

Readiness of the Union Parishad for Achieving the Decent Work and Economic Growth Goal of SDGs: A Case Study of Chandanpath Union Parishad, Rangpur Sadar, Rangpur, Bangladesh

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Abstract:

After 2015 Sustainable Development Goals or UN Agenda-2030 is now a reality to go with this goals and targets for its all member countries. The purpose of this paper is to account for how lowest tier of our local government that is Union Parishad can help to achieve sustainable development Goals. In this paper my objective is to know whether our Union Parishad is ready to achieve SDGs Goal no 08 that is “Decent Work and Economic Growth” or not. To do this I have chosen a Union Parishad which is “Chandanpath” under Rangpur Sadar, Rangpur. I have collected my information through face to face interview of Public Representatives of Chandanpath UP, Focused Group Discussion with stakeholders and related document analysis. Combination of document analysis and information gained through interviews shows that our local governments are not in ready position to respond to and address today’s development challenges. After studying the different relevant documents we see that in developed countries local government playing a vital role in educating, mobilizing, cultural awareness, reduced prejudices and stereotypes, increased understanding of global inequality, and knowledge of the partner community and country responding to the public to promote decent work and contributing sustainable economic development. Though this practices on ground unequal, but in our country lack of knowledge and competence of public representatives, political unwillingness and insufficient resource are hindering the cooperation from having a larger impact in unemployment situation. This knowledge from study can be used to take further necessary steps from the policy planners and implementers of our country in a new light to achieve real economic growth.

Keywords: Decent Work, Economic Growth, SDGs, Sustainable Economic Growth

1. Problem Statement and Introductory Confab:

Union Parishad is the “last mile” in the sequence of actions of local Government tiers. 100% people live under the jurisdiction of Local Government Institutions(LGIs). Among them UP is the most closest LGIs to people. So, UP knows local needs and priorities. Based on the laws and regulations this tier delivers some services to the local people most cost effectively. UP service recipients are those who need it the most. It is well known that our country is over burdened for its huge population. As public representatives UP Chairmen and Members have to mobilize communities and local resources to ensure proper services in setting priorities, executing plans, monitoring results and engaging with local businesses and communities. Second schedule of UP Act- 2009

assigns 39 functions of UPs which are related to the real development of local people. It also forms a bridge between national governments, communities and citizens. It is mentionable that we are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern. For these reasons the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit— officially came into force on 1 January 2016. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development which encompasses 17 universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals are comprised of 169 targets and the attainment of these targets will be measured through a set of 230 indicators, as suggested by the United Nations. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. In Bangladesh as the lowest tier of Local Govt. UP plays pivotal role in the service delivery, human resource development, maintenance, repair and development of local infrastructure. We know that Bangladesh's GDP growth accelerated to 7.1% in 2016 from 6.6% in 2015. For continuing this growth we have to foster our economic activities. We have population 160 million people. The percentage of workforce is around 60% (age 15 to 54). Unemployment rate is remained unchanged at 4.10% in 2016 from 4.10% in 2015. Agriculture plays a key role for rural people's employment. Opportunity in Agriculture Sector has been reduced. Every year about 1.4 million people join in workforce. Productive jobs need to be created for this increasing work force. By ensuring decent work for all, we can achieve the goal no 08 of SDGs which will ensure our economic growth. The Decent Work Country Profile for Bangladesh has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and with the technical assistance of ILO experts. It is very much important to achieve sustainable and equitable development. As a lowest tier of LG our UPs can play vital role to ensure economic growth by providing people in decent work. In this research I will find the role, capacity and commitment of UP whether they are ready to implement SDGs specially the goal no-08 "Decent Work and Economic Growth" which is very much important for sustainable development. This goal has been described to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

2. Objectives:

The objectives are:

- To examine the current status of Decent Work and Economic Growth goal of SDGs in Chandanpath UP
- To examine the Public Representatives and Local People's perception about SDGs of chandanpath UP
- To examine the existing Acts, Policies, Programming and Financing support enough to ensure decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs in UP level

3. Research Questions:

1. What is the current status of decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs in Chandanpath UP?
2. What is the People's perception about SDGs of chandanpath UP?
3. Are UP act, Policies, Programming and financing support enough to ensure decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs in UP level?

4. Research Scope:

From the active initiative of our government achieving SDGs different ministries are committed to work more closely with local authorities. For this all ministries are planning the own guideline to achieve SDGs. For gender-2030 related action our ministry of local government is trying to play critical roles in linking citizens with governments and in ensuring broad-based and democratic ownership of countries' development agendas. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit—officially came into force on 1 January 2016. But outcome is still not in expected level. Though more than two years have been passed we do not know the real situation of the readiness of our LGIs to implement SDGs. Without knowing fundamentally the practical field of our SDG implementers who are mostly responsible to implement SDGs, no way to say it's achievement. To know the real situation this study will try to fulfill research aims and objectives and give satisfactory answers of research questions.

5. Research Methodology

I have chosen mixed method- both quantitative and qualitative approach which has been used in this research. My goal is to combine document analysis and semi-structured interviews of individuals and focus group to understand the current real and more complex situation ensuring decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs in UP. I have stressed the importance of open-ended questions in my interviews and tried to keep the dialogue as open as possible, and were therefore conscious on how I formulated my questions. I have chosen informants based on their relation to UP, local authorities and personal relations in the field of education and local development I have taken individual interview of one UP Chairman, 12 UP Members and two UP staffs who are UP Secretary and newly created post Accountant come Computer Operator. On the other hand, I have discussed with three focused group which members are from that UP. I have formulated three focused groups from teachers, Govt. staffs of different ministries who are posted in that area and different NGOs representatives and local elites. After reading through each interview, I interpreted the statements in light of the overall picture, trying to understand the tension between discourse and action. During the data analysis I have used a mixed methods approach e.g. document analysis, interviews, group discussion and direct observation to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings.

6. Research Rationales

Union Parishad works through existing structures as key public institutions for the long time. Being accountable institutions towards citizens this institution has responsibility to provide concrete basic services to enhance local communities' quality of life. But lack of financial resources, inadequate legal framework for cooperation at the national level, insufficient systematic approach, lack of ownership, lack of continuity of planned activities due to political changes, lack of professionalism, too little focus on results, insufficient monitoring and evaluation system are existing in our LGIs. Today's development challenges require the participation of all stakeholders in order to achieve sustainability. Despite several recommendations from the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), local governments no longer play a significant part of rural employment and development cooperation. With this in mind, the purpose of this paper is to outline how local governments can play a role in sustainable development specially achieving the Decent Work and Economic Growth Goal of sustainable development goals.

7. Limitations

It was still a large, complex and unexplored area to me. It was difficult to narrow down the subject of research while knowing that there were several aspects to focus on. To complete the research I had to maintain impartiality throughout the process. To examining the important relevant documents I have no enough time. I studied only one UP conducted 15 face to face interviews with persons from the previously mentioned UP and 03 focused group dissection. I think, I have not been able to fully grasp the context of my topic. Nevertheless, my level of knowledge has been increased through contact with public representatives, teachers, NGO workers, local elites and grass root people who are working and living in my field study place.

8. Literature Review

Local governments are often seen as the most responsive form of government because they are the closest and most accessible to the citizens (Reilly 2007: 50). They are responsible for ensuring equitable delivery of essential services, which include social services around health, welfare and housing (UCLG 2009: 10). A well-known critique to local service delivery is that it focuses on budgets and numbers rather than on for example increasing the quality of local education, or better health in the population, or alternative tasks that are more difficult and demanding to measure (Hagen et al. 2006: 177). This is why good governance practices are important also in more general service delivery measures. Good local management implies high performance not only in managing local services in order to satisfy customers and taxpayers, but also in enabling local communities to solve their own problems and to create better futures for the stakeholders (Bovaird et al. 2002: 9). It is argued that people are more likely to have confidence in their local government if decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, as they are systematically more involved in the process. This helps people feel that local government will act in the community's overall interest. It also encourages elected representatives and public officers to be confident with each other, and they are more likely to feel better about their involvement in local government.

8.1 Union Parishad:

It is the smallest rural administrative government units in Bangladesh. Each Union is made up of nine Wards. There are 4,554 unions in Bangladesh. Each UP consists of a chairman and twelve members including three members exclusively reserved for women. Union Parishads are formed under the *Local Government (Union Parishads) Act, 2009*. The boundary of each Union is demarcated by the Deputy Commissioner of the District. A Union Council is the body primarily responsible for agricultural, industrial and community development within the local limits of the union. The chairman and members are elected by direct election on the basis of adult franchise every five years. Three reserved women members, one for each three Wards, are also elected by direct election. The chairman and Member candidates must be Bangladeshi citizens having their names in the electoral roll of the respective Union or Ward. General elections of the Union Parishad are conducted by the Bangladesh Election Commission. Every Union Parishad is a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire and hold property.

8.2 Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people, planet and prosperity. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater work opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

8.3 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

According to UN document Sustainable Development Goals is an agenda-2030 for transforming our world to Sustainable Development. This is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. The UN authority recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. Their target is to resolve and free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and

secure our planet. They are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As UN embarks on this collective journey, they pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which they are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal agenda. The Goals and targets will be followed up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. This Goals and targets has come into effect on 1 January 2016 and guiding the decisions we take over the next 15 years. They are committed that all of us will work to implement the agenda within our own countries and at the regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. They encourage all Member States to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this agenda.

8.4 Decent Work:

The Decent Work Agenda is an instrument designed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to reduce poverty and to foster equitable, inclusive and sustainable development by transforming the world of work. It seeks to provide opportunities for productive work that delivers a fair income, offers safety at the workplace and social protection for the workers and their families and guarantees working people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize their lives and to participate in the decisions that affect them. Monitoring and assessing progress towards decent work at the country-level has long been a major concern. The profile for Bangladesh covers ten substantive elements of the four strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda, namely full and productive employment, rights at work, social protection and the promotion of social dialogue. The ten elements comprise: employment opportunities; adequate earnings and productive work; decent working time; combining work, family and personal life; work that should be abolished; stability and security of work; equal opportunity and treatment in employment; safe work environment; social security; and social dialogue and workers' and employers' representation. Migration is an issue on which current data remains weak and in need of improvement. Given the economic importance of remittances for the Bangladeshi economy and the on-going debate surrounding the conditions of overseas workers, future efforts to monitor and assess progress towards decent work will be greatly improved by additional data and analysis in this area.

8.5 Decent Work Indicator:

In 2008, ILO adopted a framework of Decent Work Indicators. There was four strategic pillars of the Decent Work-

- i. International labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work
- ii. Employment creation
- iii. Social protection and
- iv. Social dialogue and tripartism. Source: ILO (2014)

Decent work provides many opportunities for productive work to workers. Such as-

- A fair income,
- Safety at the workplace
- Social protection for the workers and their families
- Guarantees working people the freedom to express their concerns
- To organize their lives and to participate in the decisions that affects them.

In decent work ten elements comprise:

- ❖ Employment opportunities;
- ❖ Adequate earnings and productive work;
- ❖ Decent working time;
- ❖ Combining work, family and personal life;
- ❖ Work that should be abolished;
- ❖ Stability and security of work;
- ❖ Equal opportunity and treatment in employment;
- ❖ Safe work environment;
- ❖ Social security; and
- ❖ Social dialogue and workers' and employers' representation.

On the other hand, migration is an issue on which current data remains weak and in need of improvement. Given the economic importance of remittances for the Bangladeshi economy and the on-going debate surrounding the conditions of overseas workers, future efforts to monitor and assess progress towards decent work will be greatly improved by additional data and analysis in this area.

8.6 Economic Growth:

To promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all is a pivotal issue for all countries. Poverty eradication is only possible through stable and well-paid jobs. Nearly 2.2 billion people live below the US\$2 poverty line. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), more than 204 million people are unemployed as of 2015. Global unemployment increased from 170 million people in 2007 to nearly 202 million in 2012, of which about 75 million are young women and men. 470 million jobs are needed globally for new entrants to the labor market between 2016 and 2030, just to keep up with the growth of the global working age population. That's around 30 million per year. In addition to creating jobs, we also need to improve conditions for the some 780 million women and men who are working, but not earning enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. In addition, women and girls must enjoy equal access to equal opportunities with men and boys for employment. Society as a whole benefits when more people are being productive and contributing to their country's economic growth. Productive employment and "decent work" are key elements to achieving fair globalization and poverty reduction. As the global economy continues to recover we are seeing slower growth, widening inequalities and employment that is not expanding fast enough to keep up with the growing labour force. According to the International Labour Organization, more than 204 million people are unemployed in 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to encourage sustained economic growth by achieving higher levels of productivity and through technological innovation. Promoting policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030.

8.7 Decent Work & Economic Growth:

In UN SDG document they described some criteria for achieving SDG goal no 08- Decent Work and Economic Growth. These are as follows:

- Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

- Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
- By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
- By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

8.8 Sustainable Development Goals and Bangladesh:

It is well acknowledged that Government of Bangladesh has plans and policies to address the complex and dynamic interactions into account for implementation of SDGs. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh had a unique opportunity to be present in both the Millennium Summit held in 2000 and SDG Summit held in 2015 where the Millennium Declaration and SDGs were adopted respectively in the United Nations. The success of implementation of many of the MDGs targets and her dynamic leadership that was instrumental for the very feat which was globally acclaimed and she received so many accolades. This in turn has grown Championship and ownership in her for SDGs as well. A format for Data Gap Analysis was primarily developed at the Poverty Analysis and Monitoring (PA&M) Wing of General Economics Division (GED) following the format of Mapping of Ministries/Divisions by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and indicators. A preliminary in-house analysis was done at GED for all the 230 indicators for measuring performance of SDGs targets attainment by PA&M Wing. It is well recognized that the Sustainable Development Goals are all interconnected, in a system of growth. We cannot aim to achieve just one Goal; rather we have to achieve them all, which is called the characteristics of 'integration by synergy'. However, the interconnection and interrelationships of goals and targets are not so simple. Some goals and targets interact with others more strongly than others. Some targets reinforce each other (synergies). Some may be necessary for others to be achieved (enablers). A 16-member "SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee" has been formed with Senior Secretary/Secretary of the most relevant Ministries/Divisions being the members and Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister has been the convener. The Principal Coordinator for SDGs Affairs, a new high level post, has been created in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to spearhead the process and forge coordination. The first task of the "SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee" was to review the SDGs Mapping. It reflects concerted well thought-out efforts by the government following a whole society approach where involving NGOs, civil society and Development Partners in delineating government responsibilities by the Ministries/Divisions to each of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The mapping regarding who will do what in terms of targets has given responsibility to 40 Ministries/Divisions as Lead along with 34 Ministries/Divisions as Co-lead, and 61 Ministries/Divisions/Independent Institutions have been earmarked as

associate in the implementation of 169 targets of 17 SDGs. The mapping also highlighted actions to be taken by leads and co-leads to achieve the SDGs targets during 7th FYP. It has also captured existing policies/strategies/regulations to be instrumental for the implementation of different targets.

9. Case Study and Findings:

To know the preparedness of UP as a local Government Institution ensuring decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs I have selected Chandanpath UP of Rangpur Sadar Upazila. By informing the UP public representatives I went there and spend two days to collect data through face to face interview and dialogue with focused group. I have stressed the importance of open-ended questions in my interviews and tried to keep the dialogue as open as possible to understand the reality.

9.1 Case Scenario:

In my case study I have chosen informants based on their relation to UP, local authorities and personal relations in the field of education and local development. I have taken individual interview of one UP Chairman, 12 UP Members and two UP staffs who are UP Secretary and newly created post Accountant cum Computer Operator. On the other hand, I have discussed with three focused group which members are from that UP. Three focused groups were formulated from teachers, Govt. staffs of different ministries who are posted in that area and different NGOs representatives and local elites. After reading through each interview, I interpreted the statements in light of the overall picture, trying to understand the tension between discourse and action. During the data analysis I have used a mixed methods approach e.g. document analysis, interviews, group discussion and direct observation to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings.

Union Parishad prepare comprehensive Union development Plan and inclusion of inter-ward development projects after identification and prioritization. According to UP acts and regulation they have to perform 39 types of jobs for the locality and local people. They assist and cooperate for the development of primary schools, supervise their functioning and motivate people for spreading literacy. Ensure provision of health services at the Union Health Centres, supervise family planning related activities and services and monitor the same. Arrange for supply of safe drinking water and promote sanitation programme. Construction of inter-ward roads, maintenance of the same, management of small scale irrigation and water resources. Peaceful resolution and amicable settlement of inter ward disputes and trial petty nature cases in Village Court. They promote social resistance over violence against women, terrorism, all types of crimes and cooperate with administration for maintenance of law and order. Moreover, up-to-date registration of birth, death and marriages is an another important function of UP. UP try to Increase awareness for women and child development and take concrete actions where necessary. On the other hand, they encourage people to undertake cottage industries with good potentials and facilitate the involvement of disadvantaged and poor people in various income generating activities. They provide training for human resource development.

If we see the socio-economic condition of Chandanpath UP, over the past 25 years the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined dramatically, despite the long-lasting impact of the economic crisis of 2008/2009. The middle class now makes up more than 34 percent of total employment – a number that has almost tripled between 1991 and 2015. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress. The creation of quality jobs is a major challenge for almost all economies well beyond 2015. Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. Job opportunities and decent working conditions are also required for the whole working age population. Global unemployment increased from 170 million in 2007 to nearly 202 million in 2012, of which about 75 million are young women and men. Nearly 2.2 billion people live below the US\$2 poverty line and that poverty eradication is only possible through

stable and well-paid jobs. 470 million jobs are needed globally for new entrants to the labour market between 2016 and 2030. (Primary Data of UP, Daily Star, BD News, DBI, Editorial, 21 August, 2017)

9.2 Findings:

Chandanpath UP is situated in the northern part of Bangladesh. This UP is under Rangpur Sadar Upazila. Based on my research questions and objectives after individual interview and focused group discussion we came to know this situation regarding decent work and economic development:

Question no 01:

What is the current status of decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs in Chandanpath UP?

- Agriculture is the main occupation in the region and the people mainly live on it.
- In comparison to other divisions in the country it is socially and economically backward.
- Poverty is the main problem.
- Poverty is the Root Causes and gap between rich and poor are extreme.
- The per capita income is lower than the national average.
- The literacy rate is also low than the national average.
- The majority people are hardcore poor and live under poverty line.
- Most of the rural people especially women of this region are mostly illiterate, lack of awareness of their rights, low participation in development activities and socially and economically backward.
- Ethnic diversity: A large number of ethnic people live in this area.
- Among the ethnic groups the sandals are majority. They live on day labour. They don't have properties and productive assets.
- Though land-tenure system is unequal most of the laborers are engaged in agriculture as there is no alternative employment opportunity.
- A significant part of this area is river belt char area and the char people are worst sufferer and mostly poverty stricken.
- Seasonal employments, under employment, lack of income or low income are regular phenomenon.
- Intensity of child labour is high as Bidi factories are located in this area. The children have been suffering from different diseases due to work with tobacco.
- Women are among the poorest of the rural poor, especially when they are the sole heads of their households, such as widows or wives of men who have migrated in search of employment. They suffer discrimination because of gender identity.
- Lack of transport facilities, communication, infrastructure and networks in the rural areas though it is under a Sadar Upazila.
- Drug abuse and gambling cases are many.

- Many poor families involve their children and adolescent girls in day labor to supplement income in their families. These are the main reasons for non-enrollment to schools, high drop outs from the schools and early marriage.
- Seasonal migration due to unemployment problems.
- Due to the high production cost of agricultural goods and low seasonal market prices, lack of timely credit opportunity at low interest rates and due to lack of marketing opportunities the marginal farmers incurred losses most of the year in agricultural investments. This has resulted loss of assets and low per-capita income.
- They are facing the early impact of climate change. These changes has already creates major impacts on the livelihoods of the large number of poor people.
- The children suffer from mal nutrition which causing health problems.
- Violation of Human Rights is also a common feature in the region. Torture for dowry, early marriage etc. are being occurred but very little punitive measures are taken by the appropriate authority.

Question no 02-

What is the Public Representatives and Local People's perception about SDGs of Chandanpath UP?

- Almost 85% of respondents claimed to knew about SDGs. They said that in Rangpur district there were two project funded by UNDP named "Union Parishad Governance Project" and "Upazila Parishad Governance project". They all have attended in orientation meeting and programs more than once about SDG through these projects and from different NGO's workshops they came to know.
- Based on their answers, their general knowledge about SDGs consists of just general information about SDG. Such as- SDG is a new development agenda for all countries. It has 17 goals and 169 targets. It is replacement of MDGs for next 15 years. Our government is trying to make planning to achieve these goals. They said that as a citizen we all have duties and responsibilities to achieve these goals for our better future.
- When I asked them about Sustainable Development Goal no- 08 which is "Decent Work and Economic Growth" 98% respondent do not have the clear idea about this goal.
- They all said that decent work means "Valo Chakuri" like BBC cadre. But.
- 2% said they have heard about decent work goal of SDG. They mentioned that a job which is according to ones quality and capacity, if he/she is satisfied with his/her job this is we can say decent work. They said that if we can ensure satisfactory job or work for all our vision 2021 will be achieved earlier.
- More than 80% of the respondents said that they do not have dedicated division or institutional set up to implement SDGs in UP level.

Question no 03:

Are Existing acts, Policies, Programming and financing support enough to ensure decent work and economic growth goal of SDGs?

- Bangladesh has successfully done the Mapping of Ministries/Divisions by SDGs targets linking with all relevant Ministries/Divisions

- A 16-member “SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee” has been formed with Senior Secretary/Secretary of the most relevant Ministries/Divisions
- A new high level post of the Principal Coordinator for SDGs has been created in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) to spearhead the process and for coordination.
- It is well known that with the Government’s initiative to reduce poverty 15% by 2021 many national and international NGOs have undertaken special development program since long past to address the poverty in this area.
- Our Government has been taken many initiatives for employment generation and Poverty Reduction in rural area specially the time when physical job is not available for the day labor.
- The government started the project with 4,501 Union Digital Centres at each union in late 2010. Currently, the country has digital centers at 4,547 unions, 321 city councils and 407 wards in 11 city corporations.
- In every Union there is a Union Digital Centre where two (one boy, one girl) persons called Entrepreneurs or Uddakta are providing digital support to local people.
- More than 11,000 entrepreneurs work in these digital centers.
- These centers have so far served people on over 120 million occasions, including registration of 70 million births; also, more than 2 million overseas job seekers have received services from these centers.

Bangladesh is quite prepared to start its journey for attainment of Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) set by the UNO in the backdrop of accomplished MDGs. (CPD Quarterly, September, 2017). Now it is almost one and half years gone to set targets, outputs, outcomes etc. tools to measure the achievements of SDGs. Like other 193 nations Bangladesh is also working out to adopt SDG focused policies, action plans etc. We are enacting SDG oriented laws, policies and projects so on and so forth. But the reality is that, a country like Bangladesh has limited resources to focus on all these 17 goals of SDG. Therefore we have to select one or two goals to work with full strength which will facilitate achieving other goals as well. Promoting (UNDP websites, The Bangladesh Accountant October - December 2016)

10. Analysis

“SDG is a roadmap to ending global poverty, building a life of dignity for all and leaving no one behind. It is also a clarion call to work in partnership and intensify efforts to share prosperity, empower people’s livelihoods, ensure peace and heal our planet for the benefit of this and future generations,” says Ban Ki-Moon, former United Nations Secretary-General. A private research organization opines that Bangladesh continues to be role model in achieving MDGs, but a major concern in the country is the pervasive under employment which has prevented the country from fully meeting the MDG. The challenge is to ensure pro-poor economic growth that can lead to creation of more jobs, better employment and higher household income. Structural realities and constraints such as limited land for cultivation, high population density and a growing population represent significant challenges. (Centre for research and information).

Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all is a must. Decent work is one of 17 Global Goals that an integrated approach is crucial for progress across the multiple goals. Increasing labor productivity, reducing the unemployment rate, especially for young people, and improving access to financial services and benefits are essential components of sustained and inclusive economic growth. By 2030 we have to achieve full & productive employment and decent work for all women & men, including for young people & persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value. From document study we found that profile for Bangladesh covers ten substantive elements of the four strategic pillars of the

Decent Work Agenda, namely full and productive employment, rights at work, social protection and the promotion of social dialogue. The ten elements comprise: employment opportunities; adequate earnings and productive work; decent working time; combining work, family and personal life; work that should be abolished; stability and security of work; equal opportunity and treatment in employment; safe work environment; social security; and social dialogue and workers' and employers' representation. Migration is an issue on which current data remains weak and in need of improvement. Given the economic importance of remittances for the Bangladeshi economy and the on-going debate surrounding the conditions of overseas workers, future efforts to monitor and assess progress towards decent work will be greatly improved by additional data and analysis in this area. (Report of UNDP during 2015 Preparing BANGLADESH for SDGs?) Bangladesh has successfully done the Mapping of Ministries/Divisions by SDGs targets linking with all relevant Ministries/Divisions. Our honorable Prime Minister in her recent address on her Government's 3rd anniversary on 12th January, 2017 has devolved into her government's achievements. She is quoted here in the conclusion "Overcoming all obstacles & barriers Bangladesh is now on the highway of development. Bangladesh is now a universal model of development. Bangladesh is one of the fast growing economies. The World Bank is projecting Bangladesh's success in rapid reduction of poverty". Government of Bangladesh has been taken many initiatives for employment generation and Poverty Reduction. The situation has been improving day by day over the years but still much to be done for sustainable development initiative for the poor. A 16-member "SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee" has been formed with Senior Secretary/Secretary of the most relevant Ministries/Divisions. A new high level post of the Principal Coordinator for SDGs has been created in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to spearhead the process and for coordination. From the field study my findings—mostly respondents said we are still lagging behind implementing SDGs. There is no practical alignment with them those who are responsible to implement SDGs. Almost 85% of respondents claimed to know about SDGs. They said that in Rangpur district there was a project of UNDP named "Union Parishad Governance Project" and "Upazila Parishad Governance project". They all have attended in orientation meeting and programs in UP, Upazila and District level more than once through this project and from different NGO's workshops. Based on their answers, their general knowledge about SDGs consists of general information such as- SDG is a new development agenda for all countries. It has 17 goals and 169 targets. It is replacement of MDGs for next 15 years. Our government is trying to make planning to achieve these goals. They said that as a citizen we all have duties and responsibilities to achieve these goals for our better future. When I asked them about Sustainable Development Goal no- 08 which is "Decent Work and Economic Growth" 98% respondent do not have the clear idea about this goal. They all said that decent work means "Valo Chakuri" like BBC cadre. But 2% said they have heard about that and a job which is according to ones quality and capacity, if he/she is satisfied with his/her job this is we can say decent work. They said that if we can ensure satisfactory job or work for all our vision 2021 will be achieved earlier. More than 80% of the respondents said that they do not have dedicated division or institutional set up to implement SDG. Despite positive strides in the last few years, extreme poverty has been a serious problem in Bangladesh. This is especially so for households headed by widowed, divorced, or abandoned women. Women are often employed in low productivity jobs. This SDG Fund programme is led by UNDP, in partnership with ILO, local governments, and private partners. The goal is to assist women from ultra-poor and most vulnerable households to move out of poverty. The programme is piloting in the Kurigram district in the north west and the coastal Satkhira district—the most affected by natural disasters and climate change. The programme aims to scale-up to 20 districts following implementation in the 2 pilot districts. SWAPNO offers a scalable, government-owned model aimed at participants' lasting exit from poverty. The women will be employed for 18 months in maintaining or rehabilitating important community assets, public works, and community service. The projects & programmes based on the case study we have found that to reduce acute seasonal unemployment special credit programme facilitated growth of non-farm activities Rangpur Sadar Upazila areas, which have erased the problem of *Monga* quite significantly in recent years. Targeted policy for expansion of non-farm activities appears as an effective tool for fighting seasonal unemployment. It is well known that with the Government's initiative to reduce poverty 15% by 2021 many national and international NGOs have undertaken special development program since long past to address the poverty in this area. The situation has been improving day by day over the years but still much to be done for sustainable development initiative for the poor. Government of Bangladesh has been taken many initiatives for employment generation

and Poverty Reduction. Such as-Employment Generation Program for the Ultra-Poor, Food for Works Programme (FFW), Micro-credit Programme for Self-employment of Women, Programmes under the Fisheries Sector to Alleviate Poverty, Establishing cottage industries based on local raw materials, Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), Credit Program to Assist the Agro-based Industries, Economic Empowerment of the Poorest in Bangladesh (EEP) Project. Expanding skill-training, providing loan and ensuring marketing facilities for products creates a new window for under privileged people. Moreover, different social safety net programs are also running in this poverty prone area. Such as- Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar (One House, One Farm), Fund for Housing the Homeless (Grihayan Tahabil). School Feeding Programme etc. SWAPNO project is also well aligned with national planning and policy instruments related to employment, poverty reduction, social protection, food security, and women's empowerment.

Most of the rural people especially women of this region are mostly illiterate, lack of awareness of their rights, low participation in development activities and socially and economically backward. Poverty is the Root Causes and gap between rich and poor are extreme. Though land-tenure system is unequal most of the laborers are engaged in agriculture as there is no alternative employment opportunity. A significant part of this area is river belt char area and the char people are worst sufferer and mostly poverty stricken. Seasonal employments, under employment, lack of income or low income are regular phenomenon. Intensity of child labour is high as Bidi factories are located in this area. The children have been suffering from different diseases due to work with tobacco. Women are among the poorest of the rural poor, especially when they are the sole heads of their households, such as widows or wives of men who have migrated in search of employment. They suffer discrimination because of gender identity. Lack of transport facilities, communication, infrastructure and networks in the rural areas though it is under a Sadar Upazila. Drug abuse and gambling cases are many. Many poor families involve their children and adolescent girls in day labor to supplement income in their families. These are the main reasons for non-enrollment to schools, high drop outs from the schools and early marriage. Seasonal migration is a cause of unemployment problems. Due to the high production cost of agricultural goods and low seasonal market prices, lack of timely credit opportunity at low interest rates and due to lack of marketing opportunities the marginal farmers incurred losses most of the year in agricultural investments. This has resulted loss of assets and low per-capita income. They are facing the early impact of climate change. These changes has already creates major impacts on the livelihoods of the large number of poor people. The children suffer from mal nutrition which causing health problems. Violation of Human Rights is also a common feature in the region. Torture for dowry, early marriage etc. are being occurred but very little punitive measures are taken by the appropriate authority. Such as-

- Food for Works Programme (FFW).
- Employment Generation Program for the Ultra-Poor
- Micro-credit Programme for Self-employment of Women.
- Programmes under the Fisheries Sector to Alleviate Poverty.
- Establishing cottage industries based on local raw materials, expanding skill-training, providing loan and ensuring marketing facilities for products creates a new window for under privileged people.
- Different social safety net programs
- Ashrayan (Poverty Alleviation and Rehabilitation) Project.
- Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar (One House, One Farm).
- Gharey Fera.
- Fund for Housing the Homeless (Grihayan Tahabil).
- Programmes under the Fisheries Sector to Alleviate Poverty.

- School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas.
- Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP).
- Credit Program to Assist the Agro-based Industries.
- Economic Empowerment of the Poorest in Bangladesh (EEP) Project.

Bangladesh has significant achievements in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For example, Bangladesh being able to reduced poverty from 56.7per cent in 1991-92 into 31.5per cent in 2010 and finally 24.8 per cent in 2015. Similarly, our achievement in achieving universal primary education, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and women empowerment was outstanding globally.

Government, non-government, autonomous, NGO operated, local and foreign all the educational institute should get maximum budgetary, policy, instrumental support of the government to ensure decent work for all. At the same time industrialization, innovation and infrastructure development should get maximum priority of the government for next 10 years. Thus Bangladesh could start its journey towards the achievement of SDGs by 2030 and ensure its optimum result.(UN website) MIC Status will go a Long way to Achieve SDGs Bangladesh Government has envisioned its vital goal of becoming an Upper middle income country (MIC) by the year 2021. Achievement of this goal will be a significant milestone that will make the country immensely prepared for concurrence of SDGs. The World Bank has defined lower and upper middle income countries in terms of GNP per capita as follows: Lower Middle Income US\$ 1026-4125 Upper Middle Income US\$ 4036-12475. According to this classification Bangladesh is under lower middle income group as per capita. Present per capita income of Bangladesh is US\$ 1465. In order to reach the target of Upper middle income country by 2021, Bangladesh has to triple its per capita income. This task will not be undemanding. It has to go a long way and attain aggressive growth of GDP continuously in order to pass over in the middle income range. The country's higher income status implies that it will have more opportunities, become a more attractive venue for trade, BANGLADESHGOES THROUGH business and investment. It will have easier access to vast market of commercial loans from global credit markets, foreign direct investment and so on. With all these views ahead, Bangladesh has to strive for further growth and higher income so that it can generate enough resources to continue its development. In particular, it must achieve the capacity to repay foreign loans and generate enough development fund with domestic resources. Bangladesh will need GDP growth to 7.11 to 9 percent per year based on accelerated export and remittance growth. Both public and private investment will need to increase as well. Growth will also need to be more inclusive through creation of productive employment opportunities in the economy and more development to move forward and attain the status of upper middle income country by 2021. Becoming a middle-income country will require efforts on many fronts including maintaining macroeconomic stability; strengthening revenue mobilization; tackling energy and infrastructure deficits; deepening financial-sector and external trade reforms; improving labor skills, economic governance, and urban management; Bangladesh can become an export powerhouse, with its labor-intensive manufacture and service exports growing at double digits on a sustained basis, if it speeds up government decision-making. The Export target in RMG sector alone of US \$50 billion can go beyond by 2021 if Bangladesh can perk up human skill viz. designers, quality assurers, managers etc. Majority mass producers depend upon designs currently supplied by retailers. Presently 20,000 expatriates who are working in the sector are taking away US\$ 5 billion in foreign currency which is almost equivalent to net profit earned by the entire sector. If more skilled manpower are created the country can save this big amount of foreign exchange. Moreover Bangladesh is exporting only basic apparel items, it has to further diversify production in all kinds of garments. Bangladesh is the second largest exporter of RMG with only 6% share of \$ 450 billion global market while China holds first position with 39% share(Daily Star, 20 December, 2016). China might hold its growth which offers a golden opportunity for Bangladesh to increase its global share of exports by diversifying both products and global export market and improving manpower skill, if it fails, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, might capture the vacuum left by China in the market. Some owners of RMG factories are contemplating to extend their production houses in India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam etc when Bangladesh is suffering from investment appetite. It will be unfortunate for the

country if it happens. It will also add up to capital flight from the country. The Government should provide incentives & impetus to them to retain back investments at home country. Similarly export prospects of Bangladesh in manpower, leather products, jute products, frozen and dry foods, cement and non-traditional items are enormous, what are needed is improvement of quality, (skill of manpower), diversification of products and destinations that will inflate export earnings and thereby enhancing capability of the country to achieve MDGs and preparedness of the country for SDGs. It is expected that Bangladesh will attain upper middle income status by 2021 and rich country status by 2030 and concur SDGs.

Alleviation of Poverty in all forms Where there is poverty in a nation, there are hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, ill health, early death etc. resulting in unemployment, underemployment, less production, less GDP growth, less per capita income etc. Bangladesh has succeeded in enormously reducing its poverty rate. As per World Bank report Bangladesh's extreme poverty rate has dropped to 12.9 percent of the total population in 2015-16. In its 'Bangladesh Development Update, released in Oct., 2016 the World Bank reported that Bangladesh's extreme poverty rate has come down from 13.8 percent in the previous 2014-15 FY. WB Dhaka offices explained that they have calculated the rate of extreme poverty based on Bangladesh's 7.1 percent GDP growth in FY 2016. "Bangladesh's achievement is better than India, Pakistan and Bhutan," The World Bank stated that under the new poverty line based on 2011 purchasing power, 28 million, or 18.5 percent of Bangladeshis lived in extreme poverty in 2010. More than 16 million people in Bangladesh graduated from extreme poverty between 2000 and 2010. "The success of Bangladesh's development experience in innovations such as conditional cash transfers, gender equity in education, and successful family planning is reflected in its notable reduction of poverty and improvement in the quality of lives of its citizens," the quoted WB Country Director.

All SDGs are Interrelated Alleviation of poverty, acceleration of GDP growth, per capita income etc involve important correlated factors viz. getting rid of unemployment or underemployment of the productive youths, ensuring food security, providing sanitation, water and health facilities for all, ensuring quality, vocational and technical education for the youths, ensuring equal opportunity of employment for both sexes, ensuring decent work for all, providing energy for both urban and rural people etc. These are essentially part and parcel of the SDGs. The upsetting report of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) says "One in four young people in developing countries are unable to read a sentence, which warns that poor quality education has left a "legacy of illiteracy" more widespread than previously believed". Access to financial services enables individuals and firms to manage changes in income, deal with fluctuating cash flows, accumulate assets and make productive investments. Access to financial services through automated teller machines increased by 55 per cent worldwide from 2010 to 2015. Commercial bank branches grew by 5 per cent during the same period, with the lower growth explained by increased digital access to financial services.

Bangladesh has not been maintaining a stable GDP growth, lots of challenges lie ahead of Bangladesh for achieving SDGs for full and productive employment and decent work for all. Human capital development didn't take place in the country as it should have been due to lack of proper training, lack of technical jobs, and lack of policies for technology transfer and so on.

11. Conclusion & Recommendations:

In order to strengthen the LG bodies, the institutional capacity in terms of both human competence and logistics must be strengthened. In his study, Aminuzzaman (1998) indicates that the majority of the chairmen and members of the LG units do not have adequate knowledge and understanding of the operational procedures and functions of these bodies. They also have the lack to proper knowledge that is required to deal with the complicated rules of budgeting, planning, and managing resources. For instance, for proper functioning of the UPs, they need to maintain more than 100 registers (i.e., general office management, village courts, test relief

programmes, food-forwork programmes, etc). But, as a matter of fact, in most cases, these registers are not maintained because the workload is enormous as compared to the management capacity of the LG units. Moreover, the elected officials and salaried staff of the LG units are not given enough training to make them capable of carrying a tremendous workload.

11.1 Conclusion:

More than 400 million people will join the workforce within the next decade and the creation of Jobs are an opportunity to simultaneously address this employment challenge. Decent local jobs can deliver pathways to economic empowerment. This paper presents examples of policies and programmes initiated by local governments that promote decent jobs especially for women and youth (persons between the ages of 15 and 24). The aim is to inspire more local governments to consider policies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Providing youth the best opportunity to transition to a decent job calls for investing in education and training of the highest possible quality, providing youth with skills that match labour market demands, giving them access to social protection and basic services regardless of their contract type, as well as levelling the playing field so that all aspiring youth can attain productive employment regardless of their gender, income level or socio-economic background. Governments can work to build dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centered economies, promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment, in particular, and decent work for all. This is an Agenda of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. Bangladesh is geared up and capable of accelerating growth in all sectors and outlets with view to achieving the SDGs just in the same way it performed brilliantly to attain the MDGs. This report reveals, local governments are generally positive towards the SDGs and see different roles for themselves in relation to the SDGs. Their actual contribution to SDGs is, however, dependent on several internal and external factors. Based on the research findings, five challenges for the LGIs can be identified in their contribution towards the implementation of the Global Goals, namely: a) lack of (political) support, b) unclear role local government amidst the Local government and umbrella organizations, c) overcoming financial dependence, d) lack of public awareness, and e) the abstract nature of the new agenda and the UN process. In some cases, these challenges are directly related to opportunities.

11.2 Recommendations:

The SDG Fund joint programme seeks to create economic and job opportunities for vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, through productive income generating activities and local entrepreneurship promotion. It is working to ensure food security and improve nutrition in the poorest households. Also, it aims to improve access for vulnerable groups to information on their rights and legal assistance for better social and economic integration.

- Builds human capital, knowledge, skills, and confidence
- Provides vocational skills training, job placement, diversified climate change resilient livelihoods options, and social and economic inclusion
- Encourages saving a portion of wages, issued as a graduation bonus
- Facilitates linkages with small and medium enterprises and public-private partnerships to hire participant women after the programme ends
- Integrates social protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Enhances good local governance and develops capacity of local government institutions
- Trainings on gender, human rights, inclusive local planning, and income generation for central and local authorities, local leaders, men and women, and the private sector
- Advocacy, training, and study on rural land tenure and gender

- Providing access to legal information and individualized counseling through a legal clinic and its community network
- Supporting school canteens through strengthening abilities of women and youth in literacy, production techniques, and simplified management
- Facilitating the networking of 50 women from women's production groups around a leadership training and cooperative management programme
- Income generation activities to young girls who have dropped out of school
- Revitalizing the Training for the insertion of professional young girls out of school
- Organizing sessions to share experiences with other regions.
- The low capital requirements needed for forming certain types of cooperative can be beneficial for informal workers seeking to engage in enterprise activities.
- Correcting and protecting people's vision, particularly in emerging countries, helps to boost employability, productivity and improve individuals' earning power as well as contribute to creating jobs and sustainable businesses.
- Our inclusive business models aim to empower individuals in their communities, create local jobs and infrastructure and bring tangible social and economic benefit through improved vision.
- Local skills-building agencies to help train young under-employed men and women to carry out basic vision screening and set up their own business providing primary vision care and selling prescription glasses.
- Increasing investment through providing infrastructural facilities, special economic zones, forming investment-friendly fiscal policies, ensuring exchange rate flexibility and financial sector discipline and accountability.
- Raising the female labor force participation rate by easing labor market entry barriers for women for mitigating prevalent shrinking work force.
- Increasing returns on education by enhancing the quality and providing technical and technological relevance of education which will boost employment rate.
- Accelerating growth both in agriculture, manufacturing and services, through learning from the experiences of countries with higher productivity.
- Increasing and diversifying both product and markets of labor-intensive exports like RMG.
- Ensuring Political stability
- Public, private and NGOs will have to play key role in achieving the targets.
- Political stability, good governance, corruption free administration, infrastructure development, capacity building of administration etc will play key role in achieving the goal.
- Employment oriented, productive and hands on education could be promoted to ensure optimum output
- The SDG Fund programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment need to developed to accelerate economic empowerment of rural women
- Improve food security, nutrition, social protection, and coping mechanisms
- Increase incomes to sustain livelihoods
- Providing inputs like fertilizers, extension services, technology, and information to women
- Supporting beneficiaries to manage local food security reserves and organize into cooperative groups
- Promoting savings and leadership
- Strengthening policies and programmes that promote rural women's agency and voice in rural producer associations, financial cooperatives, and unions

All SDGs are Interrelated Alleviation of poverty, acceleration of GDP growth, per capita income etc involve important correlated factors viz. getting rid of unemployment or underemployment of the productive youths, ensuring food security, providing sanitation, water and health facilities for all, ensuring quality, vocational and technical education for the youths, ensuring equal opportunity of employment for both sexes, ensuring decent work for all, providing energy for both urban and rural people etc. These are essentially part and parcel of the SDGs. So, 2015-25 decade should be decade of quality manpower and decent work which will lead to achieve

our sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh. If we could make justifiable progress in this goal, then Bangladesh will automatically achieve other goals within the period of 2025-2030.

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