Implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh through Action Research

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UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Global agenda
- A new development agenda
- Needs to be contextualised for implementation
- Different government attitudes and responses
- Working with governments

Policy is government-driven

Private sector, NGOs may influence the government agenda but ultimately decisions come from the government
SDGs and Australia

- Supported the SDGs (represented by Julie Bishop)
- Australia sees it mainly as promoting regional security and development, particularly in the Pacific
- Main responsibility lies with DFAT and PM&C, supported by the Department of the Environment and Energy (mostly SDGs 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15, but also SDGs 6, 11 and 17)
- SDGs Dashboards: score 72.9 (of 100), 37 of 156 countries, average regional score 76.9
SDGs and Australia

- Voluntary National Review – July 2018
- Key messages:
  - SDGs reflect our values, including “fair go”
  - whole of society approach (including volunteers)
  - importance of human rights
  - we have knowledge, expertise and innovation to share
SDGs and Bangladesh

- Millennium Development Goals – achieved
- Bangladesh has become a low middle income country
- Government commitment to achieving also the SDGs
- Bangladesh is a very diverse country:
  - Topographically the Barind (8%), Hill Tracts (12%), Floodplain and Char land (55%), Coastal (25%)
  - Rural vs urban settings
  - Different levels of governance, however government is highly centralised
- Different models and examples needed for different areas
SDGs and Bangladesh

- Main responsibility – the PM Sheikh Hasina, supported by all ministries
- SDGs Dashboard – score 59.3 (of 100), 111 of 156 countries, 64.1 average for the region
- Voluntary National Review – 2017, SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 & 17
- Key messages – a new transformation path, mapping of ministries, national monitoring and evaluation, action plan for achievement, aligned with 7th FYP; challenges – resource mobilisation, localisation
SDGs and Bangladesh

- Needs assessment and financing strategy
- US$ 1.5 trillion worth of investment for full implementation of SDGs
- SDGs performance part of the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the entire public sector
- Results-based performance management system
- Localisation of SDGs
- Capacity building
- Partnerships and stakeholder engagement
SDGs and Action Research

- What is action research
  Combines research and action – mutually supportive
  Can be participatory
  Aims to achieve wider community goal through research
  If done properly future expenses will be saved

- Why is action research appropriate for SDGs
  Problem-oriented
  Applied, reflective, adaptive
  Lead by researchers who are also the actors in implementing research
  Active engagement with stakeholders
  Optimise costs with long-term benefits

- Demonstration projects which can be adopted widely, e.g.
  WGV
Curtin and Bangladesh

- 2015 MOU with the Prime Minister’s Office Governance Innovation Unit (GIU), Government of Bangladesh
- Commitment to collaboration and exploring ways to sustainability – active team of academics
- Two projects – DFAT and GIU/UNDP
- UN institutions have SDGs as a focus, UN SDGFund – many partners (UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, ILO and other international and national government organisations)
  
  Many charity and lottery organisations also fund SDGs (e.g. Bill & Melinda Gates, Welcome Trust, Packard Foundation, Hewlett Foundation…)

- Islamic Development Bank – Science, Technology and Innovation Transform Fund focused on 6 SDGs, profit sharing with the community
Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) 2017 and 2018 projects

- Conceptually similar – combining capacity building with action research
- Outcomes – demonstration projects
- Every project synergistically addresses all 17 SDGs
- By using innovative approaches the demonstration projects have local, national and global significance
Australia Award Fellowship grant: “Promoting inclusive, resilient and sustainable urbanisation to achieve SDG11 in Bangladesh”
Bari: Educating secondary students about living sustainably

Bodrun: Brahmaputra Barrage Women and Children Friendly

Farida: Cyclone early disaster warning system

Ferdous: Sustainable housing in Pabna

Huda: Hollow bricks

Khair: Waste from tanneries

Johra: Road accidents database

Rema: Website for Garo heritage

Noyeem: Waste collection at source

Shohana: Affordable housing for cleaners

Roksana: Waste management legislation

Rownak: ICT-based services for sustainable transportation

Sabina: Mobile health services to slum areas

Russel: SDGs targets for Bangladesh

Tahmid: Water logging in Chittagong
1. Feasibility Study of Brahmaputra Barrage – Women and Children Friendly
2. Inclusive Community Primary Health Care through Evening Mobile Health Team Livability in Slum Areas
3. Educating in secondary schools for living sustainably
   • Schools teach competition – focus on collective solutions

4. Early disaster warning systems
   • IT based cyclone warning using an interactive map and volunteers/volunteer database

5. More sustainable building materials for public sector buildings – hollow bricks
6. Online accident reporting and monitoring database
   • Road safety – combines data from police, hospital, insurance and vehicle operators, allows full analysis

7. Participatory approach to municipal solid waste collection in Dhaka – awareness and initiative

8. Management of the Tannery Industrial Estate in Dhaka
   • Leather industry – common effluent treatment plan, environmentally friendly waste management system, recycling
9. Garo Cultural Heritage website

What?
Created a Garo Cultural heritage database website (online portal):
www.garoheritage.com

Why?
To value, to protect and safeguard Garo cultural heritage and intellectual property in digital form.

How?
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Queensland Government was generated my ideas to create a database Garo culture heritage website for a sustainable future

Link to SDG 11
To strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard world’s cultural and natural heritage.

To protect and safeguard Garo Cultural Heritage
10. Atgharia demo project visited by Mr Ferdous DS Ministry of Land in October 2017
84 flats in 7 building
Weekly Meetings of the SDGs local implementation group
11. Implementing waste hierarchy in the legal framework of Bangladesh

12. ICT-based services in the new Metro Rail system in Dhaka
13. Localising global SDG targets – dealing with data

8. Easy to forecast
7. Availability of data
6. Link to previous achievement
5. Easy to replicate

1. Synchronized with 7th 5y plan and Perspective Plan)
2. Easy to understand
3. Easy to find action
4. To priorities development initiative
14. Affordable housing for the informal sector - cleaners

15. Drainage and water logging in Chittagong – coordination of activities to restore natural canals through a Master Plan
GIU/UNDP grant – Group projects

- Stop the manufacturing of poultry feed from tannery waste – health hazards
- Access to food through social safety nets – create a database and provide training at Upazzila (sub-district) level
- Analysis on the SDG action plan (with special focus to target 16.6) of selected ministries in Bangladesh
GIU projects – Group projects

- Prevent child marriage – through community policing, train and give community police the authority to restrain
- Empowering community to reduce dependency on reserve forests / forest protected areas (FPAs) – livelihood diversification and enhancement
New opportunities

- Barind – the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority
- Rural Development Academy – truly green campus
Lessons learned

- Ongoing process
- We have not achieved SDGs yet but we have until 2030 😊
- No universal solutions but we need to constantly investigate, adapt and reflect while improving outcomes
- Genuine engagement – long-term
- Shared values
- True partnerships
- New opportunities
Thank you

Questions and Answers