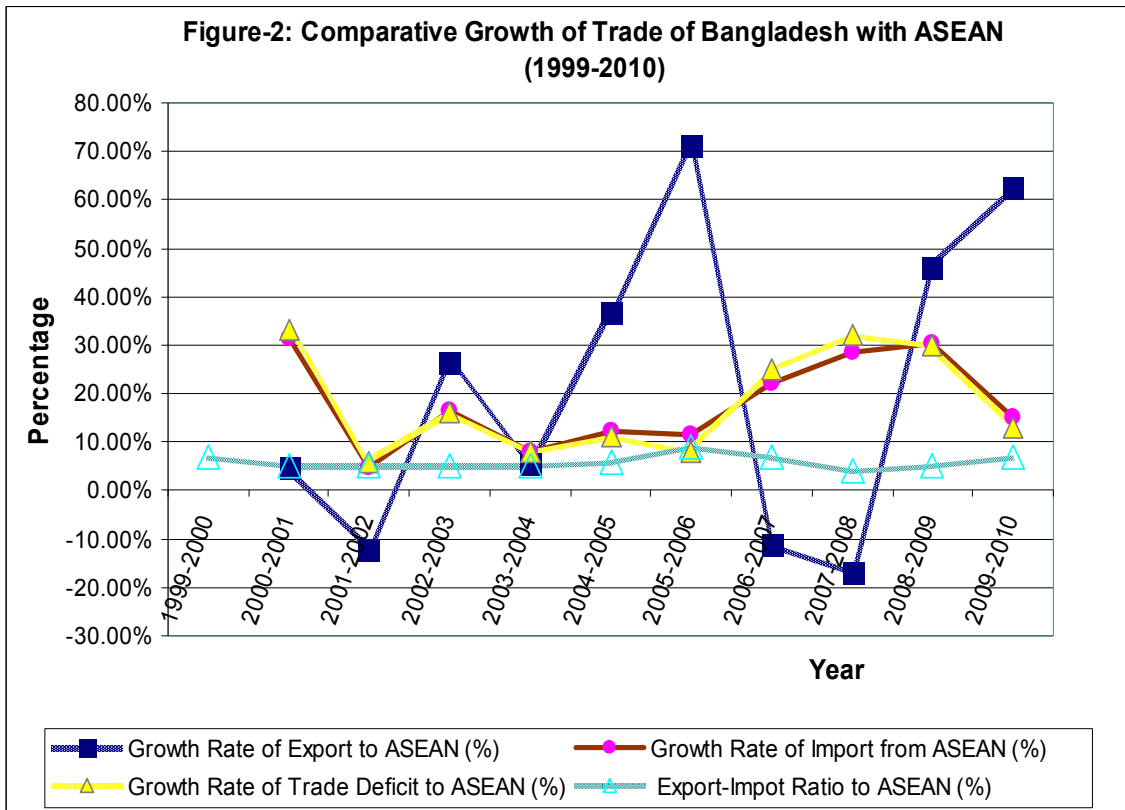
Table-5(B). Country wise workers' Export, 1999-2010.

Year	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Average
Malaysia	17237	4921	85	28	224	2911	20469	273201	131762	12402	291	98.69
Singapore	11095	9615	6870	5304	6948	9651	20139	38324	56851	39581	18696	5302.40

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Bangladesh



Source: Author's Calculations based on Table-2 & 4.



Source: Author's Calculations based on table-2, 3 & 4.