

Environmental Governance and the Role of the Department of Environment in Bangladesh

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Abstract: Environmental issues considered and adjudged through governance lens construes the concept of environmental governance. It has both global and country context dimension. For ensuring better environmental quality, the country needs to establish governance mechanism in environmental considerations and every step of its development activities. This paper is an attempt to find the existing links between the Department of Environment and the concept of environmental governance for Bangladesh. The discussion traversed through the expression of the concepts of global and national environmental governance, environmental management and the institutional structure for the establishment of this concept, has navigated to the proposition of the prominence and effective role of the Department of environment for this task. This paper has also endeavored to visualize the existing strength and weaknesses in the institutional approach for the permanence of environmental governance in Bangladesh.

Introduction

Emergence of the concept environmental governance coexists with the core concept of governance. There are two dimensions in the domain of environmental governance; Global Environmental Governance and Environmental Governance in country specific. Global environmental governance is the system through which the environmental issues are taken into consideration by the global community in a collective manner. Conceptually this is the sum of organizations, policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules, procedures and norms that regulate the processes of global environmental protection (Adil Najam, Mihaela Papa, Nadaa Taiyab, 2006). Since environmental issues entered the international agenda in the early 1970s, global environmental politics and policies have been developing rapidly and the environmental governance system we have today reflects both the successes and failures of this development (Ibid). On the other hand environmental issues considered and adjudged through governance lens construes the concept of environmental governance. It is regarded as an interactive process where citizens act collectively in making decisions about access, allocation and use of natural resources, as well as about resource and environmental

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sustainability (CIDA, 2008). The simple expression of environmental governance is about how societies deal with environmental problems. It is concerned with the interactions among formal institution and the actors within society (IGES, 2001).

This paper, concerned exclusively with the role of the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment and Forest in establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh, is an expression of the institutional priority and dominance. This is an endeavor to portray the existing institutional capacity of the ministry, i.e., Department of Environment and a way forward for it.

More so, environmental issues are key to economic growth and poverty reduction in Bangladesh. In compliance with the fulfillment of the goal determined by the MDG the preparation of NSAPR clearly cautioned in the way that states as "a careful balancing act must be orchestrated where economic growth is maximized without compromising environmental protection (NSAPR 2005). Again environment matters. This paper is an attempt to establish the importance of the ministry i.e., the Department of environment in establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh that may eventually help to meet the goal.

Objective

Objective of this paper is to examine the relation and role of the Ministry of environment and forest in establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh. This study will also endeavor for finding out some of the possible mechanism that could focus on streamlining environmental governance in Bangladesh.

Methodology

This paper is based on studying the available literature relating to the environmental governance. After explanation of the concept from global and national dimension the role of the ministry from institutional point of view has been expressed here. The sources used to formulate this paper are all secondary in nature. Defining environmental governance from theoretical perspective the paper follows the way of mentioning the existing major environmental condition in terms of degradation, to establish the necessity of establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh.

Expression of Concept

This study focuses predominantly on the concept of environmental governance which is the concerted effort of the state, civil society and the citizens in maintaining and encountering the environmental issues and problems for the well being of the whole universe and country in context.

The government agency assigned to and entrusted with the duty of maintaining sound environment is the Ministry of environment and forest. The ministry has two departments namely Department of Environment and Department of Forest. For the purpose of this paper the emphasis is given on the Department of Environment, the direct and primarily sole authority of the state to ensure environmental soundness.

Before embarking on the main proposition lets have a conceptual expression of the concept of environmental governance both from the global and national perspective.

Environmental Governance

Environmental governance has two different approaches. There are two tracks for understanding environmental governance regarding its scope for action (Ismar Borges de Lima, 2002). In this sense, environmental governance as a concept can be applied either nationally or globally. Environmental governance is a form of governance closely connected with the core concept of governance. Governance has a broad scope and focuses on wide array of issues most of which are intertwined. Governance refers to political economic and social issues. Regarding international environment issues, governance is based on the premise that international treaties, regimes, cooperation and institutions are the means to mitigate environmental problems. Environmental governance as a concept has been reformulated through the attempts to bring together the ideas related to both governance and environmental management. "Indeed, environmental governance has emerged from current scholarly efforts to explore the 'governance-environment' nexus, efforts largely based on the assumption that the presence or absence of democratic or good governance (John Mugabe and Godber W. Tumushabe, cited in Ismar Borges de Lima 2002)".

For better understanding of the concept of environmental governance the explanation of the term governance and environmental management is needed. According to Mugabe, the main problem to conceptualize 'environmental governance' does not lie in the idea of 'environmental

management' which is widely understood in "policy-making and academic circles." The problem lies precisely in the complexity of defining governance (Ibid).

Governance

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) explained governance in a way that implies the "complex set of values, norms, processes, and institutions by which society manages its development and resolve conflict (IGES 2001)." The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) states that 'the goal of governance initiatives should be to develop capacities that are needed to promote development that gives priority to the poor, sustains the environment and creates needed opportunities for employment and other livelihoods (UNDP, 2001)." Paterson concludes that the concept governance may not be different from the concept of a regime; the difference between them is that a regime "deals with a more limited set of issues or a single issue area". Governance materializes itself through imposition of authority in the economic, political and administrative areas as a way to manage the affairs of the state. It includes the institutions, processes and instruments through which citizens and groups promote their common interests, rights, and also meet their responsibility and reconcile their differences (Lois O. Dorvilier, 2001).

Governance clearly has a relevant role in order to promote equity, poverty and quality of life. Political governance is the process of decision-making to formulate policy. Administrative governance is the system of policy implementation (UNDP, 2001)."

"Good governance encompasses the state, but it transcends the state by including the private sector and civil society organizations (Figure-1)." It is important to say that governance may only be interpreted as state and civil society operating together. In this case, the private sector is included in civil society.

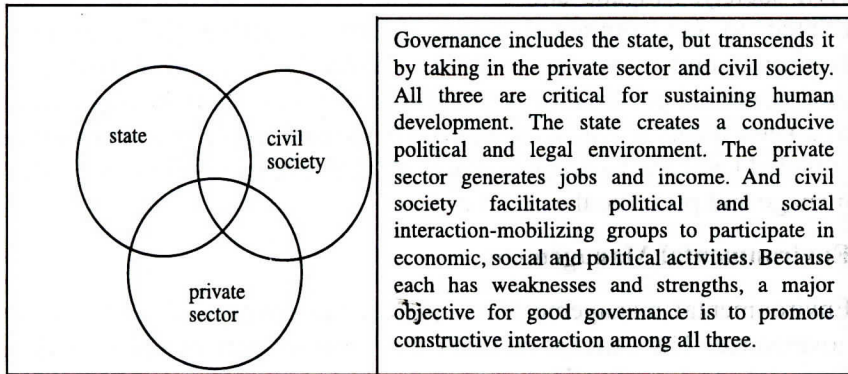


Figure-1: Good governance reaches beyond the state

For Mugabe and Tumushabe, "the concept of governance, as noted, is subject to confusion and misuse. It is often defined differently by different people depending on their political and/or intellectual background (Ibid)." Even the definition of government causes misunderstandings; definitely, governance goes beyond government. Government is understood as an organization that enforces laws for a state; government is the state and its political administration and decision-making process.

Civil society, lying between the individual and the state, comprises individuals and groups interacting socially, politically and economically - regulated by formal and informal rules and laws. The state, of course, can do much in such areas as upholding the rights of the vulnerable, protecting the environment, maintaining stable macroeconomic conditions, maintaining standards of public health and safety for all at an affordable cost, mobilizing resources to provide essential public services and infrastructure and maintaining order, security and social harmony (Ibid).

As explained by Mugabe and Tumushabe, "the juxtaposition of governance and the environment has a number of features (Mugabe and Tumushabe, 2001)." First, states and civil society are in charge of implementing environmental management on behalf of themselves; secondly, the connection between governance and environment suggests that "environmental management involves political issues and processes (Ibid);" third, the linkage means that environmental preservation is a mutual task shared between government and the civil society; and finally, environmental governance highlights the role of state, private sector and

civil society. Mugabe and Tumushabe also observe that the literature related to environmental issues failed to define the concept of environmental governance (Ibid). Probably, a good definition to environmental governance is 'a democratic system with the participation of diverse actors in which the state [s] has the role to share responsibilities at global level and to delegate power at local level in order to successfully manage and preserve the environment.'

Environmental Management

Environmental management is a part of the concept of environmental governance. The concept includes the "relevant part of policy making, financial, technical and management considerations combined in a balanced way to address or to manage specific environmental problems (Institute of Environmental Management, 2001)."

C.J Barrow expressed it as an approach which goes beyond natural resources management to encompass the political and social as well as the natural environment (H.R. Clarke and Reed W. J., 1989; 569-595); a) It includes the formulation of environmentally sound development strategies; b) It involves the process of allocating natural and artificial resources so as to make optimum use of the environment in satisfying basic human needs at the minimum, and more if possible, on a sustainable basis; c) It entails seeking the possible environmental option to promote sustainable development; d) It seeks to control of all human activities which have a significant impact on the environment; f) It involves management of the environmental performance of organizations, bodies and companies; g) It includes a decision-making process which regulates the impact of human activities on the environment in such way that the human development will not be damaged; "Environmental management is a generic description of a process undertaken by systems-oriented professionals with a natural science, social science, or less commonly, an engineering, law, or design background, tackling problems of the human-altered environment on an interdisciplinary basis from a quantitative and/or futuristic viewpoint (R.S.Dorney, 1989)."

Global Environmental Governance:

In the neo-liberal perspective, the solution to environmental problems reflects the implementation of agreements and cooperation among the countries. Clearly, environmental problems require a "consortium" to manage environmental devastation because they have become a global

problem. Scholars claim that cooperation implies mutual and global governance.

International regimes have been an instrument to promote agreements and cooperation between states and because of that they are important for environmental governance. According to Krasner, international regimes have been "most commonly defined as "set of implicit and explicit principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures around which actors' expectations converge in given areas of international relations (Karsner Stephen D, 1983; quoted in, Joseph Jeffery Domask 1997)."

Hempel understands governance in a wide scope, beyond the government, and he treats the global and regional issues such as the greenhouse effect and the declining biodiversity as part of an interacting set of environmental challenges. He highlights "the struggle to protect the biosphere, and the public policies and institutions involved in that struggle (Oran 1997)." He focuses on the Earth Summit agreements, sustainable development, South-North division, consumption and production as the causes of the environmental problems, he also includes the environmental policy-making process, and an explanation of what is common resources, and political ecology and political economy. Environmental governance becomes global (or international) environmental governance in the explanation of these authors.

As with Young and Hempel, they also focused their attention on regime formation as a feasible solution for the environmental problems (Ismar Borges de Lima 2002). Following Oran Young, they also emphasized the role of the market and the civil society such as NGOs in the process of environmental governance. 'Environmental governance' gains emphasis as 'international environmental governance' based on international regimes, institutions, and cooperation among states. Young, Hempel, Porter and Brown, Mathew Paterson, and Rolen (*et. al.*) are in consensus that environmental problems at all levels find solutions through cooperation, the implementation of international regimes, and agreements. These authors sought to base their explanations for cooperation between states on the principles of the neo-liberal institutionalism which stresses the role of institutions in cooperation between states.

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themselves; secondly, the connection between governance and environment suggests that "environmental management involves political issues and processes (Ibid);" third, the linkage means that environmental preservation is a mutual task shared between government and the civil society; and finally, environmental governance highlights the role of state, private sector and civil society.

'Global environmental governance' is discussed as one of the means that the international community has to manage trans-boundary environmental problems. Plus, some authors defend the idea that international regimes, called green regimes by Lamont Hempel, are the best way to protect the 'global commons.'

A 'national environmental governance' may work only hypothetically. National environmental governance will place the central government in a key position to rule over environmental problems. Instead of the central government, the local one government by including civil society and private sector participation may solve environmental problems.

The role of central government is to assist and encourage the decentralization and environment management devolution. Yet the central government must continue to ratify agreements, to establish multilateral accords, to instigate international cooperation and seek to strengthen institutions and policies. In fact, taking into account the environmental problems, there is interdependence between regimes, multilateral cooperation, local agendas, and civil society.

Environmental Governance from Bangladesh Perspective

From the analysis above it is now on the fore that environmental governance is about considering the environmental issues from the governance perspective to address it for taking care of, which may eventually lead to better environment for the earth. It is also evident that the role of the institution in forming environmental governance is predominant amongst others. In terms of global environmental governance the actors are the extended version of the national representation. Even the global NGOs and corporate authorities are also participating in and within an institutional representation.

This concept of environmental governance is relatively new and donor driven in the country. Conceptualization of this term in governance sector is contributing to the maintenance of the sound quality of environment and managing the natural resources properly. Thinking the environmental

issues from the wide perspective of governance is gaining preference in the policy level.

Like many other issues the environmental problems are generally taken as alarming by the citizen of the country. They are concerned with the level of degradation of the quality of the environment. As a part of the effective governance the citizens of the country are not able to communicate their voice to the authority. Due to the weak structure of environmental governance the citizens of the country are unable to participate in the governance mechanism. This situation can be changed and restructured in the environmental governance mechanism. Department of environment is the nodal agency in the country to formulate the structural phase of this governance structure which may contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of environmental problems and help the efficient introduction to the sustainable development for poverty reducing growth.

Major Environmental Issues in Bangladesh:

Considering the economic growth and poverty reduction related environmental issues in Bangladesh the World Bank study on Country Environmental Analysis identified the issues related environmental risk to human health, protection of water quality in Dhaka, management of capture fisheries, sustaining soil quality and strengthening institutions for environmental management (World Bank, 2006). In fact the issues mentioned earlier are not all about the environmental issues need to be taken care of. There are other issues relating to environment in Bangladesh such as deforestation, loss of biodiversity, flood, drought, river erosion, climate change related environmental issues such as sea level rise, surface and ground water contamination, loss of wetlands, land degradation, management of waste and other micro-level issues of environment.

To address these issues, Bangladesh from its very inception has taken steps both in regulatory and institutional capacity. But all of those steps are not in proper implementation stage like other issues. A few of the isolated success that the country has achieved is negligible if the level of environmental degradation and the economic concerns for growth is considered.

Environmental problems if adjudged from the economic point of view their contribution to the GDP (Fig-2) is not a matter to remain apathetic.

This is the measurement for some of the major environmental loss contributing the economy. If the loss related to the health is considered than it envisage the gloomy and dormant picture of the future probable human resources of the country (Fig-3).

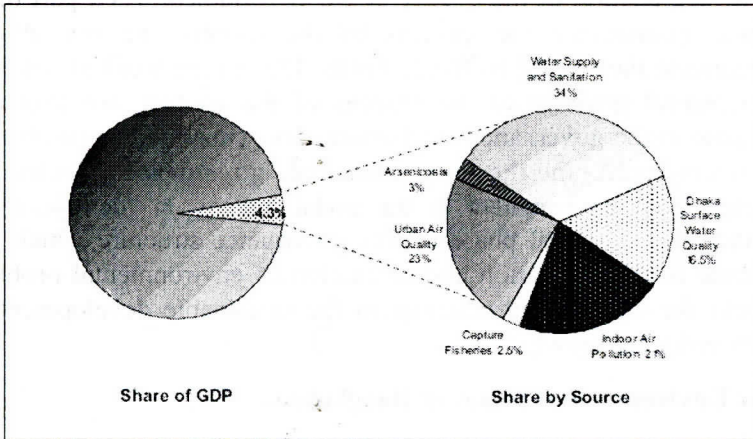


Fig-2: The Costs of environmental degradation (Source: World Bank 2006)

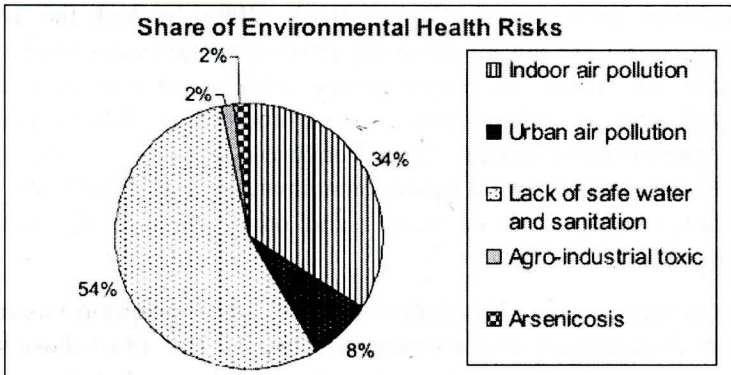


Fig-3: Contributing factors to environmental health risks (Source, World Bank 2006)

Even if the concern for the farmers about the environmental issues is analyzed then it draws the picture of continuous silent destruction of our

surroundings and an unusual future of our main thrust sector of agrarian economy (Fig-4)

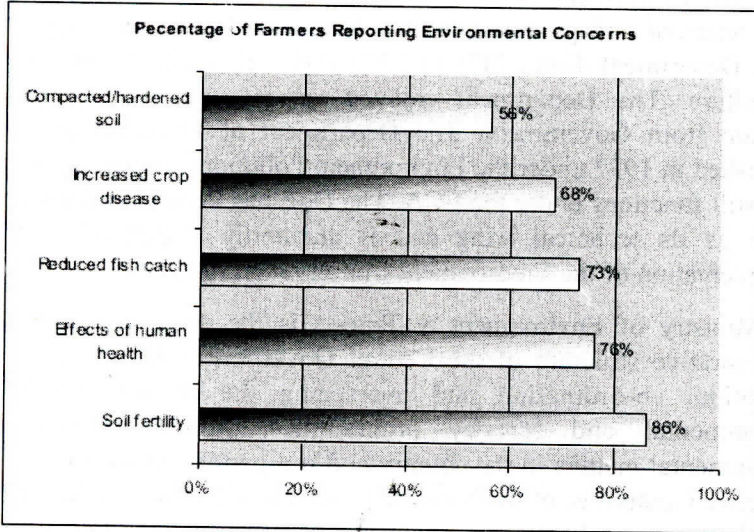


Fig-4: Environmental concerns for the farmers

(Source, I. ahman 2004, Cited in World Bank 2006)

Apart from the few issues and concerns mentioned, if the level of air pollution, untreated effluents and toxic industrial wastes in and around the capital and the industrial installations of the country and the resultant affects on the air, river and soil is terrifying. In such a situation of drastic fall in environmental quality of the country, environmental governance can streamline the whole of the environmental quality of the country is properly established the framework and applying it in the context specific application.

As the institutional contribution and its dominance over the governance mechanism in any country is prominent, the case for Bangladesh is not otherwise. The prime institutions for establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh is the Ministry of Environment and Forest and other institutions under its supervision. Rather this paper concentrates exclusively on the role of Department of Environment in environmental governance of Bangladesh.

Background of the Ministry of Environment and Forest

Before partition of Indian sub-continent in 1947, Bangladesh forests were administered under Forest Circles of the Bengal and Assam Forest

Departments. From 1947 to 1962, the Provincial Forest Department was the authority with a Conservator of Forests, and subsequently until 1971 by a Chief Conservator of Forests. With the formation of Bangladesh in 1971, reserved and proposed reserve forests passed to the Bangladesh Forest Department. From 1971 to 1989, BFD fell under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Department enjoyed varying interest in terms of attention from Government. The Department of Environment (DoE) established in 1977 under the Environment Pollution Control Ordinance, 1977 still functions under the ECA. The DoE has been placed under the MoEF as its technical wing and is statutorily responsible for the implementation of the Environment Conservation Act, 1995.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government, for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of environmental and forestry programmes. MOEF oversees all environmental matters in the country and is a permanent member of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council. The Ministry is also plays a pivotal role as participant of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Apart from two major departments, i.e., Department of Environment and Department of Forest, working under this ministry, there are three other institutions under the ministry. They are Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Bangladesh National Herbarium (BNH), Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC).

Department of Environment

According to the mission of Department of Environment (DoE) its main function is to help secure a clean and healthy environment for the benefit of present and future generations:

- Through the fair and consistent application of environmental rules and regulations;
- Through guiding, training, and promoting awareness of environmental issues; and
- Through sustainable action on critical environmental problems that demonstrate practical solutions, and that galvanize public support and involvement (www.moef.gov.bd).

More so, the DoE is entrusted with the duty to ensure sustainable development and to conserve and manage the environment of Bangladesh which is one of the goals of MDG.

Organizational structure of DoE

DoE is one of the two departments under the Ministry of Environment and Forest. It has a semi de-concentrated organizational set-up which is down to the Divisional level. Below this tier there are no organizational basis for environmental management. Country legislation and other policies don't have any explanation of how to take care of the environmental issues in the lower administrative tier. There are six divisional offices of the DoE apart from the central office at the capital (Figure-5)

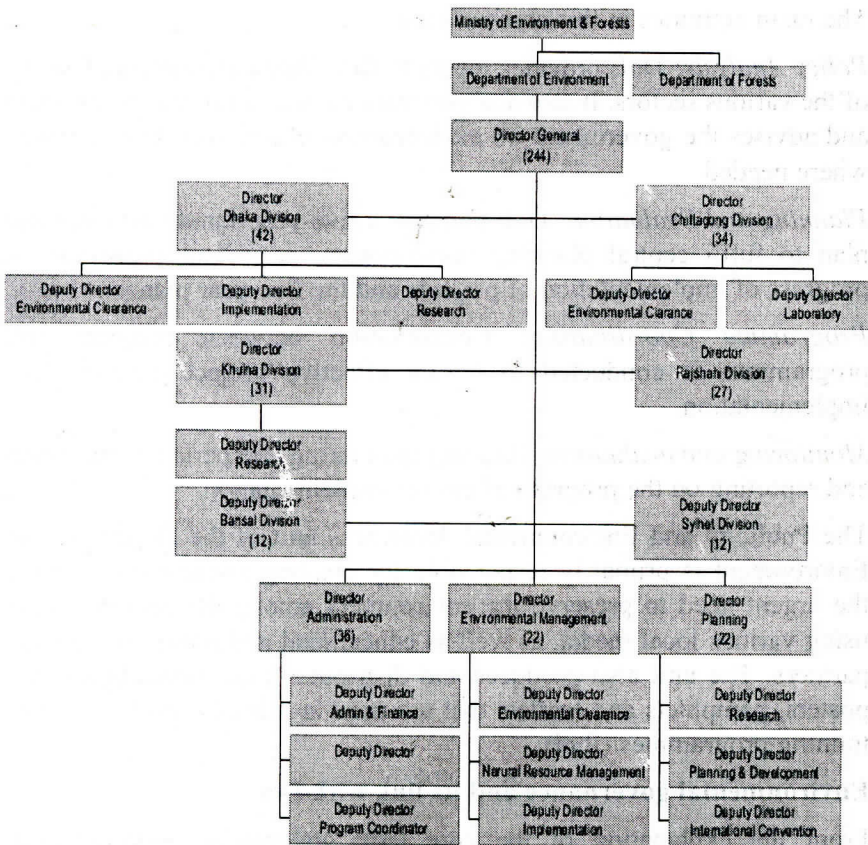


Figure-5: Organogram of the Department of Environment

(Source: World Bank, 2006)

Activities of the DoE

The activities of the Department affect every socio-economic sector and direct and influence all activities wherever they might take place in Bangladesh (Ibid). Creating public awareness on environmental management and legal obligations are needed for this. The following Policy, Acts and Rules facilitate the activities of the Department:

Environment Policy, 1992 Environment Conservation Act, 1995 and subsequent amendments Environment Conservation Rules, 1997 Environment Court Act, 2000 and subsequent amendments Ozone Depleting Substances (Control) Rules, 2004

The main activities in this core area are:

Policy Analysis: DoE provides inputs to formulate environmental policy of the various sectors. It also analyses various policies of the government and advises the government on modifications of any section of a policy where needed.

Planning and Evaluation: DoE prepares a five-year annual development plan to fulfil central planning requirements, periodical evaluation of progress of implementation of projects and the five-year plan.

Programme Coordination: Coordination between projects and programmes is conducted to ensure effective project planning and implementation.

Monitoring and evaluation: Ongoing monitoring and periodic evaluation and reporting on the progress of project implementation.

The Publicity and Environmental Awareness unit of the Department of Environment is primarily responsible for creating awareness regarding the urgent need to preserve the environment among the general public using various local media, as well as educational and non-governmental partners. The unit also produces and distributes educational brochures, posters, pamphlets and leaflets that are used in schools, workshops and training programmes (Ibid).

Environmental governance and its link with DoE

From the explanation of the core term governance, environmental governance and the working pattern of the ministry of environment and department of environment it is evident that there is a strong link and significant role of the DoE in establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh from institutional point of view. It is also pertinent to mention here that the governance for environment and its organizational backup can be formed by the adequate supervisory and overseeing authority of

the DoE apart from its management authority. In the earlier discussion it has already been clarified that environmental management is a part of the environmental governance. Environmental governance is perceived as a matter to be considered from a wide perspective of the societal interaction among and within the actors of the society, especially in environmental issues.

The formation, function and mission of the DoE explicitly declare that the department is the pivotal institutional authority to deal with environmental matters. Department's role in initiation of environmental legislation, its contribution to the planning and evaluation, programme co-ordination and monitoring ;awareness building in environmental issues, synergizing global environmental issues with national adaptation clearly suggests that the department of environment and environmental governance have an inseparable link.

So far the explanation made above is the probable and possible conceptual framework for establishing the environmental governance in Bangladesh. The study made by World Bank (2006) on the present environmental scenario of Bangladesh finds the environmental governance as an over-arching theme for strengthening the environmental quality of the country. The most important governance elements to support such theme are access to environmental information, transparency and consultation for accountable decision-making, adequate institutional capacity for credible enforcement, and economic policies that promote improved environmental performance (World Bank, 2006). From this the pillar to establish environmental governance can be formulated (Figure: 6). The pillars for establishing environmental governance covers the elements of governance which can be applied for better environmental quality.

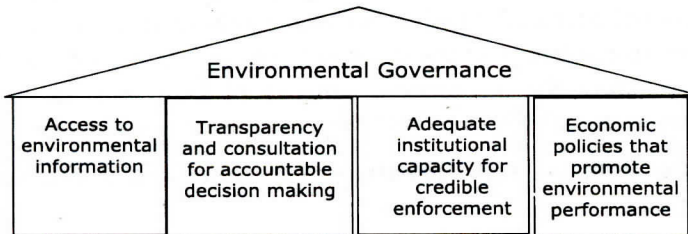


Figure-6: Environmental Governance Pillars
(Source: Developed by Author, based on World Bank Report.)

If the pillars of environmental governance are analyzed then the status of establishing environmental governance in Bangladesh can be measured.

Access to Environmental Information

Bangladesh lacks institutional structure for collecting environmental information. If any one wants to have any kind of information about environment it will be a mess. Due absence of institutional arrangement for preserving environmental information and if have, due to obscurity of those information, those become useless. This situation is not conducive to the environmental governance. The current paucity of environmental information and understanding in Bangladesh constrains decision-making at all levels (Ibid). Greater access to environmental information and understanding of the impacts of degradation will create demand for environmental investments. To make the easier access to environmental information the DoE has the effective role to play. The department can establish a mechanism of collection and preservation of the environmental information regularly.

Transparency and Consultation for Accountable Decision Making

Transparency and public consultation are essential elements of environmental decision-making, strengthening the accountability of environmental institutions and thereby building their credibility (Ibid). Environmental decision can be made in a transparent way. Before taking major environmental decision the authority can consult with the citizen for accountable decision making. This can be done by the Union Parishad authority in case of issuance of Environmental Clearance certificate. DoE's role may be facilitating the enactment regarding this.

Adequate Institutional Capacity for Credible Enforcement

As the credible threat of regulatory enforcement is central to environmental governance, so too is the establishment of the institutional capacity to deliver such enforcement (Ibid). For this purpose the Strategic Plan of the DoE is needed to be implemented urgently. The present organizational strength of DoE is not adequately serving its purpose. For the proper management of the environmental problems and maintaining natural resources the institutional capacity of DoE must be increased which may eventually lead to better environmental governance.

Economic Policies and Incentives for Improved Environmental Performance

While information and regulatory enforcement help establish incentives for improvements in environmental quality, these are most effective when combined with supportive economic policies. Such as if the duties on import of fisheries is reduced, the import of fish will increase. As a result

of this the pressure on the fisheries resource will be lessened. Economic incentives can also be used to complement regulatory approaches to improve environmental management.

Organizational Imbalances of DoE

The Ministry of environment and forest has total 8900 staff under its different agencies. But there exists organizational imbalances between and among the agencies. DoE with the large extent of its duties and responsibilities for better environmental management is staffed with a limited human resource.

More than three quarters are in the Forest Department (6,939). Fewer than 3% of the total staffs are in the DoE. Ministry's budget is less than 0.5% of the government's total revenue and development budget. Of this total budget, over 80% is allocated to the FD and less than 1% for the DoE. Of these funds more than 30% is used for the payment of salaries (World Bank, 2006).

Institutional Incapacities of DoE

Ministry of Environment and Forest's (MoEF) resource focus is largely on Forest Department. For this reason institutional capacity for environmental planning and monitoring remains weak. DoE is insufficiently funded. Department's mandate for ensuring better environmental quality cannot be achieved by such a poor condition of its capacities. MoEF does not have any system in place to monitor environmental quality, biodiversity, status of protected areas, levels of pollution or environmental degradation. There is no mechanism to make such information available to the public on a regular basis. Interestingly, the DoE has the lowest level of staffing per capita in South East Asia (191), whereas Hong Kong has similar agency with more than 1500 staff, (IGES 2001).

Strengthening Environmental Governance

The Country Environmental Analysis prepared by the World Bank (2006) has concluded with the following findings for strengthening environmental governance.

Key actions to strengthen environmental governance include:

- Implement DoE's Strategic Plan.
- Create cadre positions for DoE staff.
- Make environmental assessments and information related to the environmental clearance process publicly available, including through the internet.

- Mandate public consultation on environmental assessments of high risk projects.
- Require consideration of No Objection Certificates at open meetings of Union Parishads.
- Delegate responsibility for environmental clearance of less polluting facilities to local authorities.
- Publish a national environmental scorecard annually.
- Publish the environmental performance of selected high-priority industrial facilities.
- Provide DoE with legal assistance in bringing environmental cases to court.

Considering all the suggestion made above it is pertinent to mention that the element of ensuring environmental governance can be fulfilled through the actions suggested above. The institution primarily responsible for this task for overall overseeing the whole mechanism of environmental governance is ministry and exclusively the department of environment in this country.

Conclusion

The proposition made at the outset of this paper is finally raising with the strong position of claim that the concept of environmental governance is pervading in the whole gamut of environmental issues in Bangladesh. Though the environmental problems and imminence of the natural resource management indicates very strongly that the weak structure of environmental governance in Bangladesh causing a great loss in economic terms and persists as the potential threat to implement the major national planning and have gradual impact over all of the development concern for the country. It has also revealed that the environmental governance if established can make the development and poverty reducing growth easier to meet the targets of MDG. Absence of or weak environmental governance structure can also isolate us from the global environmental mechanism structures. Specially, when the country is exclusively under the probable threat of devastating effect of climate change and global warming it is a matter of concern. The fastest rate of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation can be addressed and encountered by the establishment of environmental governance in Bangladesh and the Department of Environment is in the position and bears the responsibility to establish this ideal situation.

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