Navigating the Dynamics of Policy Politics: An Analysis of Contemporary Public Policy Formulation Trends in Bangladesh

Md. Akmal Hossain (iD)
Lecturer in Political Science, National University, Bangladesh
Correspondence: akmal.hossain@nu.ac.bd

ABSTRACT

Public policy formulation is an integral part of the government's role in providing essential services to citizens. Nevertheless, available studies on the policy process in Bangladesh have not thoroughly explored the detailed procedures and tendencies of the policy formulation process. The principal objective of this paper was to investigate the recent trends in the public policy-making process in Bangladesh. Based on secondary data sources, this paper argues that no analogous model can effectively analyze all policies implemented in Bangladesh over the last decade. However, the group interest and political process model is more feasible than other models in the policy formulation process. The implications of this study are to understand the nature of the policies and the role of actors who decide which policies will be developed and whose interests will be served. Moreover, this article will help policymakers and policy theorists make informed decisions, avoiding the weaknesses and drawbacks of previous policies.

Keywords: *Public Policy, Policy Process, Policy Model, Policy Trends, Bangladesh.*

1. Introduction

Public policy reflects a nation's attitude towards its citizens about how political elites take care of their respective country's people. At the same time, policies are political and ideological manifestations of the promises made by political parties to the nation. Political parties developed policies based on socio-political, cultural, and religious values to attract voters. However, sometimes, political parties display policies that contradict the parties' ideologies and values. The reason is that, according to the median voter theory, political parties produce policies that attract people outside the parties' supporters and norms (Down, 1965). Although traditional belief notes that the Awami League (AL), for example, is a secular and non-communal political party. However, the party is aligned with the other twenty-eight Islamic Parties, and the other thirty-two Islamic parties are in the coalition led by the AL (Prothom Alo, 2018). Thus, policies are a complex issue and are shaped by multiple factors. As a result, the trend of the policy-making process changes if the regime is altered. This shift in ideology can significantly impact the policymaking

process and have wide-reaching implications for the country's economy and society. It is, therefore, essential to closely monitor the situation to ensure that the policies align with the people's best interests.

The process of policymaking is not simply a series of decisions made at once, nor does it always follow a straightforward path. It comprises several distinct stages that can be categorized into five or six distinct phases. In the case of Bangladesh, the public policy process has followed at least five stages. The following section of the paper will provide a brief analysis of the stages involved in the policy-making process.

This paper poses an important question to understand the nature of policies implemented in recent years in Bangladesh, utilizing some theoretical frameworks available in policy science. What is the nature of policies, and whose interests are served? This analysis presents a thorough examination of the procedure by which policies are formulated in Bangladesh, as well as an exhaustive analysis of the various factors that influence the policymaking process. It examines the distribution of costs and benefits of different policies to understand whose interests are served. The policy impacts of this approach have significant implications for understanding the nature of the policies and the role of actors who make decisions about which policies will be developed and whose interests will be served. Moreover, this article will help policymakers and policy theorists make informed decisions, avoiding the weaknesses and drawbacks of previous policies.

After evaluating several policies initiated by the Bangladesh government over the last decade, this paper argues that these policies can be analyzed from a different theoretical perspective on the policy-making process. *Among them, the group interest model, system model, institutional response, and process model are preferred by stakeholders.* Policies briefly discussed in this paper may be relevant to the process model mentioned above, regardless. More recently, there has been a growing interest in public policy studies, particularly in the policy-making process in Bangladesh. A few private universities also offer this course to understand and provide consultation on policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation processes. Therefore, this study makes a significant contribution to research on the policy-making process by highlighting recent trends in the country. However, readers should note that the study is based on secondary data sources, and there has been limited research conducted on the topic in recent years.

The article is divided into six major sections. It begins with an introductory piece that provides an overview of the subject matter. The subsequent section examines the existing body of literature and elucidates the essential terminologies of policy science. The following section deals with the sources of policy laws in the country. The following section delineates the process of formulating policies in the context of Bangladesh. The ensuing part assesses a selection of policies to identify recent patterns in the process of making public policies in Bangladesh. Lastly, the concluding section succinctly summarizes the primary discoveries and offers commentary on the study.

2. Understanding the Public Policy Making Process

Public Policy is a contested term. There are many different definitions of precisely what public policy is, and the term is often used quite loosely in public policy

literature. Therefore, it is not easy to give a formal definition of public policy that is wholly satisfactory. However, the one suggested by Thomas R. Dye is useful and is used in this paper. For Dye (2017), public policy means '*whatever governments choose to do or not to do*'. This definition is intended primarily for 'government' policy and does not cover private and other sectors. This article also favors public policy over other types of policies.

Laswell's definition of politics adeptly grasps the core idea of public policy. Laswell defined politics as exercising power regarding the distribution of resources: who gets what, when, and how (Laswell, 1936). Similarly, the central concern of any public policy is to disburse the government benefits to the people. The question is, which process should we follow to provide resources? Policy theorists have identified several stages that governments follow when creating a policy. These stages are commonly referred to as policy processes. Jenkins (1978, p. 17) provides a comprehensive explanation of the Easton model, identifying complex feedback flows and the following stages: initiation, information gathering, consideration, decision-making, implementation, evaluation, and termination.

According to Dye (2017, p. 26), policy is the set of activities that people engage in within the political system, including identifying problems and setting agendas, formulating policy proposals, legitimizing policies, implementing policies, and evaluating their effectiveness. Dye depicted six stages of developing any public policy.

 i.   Problem Identification- Articulating demands for government action

 ii. Agenda Setting- Deciding what issues will be decided.

 iii. Policy Formulation- Selecting a proposal.

 iv. Policy Legitimation- Approving policies through the respected authority

 v.   Policy Implementation- Enacting policies at the field level

 vi. Policy Evaluation-Analyzing consequences of the adopted policy.

Consider an example of making a new policy using these six principles. Regarding problem identification, the alarming rise in plastic pollution in the Buriganga River, for example, is highlighted by citizens, environmental groups, and scientists, who emphasize its adverse effects on the river basin's life and ecosystems. Various actors and groups are demanding the government's action to address this urgent matter (Dhaka Tribune, 2023). Setting the agenda is the next step. Government representatives get together with stakeholders, environmental specialists, the epistemic community, and legislators to prioritise the problem of plastic pollution in the Buriganga River on the legislative agenda. They determine that this issue needs to be their primary focus and acknowledge the urgency of addressing it (Ahmed, 2022). Next comes the policy formulation process. Policy formulation is a drafting strategy that considers several factors, such as banning single-use plastics, implementing recycling programs, and providing incentives for environmentally friendly alternatives. The policy proposal considers the opinions of stakeholders and incorporates scientific suggestions. Then, the legislative bodies examine and discuss the proposed policy. Following debates, revisions, and the creation of a consensus, the government accepts the policy as a vital step in the fight against plastic pollution in the rivers. It acquires the required legal standing.

The next is to implement the adopted policies. The government works with key stakeholders, local government officials, and environmental agencies to implement the agreed policy. This entails establishing infrastructure for recycling, launching public awareness campaigns, and enforcing laws that prohibit the use of single-use plastics (The Daily Star, 2016). Finally, the last stage is to evaluate the policies and determine whether they are working correctly. The reduction of plastic waste, the improvement of marine ecosystem health, and public compliance are some of the indicators used to evaluate the policy's impact over time. Data is analyzed by academics, environmentalists, and government organizations to assess a policy's effectiveness. Changes could be made to improve the evaluation's results. To develop and implement workable solutions, this example illustrates how the policy-making process might address a specific issue, such as ocean plastic pollution, by progressing through the stages of problem identification to evaluation.

3. Sources of Public Policy Process in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has already marked fifty years of independence since it gained its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Within one year of independence, Bangladesh successfully drafted its first constitution, which outlines new political, economic, and other public policies to maintain political stability and foster economic growth. To recapitulate the legal and constitutional framework of adopting new public policies, the sources are the following:

I.   Legal and Constitutional Framework: Bangladesh's constitution provides a fundamental legal and constitutional framework for making public policies in Bangladesh. The Constitution of Bangladesh (Articles 8-25 of Chapter 2) outlines the basic sources of public policies and development goals, objectives, and strategies. Articles 13, 14,15, 16, 17, and 18 of the constitution, for example, ensure the principle of property rights, the emancipation of peasants and workers, provision of necessities, development and agricultural revolution, free and compulsory education, and ensuring public health and morality, respectively. In other words, the framework of the Constitution of Bangladesh outlines the process of making policies that provide various economic and other basic needs.

II.   Institutional Framework: Douglass North, a prominent economist and institutionalist, argues that the laws, customs, and traditions of a particular society incentivize individuals and firms for economic advancement (North, 1990). Therefore, public and private institutions are essential for implementing public policies effectively. The principal institutional frameworks in Bangladesh are the following:

- Cabinet: Article 55. (1) states that 'there shall be a Cabinet for Bangladesh having the Prime Minister at its head and also comprising such other Ministers as the Prime Minister may from time to time designate. 'Cabinet is responsible for drafting policies and 'no important policy decision shall be taken except with the approval of the cabinet'. In essence, the cabinet is the ultimate authority in Bangladesh for approving specific policies.

- The other Institutional Structures of policymaking in Bangladesh include different ministries, inter-ministerial Consultations, secretaries' Committees,

the National Economic Council, the Planning Commission, and Parliamentary Committees.

4. Policy-Making Process in Bangladesh

Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, an expert on the policy-making process and public administration in Bangladesh, has highlighted five stages of the public policy process in Bangladesh. In the first stage, he states, stakeholders such as the government and other interest groups create demands for policies to be initiated. In the second phase, policy demands are transformed into inputs through various stakeholders, including the media, civil society, donor persuasion, and political elites. Policy formulation occurred in the third stage based on inputs and the nature of persuasion. Next, after consultation with experts, the concerned ministry approves the chosen policies. Finally, various parliamentary committees and concerned groups monitor and evaluate the policy outcomes. Figure 1 shows the policy formulation and evaluation process in Bangladesh. According to Aminuzzaman (2017), the responsible stakeholders of the policy process in Bangladesh are the following:

- Parliament
- Political Parties
- Civil Service and bureaucracy
- Military
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Private Sector and Donor/Development Partners

Figure 1: *Policy Making Process in Bangladesh. Source: (Aminuzzaman, 2013, p. 213-237)*

1.Policy demand	
	• Political parties
	• Pressure/interest group/stakeholders
	• Media
	• Advocacy groups/lobbyist
	• International agencies
	• Donor agencies
	• Regional bodies/UN bodies/international conventions
	• Incremental learning of bureaucracy and feedback
2. Policy ideas/ inputs	
	• Institutional learning
	• Feedback from ministerial review committee
	• Concept paper of the ministry/departments
	• Consultant reports/research reports
	• Policy orientation of the government Long-range plans/five-year plans

- Donors' persuasion
- Sector study reports
- Media/public pressure/civil society

3. Policy formulation

- Concerned ministry (financial analysis, economic analysis, technical analysis)
- Donor's consultant (shadow role)
- Interministerial consultation
- Concurrence: legal implication (legal analysis from Ministry of Law)
- Environmental analysis (Ministry of Environment)

4. Policy approval

- Secretary (basic functional policies)
- Minister (substantive ministerial)
- Parliamentary standing committees of the ministries
- Cabinet (major intersectoral and policies with interministerial implication)
- National Economic Council (NEC)
- National Implementation
- Committee on Administrative Reforms (NICAR)

5. Policy analysis, evaluation, and monitoring

- Parliamentary standing committees of the ministries
- Donor's consortium meeting at Dhaka/Paris (Review of the progress of policy implementation and persuasion of policy reforms)
- Bilateral donor's review/donor assessment mission
- Sectoral policy review (World Bank) IMED (reviews only projects, not policies)
- Coordination committee of the ministry

It is essential to note that numerous factors influence the formulation and implementation of public policy, including the extent and nature of pressure and persuasion provided by international development partners, as well as the ability of opposition parties and the general public to mobilize and manage resources. It is found that the political commitment of the political and business elites plays the most substantial role in the formulation and implementation of policy in Bangladesh. As discussed below, recent policy trends provide an overview of the policy formulation process and the role of policy actors in selecting policy options in Bangladesh.

5. Understanding Recent Policy Trends in Bangladesh

There are obvious difficulties in discussing the recent trend in the policy process in Bangladesh, given the limited research conducted on the topic. Moreover, the lack of a standardized definition makes it difficult to interpret the term 'recent trends' confidently. Therefore, this study offers a fresh perspective on recent trends and accepts the Bangladesh government's policies over the last decade. In other words, current policies have been implemented between 2010 and 2022. The rationality of this argument is that, since 2009, Awami League (AL) has been in power and has formulated all the new policies to fulfill the promises it gave to people in its electoral manifesto. In doing so, several policies are evaluated here to track the recent trend in the policy formulation process in Bangladesh.

5.1 Rape Culture and Zero Tolerance Policy

In the past few years, the number of rape cases has increased unprecedently in Bangladesh, and the government announced a zero-tolerance policy against rape culture. According to a Bangladeshi human rights organization, Odhikar, just 963 rape incidents where women were victims were reported between 2016 and 2019. However, Das suspects the total number of rape cases due to social, religious and other barriers in Bangladesh. Das (2021) argued that 'sets of numbers surely underreport rape cases in Bangladesh, given that many women remain fearful of reporting their rapes[1]. Due to the widespread protest against rapists and rape culture, the Bangladesh government reformed existing law with the death penalty and speedy trial for sexual offenders. Finally, the government introduced the death penalty for rape cases instead of the existing life-term imprisonment. The new against rape culture can be viewed through Political Scientist David Easton's **system theory**. Decisions were made based on intense demand and support within a democratic political culture. Capital punishment for rapists had widespread people demands and support, and the new law was enacted based on the political process.

5.2 The Digital Security Act[2]

Political Scientists, civil rights workers, and a few democracy[3] index reports considered Bangladesh to be a hybrid country (The Daily Star, 2023) where total power has been captured in the hand of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who consolidated "One-Woman Rule" (Fair, 2019; Fair, 2020; Riaz, 2020; Riaz & Parvez, 2021). According to many critics, the Digital Security Act of 2018 can be considered another tool for degrading democracy in Bangladesh. Data from Bangladesh's government-run Cyber Crime Tribunal show that nearly 1,109 cases were filed from 2018 to 2023 (Riaz, 2023); see *Table 1*.

---

[1] Shuva Das, Rape in Bangladesh: An Epidemic Turn of Sexual Violence; Harvard International Review, 11th January 2021

[2] There is a considerable debate about the policy, both for and against. The law is necessary for punishing cyber-criminals. However, there is a tendency to abuse the law for political purposes.

[3] There is no agreed definition of what democracy is. Therefore, this paper defines 'democracy' as a liberal and substantial democracy.

Table 1: *Number of cases, accused, and arrests, Oct 2018 – Aug 2022 (Source: Raiz, 2023: p.13)*

Year	Total Case	Monthly Average	Total Accused	Monthly Average	Total Arrested	Monthly Average
2018	12	4.0	25	8.33	11	3.66
2019	97	8.08	245	20.41	116	9.66
2020	413	34.41	911	75.91	340	28.33
2021	434	36.16	1229	102.41	459	38.25
2022	131	16.37	446	55.75	180	22.50
Year Not Specified	22		33		13	
Total	**1109**	**23.59**	**2889**	**61.46**	**1119**	**23.80**

In February 2021, for example, a writer named Mushtaq Ahmed died in prison. Cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore has suffered injuries allegedly caused by incidents of torture while in custody, where he was interrogated in the name of Remand. Jalais (2021) called this act a law used to terrorize citizens. In short, the Digital Security Act of 2018 has become a source of anxiety among Bangladesh's people, particularly opposition voices and free thinkers who fear they might be arrested at any time under the "Digital Security Act" banner. The surprising issue is that those core leftists, extreme rightists and nationalists have demonstrated protest movements against this draconian law. However, the government insists on not abolishing this law anymore. The policy-making process of the Digital Security Act of 2018 can be analyzed through the theory of political process and institutional approach in the public policy process. Government institutions and process systems formulated and implemented the Digital Security Act 2018. Recently, the law has been placed, namely 'The Cyber Security Act[4]'.

5.3 Anti-Narcotic Policy

In May 2018, Sheikh Hasina's government 'launched a vigorous Duterte-style war on drugs, relying heavily on extrajudicial killings and arrests with little regard for due process. One interpretation states that by July 2018, 157 persons had been gunned down in faked encounters, and more than 14,000 had been arrested, straining Bangladesh's overcrowded prison system' (Fair, 2018). Critics also express concern about the styles and objectives of the war against drug peddlers. Critics alleged that a ruling party's parliamentarian from Teknaf of Coxbazar District was adept with drugs and narcotic business. Ahmed (2018) argued that 'this was in stark contrast to the alacrity with which it operated against the others. The question is how we can view this event within the context of the public policy process. On the one hand, the

---

[4] See details in The Dhaka Tribune, 13 September 2023. Accessed, 17 January 2024. https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/325228/parliament-passes-cyber-security-bill-2023

anti-narcotic policy gained enormous support from ordinary people. On the other hand, opposition party members and critics argued that the policy was primarily used to create a fearful environment among opposition voices. In short, the anti-narcotics policy reflected the political process and somewhat system models, which had massive support among the masses. However, at the war's end, the number of drug users did not reduce but increased in Bangladesh. The policy has not positively impacted society against the drug trade and peddlers[5].

5.4 Agricultural policy

Since independence, Bangladesh has adopted agricultural policies to boost crop production and ensure food security. Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) is the highest body responsible for importing, exporting, selling, and distributing agricultural products. In 2013, Bangladesh chased its second National Agricultural Policy. The National Agricultural Policy of 2013 has set its targets to build a self-reliant and resilient agriculture that can adapt to climate change. It fosters the development and adoption of eco-friendly innovations and sustainable land and water management practices for diverse agroecological zones and regions. The approach, moreover, points to rationalizing consequence obligations on agrarian apparatus's raw materials to empower local producers and keep the cost of local apparatus competitive with imports (Khatun, 2016). The agricultural policy represents an Institutional and process model of the policy-making process, where government institutions and political activities determine who will receive benefits and how the policies are formulated.

5.5 Human Development and Education Policy

Government and non-governmental organization (NGO) initiatives have improved various human development index indicators. The features of the comprehensive education policy adopted in 2010 are the following: (1) a unified curriculum for general, madrasa (Islamic seminaries) and vocational education up to the secondary level; (2) pre-primary education for children older than five years of age; (3) compulsory primary education from Class I to VIII by 2018; (4) religious and ethics education for all faiths up to secondary level; (5) technical education institutions in every Upazila (sub-district); (6) conversion of all three-year degree courses to four years; (7) formation of a permanent Education Commission; and (8) formulation of integrated education law and making the secondary level from Class IX to XII (Bangladesh. Ministry of Education, 2010). Overall, though the participation level of learners in primary and secondary levels has increased, the country's universities' ranking is degrading daily. It sends us the wrong signal for the human development process in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi Students did not secure jobs in prestigious private institutions, whereas foreigners, mainly from India and Sri Lanka, filled the gaps. Why is this happening? The reason is that the competitive skills of Bangladeshi students are not sufficient to compare with those of foreign applicants. In most cases, political processes and institutional backlash played crucial roles in undermining the country's human development policy. It is a paradox in Bangladesh (Blair, 2020).

---

[5] See details on Prothom Alo; 'এত বন্দুকযুদ্ধের পরও বেড়েছে মাদক কেনাবেচা' (Gunfight fails to reduce drug peddling); Prothom Alo, May 16, 2019

5.6 Quota Reformation Movement

In 2018, thousands of students first staged a protest at the Dhaka University campus and later across the country against quota discrimination in public jobs. Before the abolition of various quotas, only 44 percent of job seekers were recruited based on merit, and the remaining 56 percent of candidates were recruited based on the privileges under several quotas. Among the 56 percent, 30 percent are reserved for the children and grandchildren of freedom fighters, 10 percent are reserved for women, 10 percent are reserved for people from poor districts, and 5 percent are reserved for people from indigenous communities and persons with disabilities (The Daily Star, 2018). Finally, thanks to the prime minister, the government has decided not to retain the quota system in public job sectors. Theoretically, the quota reformation movement policy represents the group's interest and is somewhat of a system model. The quota reformation movement was primarily a student-led movement, particularly among university students seeking government jobs, and it did not reflect the interests of ordinary people. In short, the anti-quota movement represents a **group model** of the public policy process in Bangladesh.

5.7 Road Safety Movement

Bangladesh witnessed public protests from 29 July to 8 August 2018, calling for improved road safety. six years ago, two high school students were killed by an unlicensed driver racing to pick up passengers on a bus in Dhaka. Students in Bangladesh protested, demanding safer roads and stricter traffic laws in the aftermath of the incident. Though there were no significant incidents during the demonstrations until August 2, when police attempted to disperse them with tear gas, individuals believed to be members of a pro-government youth league confronted protesters and journalists (Rabbi, 2018). Several protesters and a photographer were arrested for speaking to the international media about the events. Numerous foreign organizations and prominent personalities voiced their support for the demonstrators. Domestically and internationally, the crackdown on student protesters was harshly criticized.

In response, the Road Safety Act of 201810 (Sumon, 2018) was introduced and approved on October 8, 2018. Years have passed since it was implemented in November 2019, after which it was enforced. Significant modifications to licensing and penalties were implemented as a result of the Road Safety Act of 2018. The new law increased penalties for repeat offenders and established a minimum education requirement of completing the eighth grade or its equivalent. There was also an improvement in accident punishment. According to the new law, anyone who suffered significant injuries or died in a motor vehicle crash would be judged guilty of a non-bailable offense, with the death penalty as the most severe penalty (Khan & Azran, 2022).

5.8 Covid-19 and Lockdown Policy

Since the last days of March 2021, the number of COVID-affected patients and the number of deaths have been steadily increasing in Bangladesh. From this perspective, the Bangladesh government adopted a "total lockdown" policy to control the second wave of COVID-19, which is more severe than the first wave. Under the full lockdown policy, all activities except for emergencies were shut down. However, the government has decided not to close the Garment factories,

despite hundreds of workers working together in them. Entrepreneurs have convinced the government that Covid-19 is not necessarily a threat to workers. The political economy of that decision is so far complex and related to the legitimacy question of the government. According to various reports, 61 percent of parliamentarians are businessmen (Ahmed, 2020)[6]. That means a national parliament is a place for parties to represent the interests of the rich, and they work to protect the interests of a particular group. This policy does not accurately reflect the views of the general public, but rather the preference of a specific group. Moreover, it represents the elite preference of the policy process.

5.9 Covid-19 Stimulus Policy

The Daily Star reported that the government offered twenty-one stimulus packages worth more than Tk 121,000 crores to respond to the consequences of the pandemic. According to a report from the finance ministry, 39.23 percent of the total amount was disbursed till October 31 (The Daily Star, 2022a). The report states, 'In the first category, seven packages involving Tk 86,750 crore, financed from the banking system. Of the amount, approximately 41,153 crores have been disbursed as of October 31. The progress report shows that as many as 73,28,251 firms and businesses got loan assistance. The lion's share of the beneficiaries, or 72.80 lakh, are the borrowers who benefitted from the Bangladesh Bank's measure to suspend the payment of loan interests for two months, April and May (Habib & Byron, 2020). Overall, including the other two groups, these stimulus packages appear to offer some benefit to a specific group of people. However, they did not include students, day laborers, and other disadvantaged groups who suffered the most during the pandemic. Stimulus packages reflect the interest of some particular groups' expense with others.

6. Policy Trend Analysis and Concluding Remarks

Bangladesh's policy-making process is intricate and impacted by various groups, including foreign organizations, interest groups, political ideologies, and public opinion. This study claims that policies implemented in Bangladesh did not adhere to any particular model or decision-making process. Nevertheless, the favored models of the policy process are the system model, group theory, institutional approach, and elite interest.

According to the system model, policy creation involves inputs, decisions, and outcomes. According to the group theory, formulating public policy is an ongoing effort to balance the divergent objectives of different interest groups. According to the institutional approach, the official and informal rules and processes of government institutions impact policy-making. According to the elite interest model, the values and preferences of the ruling class are reflected in the process of formulating policy.

The Bangladeshi government has recently initiated several projects aimed at addressing social challenges and promoting development. For instance, the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Cumilla has implemented a Zero Tolerance Policy

---

[6] 199 members of parliament (MP) out of 300 were elected from various business groups in the 12th national election held on January 7, 2024.

regarding sexual harassment (UN Women, 2021). The Digital Security Act aims to shield people from online harassment and cybercrime. The goals of the Agricultural Policy are to raise farmer incomes and boost agricultural output. The objectives of the Human Development and Education Policy encompass enhancing educational accessibility and advancing human development. The Quota Reformation Movement sought to reform the quota system in governmental employment and academic institutions. The road safety movement endeavors to reduce the occurrence of accidents and heighten road safety. The COVID-19 and Lockdown Policy aims to halt the transmission of the virus and mitigate its detrimental impacts on society and the economy.

Different determinants influence the policy formulation process in Bangladesh, which lacks adherence to a particular decision-making or policy process paradigm. Numerous initiatives have been implemented by the authorities to address social issues and promote progress; however, executing these plans has encountered challenges. An in-depth analysis of the policy process and the factors that exert influence on it is imperative for comprehending the patterns of policymaking in Bangladesh. The government is obliged to guarantee that policies are effectively communicated and efficiently implemented in order to achieve their intended objectives.

In summary, this research has investigated the current patterns in the policy formulation procedure of Bangladesh. The most prominent finding from this study is that the policies implemented in Bangladesh do not follow any particular decision-making process or policy model. However, the *system model, group theory, institutional approach, and elite interest are the preferred models of the policy process*. These findings have significant implications for understanding how the policy process ensued and the future perspective of policy formulation not only for the government but also for policy theorists and consultants. From this perspective, this study has significant implications for Bangladesh's understanding of public policy.

References

[1]   Dye, A. T. (2017); Understanding Public Policy; Fifteenth Edition, Pearson

[2]   Lasswell, H. (1936); Politics: Who Gets What, When and How, New York, McGraw-Hill.

[3]   Easton, D. (1981); The Political System; 3rd edition, Chicago, Chicago University Press.

[4]   North, D. (1990); Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[5]   Jenkins, W. A. (1978); Policy analysis: a political and organizational perspective; Martin Robertson, London

[6]   The Daily Star (2016). *DoE to collect Tk 1cr from 14 industries for damaging Buriganga*. (The Daily Star. https://www.thedailystar.net/city/doe-collect-tk-1cr-14-industries-damaging-buriganga-1277317

[7]   Unwomen.org (2021). Retrieved January 8, 2024, from https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESE Asia/Docs/Publications/2021/03/Brief-3-DC%20Office%20Cumilla%20R2.pdf

[8]   Ahmed, F. (2022, July 21). *JS body for steps to remove waste from Buriganga river bed*. The Business Standard. https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/js-body-steps-remove-waste-buriganga-river-bed-462538

[9]   Aminuzzaman, M. S. (2013); 'Public Policy Processes and Citizen Participation in Bangladesh' in a Meghna Sabharwal and Evan M. Berman edited 'Public Administration in South Asia: India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan'; CRC Press.

[10]   The Daily Star (2023, February 4). *Democracy Index: Bangladesh moves two notches up*. https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/democracy-index-bangladesh-moves-two-notches-3238326

[11]   Fair, D. C. (2020); Bangladesh in 2019: Hasina Consolidates One-Woman Rule; Asian Survey, Vol. 60, Number 1, pp. 189–195.

[12]   …………:2019); Bangladesh in 2018: Careening toward One-Woman Rule; Asian Survey, Vol. 59, Number 1, pp. 124–132

[13]   Jalais, A. (2021); Bangladesh in 2020: Debating Social Distancing, Digital Money, and Climate Change Migration; Asian Survey, Vol. 61, Number 1, pp. 194–201

[14] Blair, H. (2020); The Bangladesh Paradox; ournal of Democracy, Volume 31, Number 4, October 2020, pp. 138-150

[15] Riaz, A. & Parvez, S. (2021); Anatomy of a rigged election in a hybrid regime: the lessons from Bangladesh; Democratization.

[16] Riaz, A. (2020); The pathway of democratic backsliding in Bangladesh; Democratization.

[17] Ahmed, I. (2010); "Opinion: Bangladesh's So-Called War on Drugs Is Merely a Cover for an Extrajudicial Killing Spree," Scroll.in, June 19, 2018

[18] Khatun, F. (2016); 'Development Policies Since Independence' in a Ali Riaz and Mohammad Sajjadur Rahman edited 'Routledge Handbook on Contemporary Bangladesh'; Routledge.

[19] Bangladesh. Ministry of Education. (2010) National Education Policy 2010. Dhaka: Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

[20] UNB. (2023, December 9). *Amidst a plastic pollution crisis, locals living near Buriganga take up recycling projects*. Dhaka Tribune. https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/333386/amidst-a-plastic-pollution-crisis-locals-living

[21] Habib, K. R. & Byron, B. W. (2020); Tk 121353 Cr Stimulus Packages: 39 percent Disbursed in Six Months; The Daily Star, November 28, 2020.

[22] Ahmed, A. M. (2020); The Dominance of Business in the Political Economy; The Daily Star, January 29, 2020.

[23] *The Daily Star*, 6 Nov. (2022)."Anomalies at BPC Concern: HC Wants to Know What Actions Were Taken.", www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news-anomalies-bpc-concern-hc-wants-know-what-actions-were-taken-3162341.

[24] Byron, R. K., & Habib, W. B. (2020, November 28). *Tk 1,21,353Cr Stimulus Packages: 39pc disbursed in six months*. The Daily Star. https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/tk-121353cr-stimulus-packages-39pc-disbursed-six-months-2002193

[25] The Daily Star *(2018). Quota in Public Service: Students stage demo for reform*. Retrieved from: (https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/quota-public-service-jobs-students-stage-demo-reform-1540093

[26] Prothom Alo (2018, November 20). **আ.লীগের সঙ্গে ইসলামি দল বেশি. প্রথম আলো.** https://www.prothomalo.com/politics/%E0%A6%86.%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%99%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%87-

%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE
%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%B2-
%E0%A6%AC%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF

[27]   Sumon, S. (2018) "Bangladesh approves new road safety law to placate
        protesters," Arab news, 6 August. Available at:
        http://www.arabnews.com/node/1352131/world (Accessed: November 28,
        2022).

[28]   Khan, N. N. and Azran, A. (2022) Road Safety in Bangladesh: Demanded,
        yet Undelivered, The Daily Star. Available at:
        https://www.thedailystar.net/shout/news/road-safety-bangladesh-
        demanded-yet-undelivered-3087111 (Accessed: November 28, 2022

[29]   Rabbi, A. R. (2018) Journalists, including AP photographer, beaten up,
        Dhaka   Tribune.   Available   at:
        https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2018/08/05/journalists-
        beaten-up-by-chhatra-league (Accessed: November 28, 2022)