

Understanding Development from the Perspective of University Students in Bangladesh

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Abstract. *The meaning of the term "development" is common parlance. Although its limited meaning is one of improvement, its broader significance is far-reaching. But the exact significance might be different for each individual. Some people may anticipate a certain breakthrough while others may not. College kids have a huge impact on society. And the ideas they have deserve recognition. College students in Bangladesh have divergent views on what constitutes progress in the country. While many students believed that progress could be ensured only through personal growth, others held that development required changes to their physical environment. Many people believe they are living a fully developed life, but in reality, they are not. Alternatively, dimensions may have a range of connotations. The question is whether these factors are seen as crucial by the graduates. How well-versed they are in the concept of growth. There are also developmental roadblocks to consider. The main goal of this research is to find out the thoughts of university students of Bangladesh and get to know what is the meaning of development to them. For more in-depth analysis there are some objectives to get information about development and to get the opinions and analyze them.*

Keywords: *Development, Positive change, Improvement, Economic, Environment, Barriers*

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INTRODUCTION

The term "development" is loaded with semantic and political ambiguity, making it difficult to nail down and debate. There is a broad variety of meanings that may be ascribed to the word "development" depending on the circumstances. In ordinary parlance, development is shorthand for growth. It requires a progressive metamorphosis from a simpler to a more sophisticated form. The difficulty in defining what constitutes progress is due to the inclusion of a value judgment in any discussion of progress or development (Jackson, n.d.). In sociology, the word "development" is sometimes used interchangeably with "economic development," even though the two are not synonymous. Those who examine the development of societies tend to concentrate on the dynamics of social change. Because of this, traditional ideas about the role of the family, religion, and government will need to evolve. A thriving civilization also includes natural processes like population increase, migration, and cultural adaptability. The word "development" is used to describe an improvement in a country's economic and social conditions. In this context, "better stewardship" especially refers to regional efforts to preserve and develop its natural and human resources. In the sake of societal progress and material prosperity (Shah, 2020).

Bangladesh has demonstrated a robust history of economic expansion and progress, particularly throughout periods of heightened worldwide instability. A substantial demographic dividend, strong ready-made garment (RMG) exports, resilient remittance inflows, and stable macroeconomic conditions have underpinned rapid economic expansion over the past two

decades. Bangladesh exemplifies a noteworthy narrative of poverty alleviation and socioeconomic progress. Bangladesh, a nation that was formerly classified as one of the most impoverished countries upon its establishment in 1971, achieved the rank of a lower-middle income country by the year 2015. The country is projected to achieve graduation from the United Nations' Least Developed Countries (LDC) list by the year 2026. The prevalence of poverty had a significant reduction throughout the period from 1991 to 2016, with the poverty rate decreasing from 41.9 percent to 13.5 percent. This assessment is based on the internationally recognized poverty threshold of \$2.15 per day, adjusted for purchasing power parity using the exchange rate of 2017. Furthermore, there was an observable enhancement in human development outcomes across various dimensions (Overview, n.d.).

Efforts made to enhance the quality of human life through increasing material prosperity, individual self-respect, and personal autonomy. The acceleration of economic growth, the decrease of inequality, and the eradication of poverty are just a few of the many components of a comprehensive development strategy. Growth is better understood as a multifaceted process. The essence of development requires that it represent the full range of change by which an entire social system, responsive to the varying fundamental needs and changing aspirations of its constituent individuals and groups, progresses from a generally regarded unsatisfactory situation or condition of life to one regarded as materially and spiritually superior.

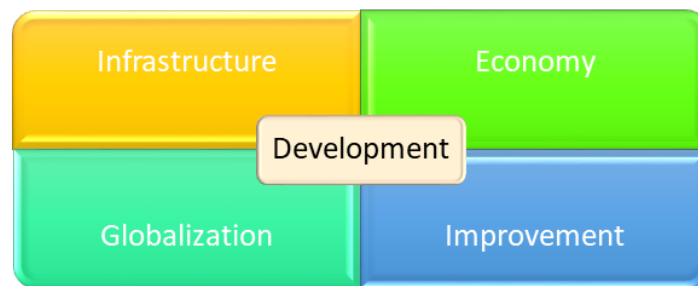


Figure 1. Means of development

In his analysis of the concept of development, Dudley Seers posits that although there may be subjective assessments on what constitutes development and what does not, it is imperative for development to universally strive towards creating circumstances that enable the fulfillment of human potential (Shah, 2020). In contrast, scholars such as Jeffrey Sachs and Paul Collier have directed their attention towards examining the factors that hinder or suppress development in different countries, resulting in prolonged periods of extreme poverty.

There exist several poverty traps, encompassing civil wars, natural resource dependence, and poverty per se. The discovery of these traps allows for an examination of the political, economic, and social situations within a country, with the aim of promoting progress. Jeffrey Sacks places significant emphasis on the advancement of sustainable development, a concept that advocates for economic growth and progress with the aim of improving the quality of life for global citizens. This approach entails recognizing and addressing the requirements of environmental resources and future generations (2021, ۳۸).

As the meaning of development varies from person to person. This research is conducted in Bangladesh and we know that Bangladesh is a developing country with a huge amount of people. There are many universities in Bangladesh and we know the university students are the asset of a country.

As development may have different meanings to people this research paper shows the thinking of the university students of Bangladesh. As many students participated and shared their thoughts, this paper shows the overall picture of the university students of Bangladesh what they think about development.

METHODS

Justification of this Research

This research is conducted to know what is the meaning of development to the university graduates in Bangladesh. As Bangladesh is a developing country with a large number of populations. We can explain development in many ways. As development is a multidimensional term many people think it in many ways. In Bangladesh there are many universities. University students are the most important citizens in a country. So, their thoughts have values and meanings. In this many graduate students have shared their thoughts and given their opinion. So, this is the reflection of the all-university students.

Research Design

The current research is based on qualitative and quantitative research approach which utilizes the correlational survey design to study what is the meaning of development to the university students in Bangladesh. Mix method is used here. Online survey by google forms with related questionnaires.

Research Objective

The main goal of this research is to find out the thoughts of university students of Bangladesh and get to know what is the meaning if development to them. For more in-depth analysis there are some objectives to get information about development and to get the opinions and analyze them.

Research Questions

What is the meaning of development to the university students in Bnagladesh is the main question of this research.

Sample

Sample is treated online and offline. This helped to determine the way for approaching the ultimate study Samples. There were 82 candidates in total. These data collected from Bangladesh. The people who are considered as sample are from different university in Bangladesh, so it will reflect the perspective of the research. This group size is large enough to provide adequate data for a reliable conclusion of the study and will also be financially viable for research completion. Some statements also collected from them.

Inclusion Criteria of Research Participants; (1) Participants living in Bangladesh were included in this research; (2) The participants were students; (3) Participants who are from different were included in this research; (4) Some statements collected from the participants via google form

Exclusion Criteria of Research Participants; (1) Participants of other nationalities were not included in this study; (2) People who did not study in university were not included

Tool Construction

Basically 15 questions were developed for the participants, some are the basic questions and most of them are important for the study showed in table 1. In this table just questions are showed and options are not showed here. The link of the google form is here <https://forms.gle/hVXjAAeAzEcny8M8>

We have some close-ended questions. They responded to the questions. We got 82 respondents from many universities all over Bangladesh.

Are you familiar with the word development?

How do you know about the term development?

Do you think economic condition is a dimension of development?

- Do your society can play a great role in development?
- Do you think Environment is important for development?
- Which is most important for development?
- What do you think about development?
- Which can be a barrier to development?
- Do you think Improvement in country's economic and social condition is development?
- Are you living a developed life?
- Do you believe only your individual improvement can ensure development?
- What do you prefer for development?

Ethical Consideration

Researcher are always accountable in public and responded. This research maintaind all ethical indicators. Generally, discourse about ethics begins with social normative concepts about ethics begins with. Information collected and all research process, try to maintain ethics. This research is not copy paste, plagiarism, and unnecessary data used. We try to clear concepts provide to our responded. The study is not going to be involved in any humanity and none of the participants will give false information. Everyone provided the perfect information and honestly. This study will have provided proper guideline according to MD. Harunur Rashid, assistant Professor, Department of public administration and governance studies, Jatiya kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University. This research collected data from the respondents by taking their permission and also taking permission from the guardian when the respondent was a child and ensure confidentiality and privacy of collecting data. In this research the respondents are well respected and it provide autonomic to the respondents in giving their information and the respondents will clearly informed about the research purpose.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Institution of Participants

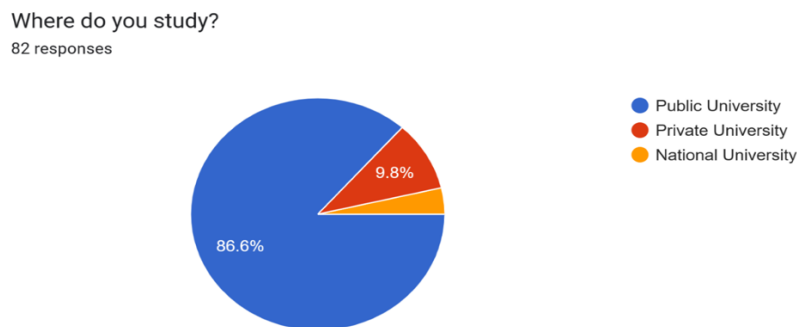


Figure 2. Institutions of the Participants

In this study all the participants are from three major institutions; (1) Public University; (2) Private University; (3) National University.

There were 82 respondents and 86.6% were from Public university, 9.8% from Private university & 3.7% from National university.

Familiar to the word “Development”

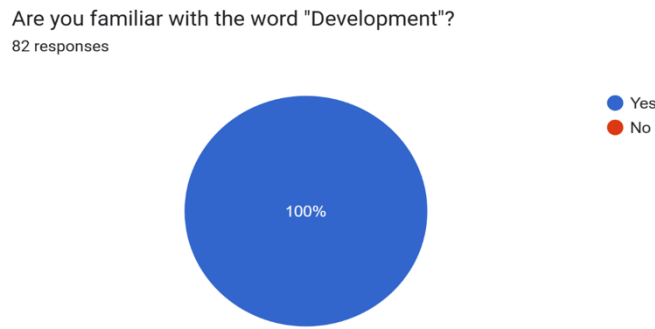


Figure 3. Percentage of the participants who are known to the word development

There were 82 respondents and all the respondents were familiar with the term “Development”.

Economic Dimension of Development

Economic condition always affect development because economy and development are always connected. The economic sector includes the many organizations for commerce and industrialization, as well as the system and means of production, its components or indices, that can improve material wealth and the effective distribution of products and services (Drillers, 2019). 90.2% of the participants think that economic condition matters for development.

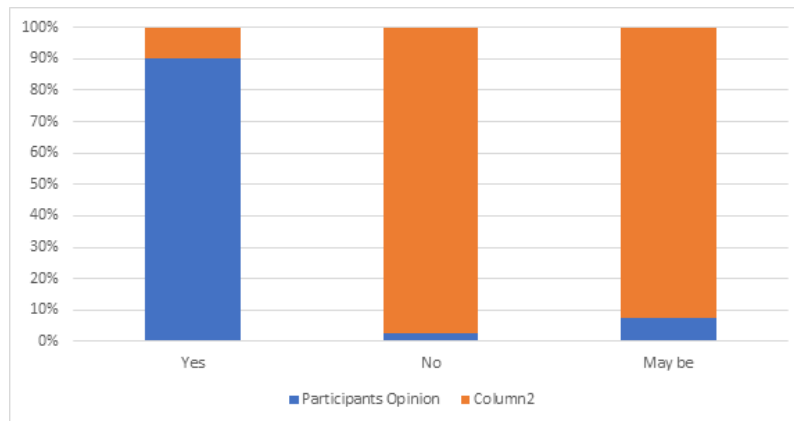


Figure 4. Economic dimension of Development

How to know the word “Development”

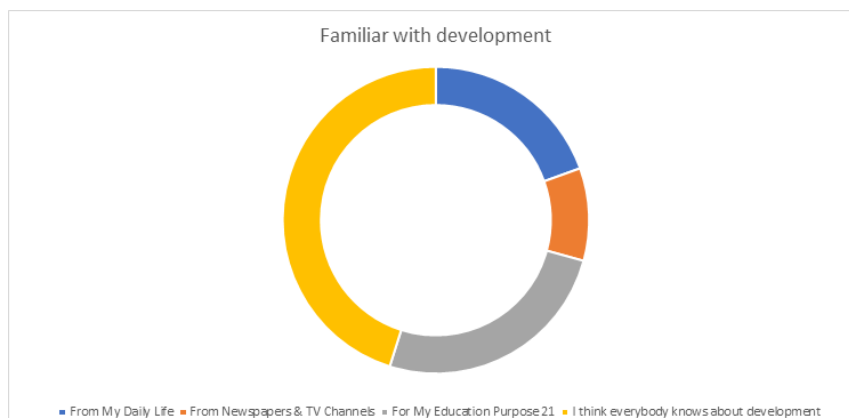


Figure 5. Known to the word Development

This age is the age of development. Development in every sector. So we just got to know how the participants are familiar to the word development. They think that as “Development” is a common term nowadays so everybody knows it.

Society’s role for Development

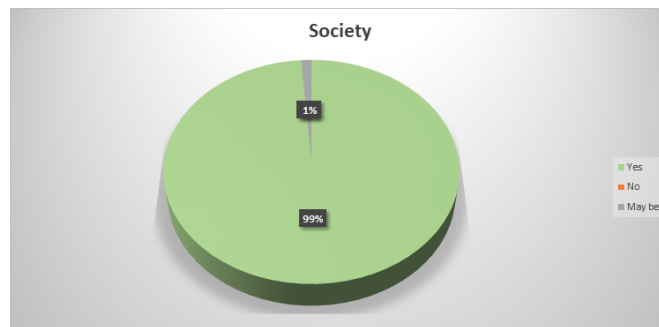


Figure 6. Society’s Role for Development

Society is an important part of our life and without society nothing can be possible. We learn many things from society. So personal development or a country’s development everything is lies in society. Here society can play a great role.99% respondents agreed with that “Society can play a great role for development”.

Environmental Dimension

The three components of sustainability—economic, social, and environmental—must be integrated in order to realize sustainable development. Integration of these three dimensions is an urgent adjustment in approach to policy, and there must be a transition from a policy perspective that focuses primarily on the short term to one that focuses on the long term and seeks long-term advantages for everyone. 95% of the respondents agreed with that environment is important for development.

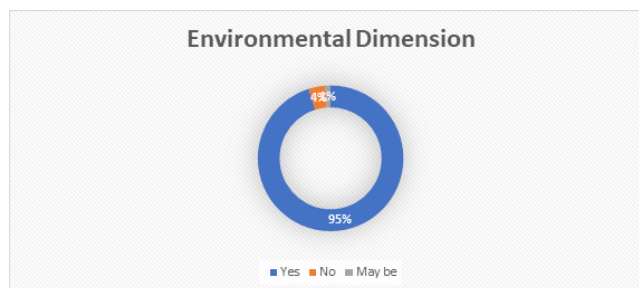


Figure 7. Environmental dimension of development

Most important dimension for Development

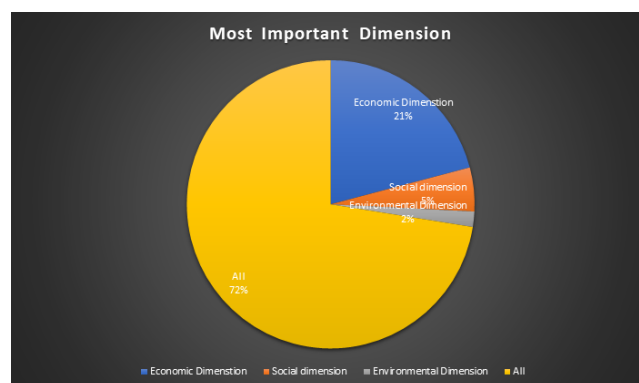


Figure 8. Most Important Dimension for development

We said about three dimensions; (1) Economic; (2) Social; (3) Environmental. 72% of the participants think that all the dimensions are very important for any development.

Opinion about Bangladesh

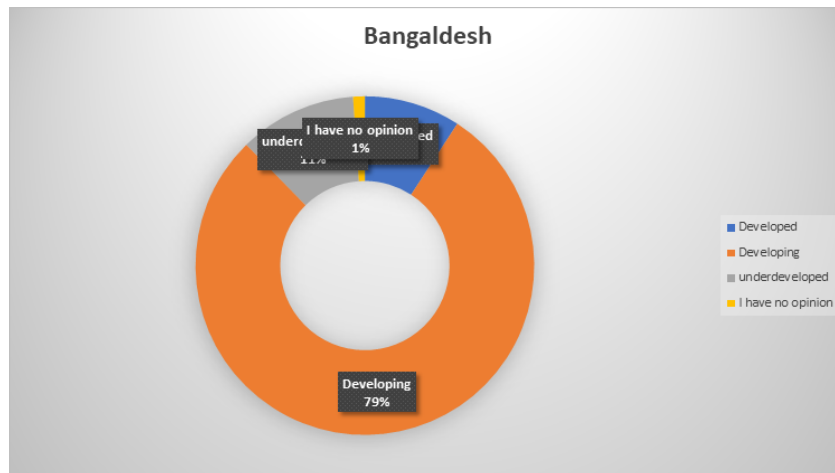


Figure 9. Opinions of the Participants about Bangladesh

There are many types of people in a society. As our research is conducted to know the meaning of development from the university students, so there may be variations. Their lifestyle and their expectations will say in which condition Bangladesh is being. 79% said that Bangladesh is developing.

Barriers to Development

Lack of foresight into one's own future destiny by society has stood out as one of the most distinctive features of development throughout all time periods, geographic locations, and areas of endeavor. This trait often goes hand in hand with the inverse one, a propensity to see potential advantages as insurmountable hurdles. There may be many barriers to development. We have given three options

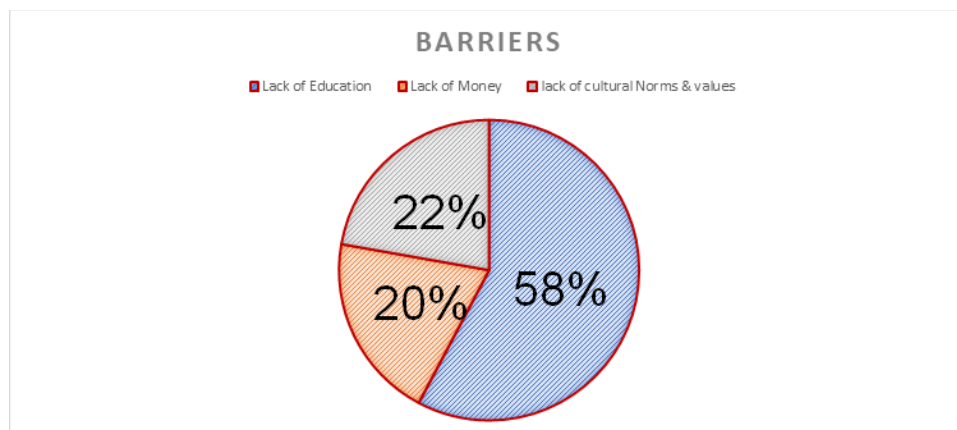


Figure 10. Barriers to development

The were 58% said that lack of education is responsible for hampering development. The development of Bangladesh entails overcoming numerous challenges, including frequent and terrible calamities, effectively managing a densely populated nation, and developing as a complex jigsaw of development. The attainment of social objectives in Bangladesh has surpassed its economic accomplishments. The acknowledgment received from the international world after successfully attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically in the areas of decreasing the under-5 mortality rate, promoting women's empowerment, and lowering poverty,

instilled a sense of assurance among policymakers over the efficient execution of the sustainable development agenda (Alam, 2018).

Improvements in Country's Social & Economic Condition

For overall development in a country the social and economic development is very important and economic dimension plays a great role in development. There were 76% agreed that Social and Economic improvement is important for development. Bangladesh is a developing country and still a large number of people living under poverty life but what the university students think about it? The progression of economic growth has had a beneficial influence on various aspects of the social life of the populace. The proportion of those living below the poverty line experienced a notable decrease, falling from over 80% during the early 1970s. The implementation of inclusive growth policies, effective fiscal management, the production of employment opportunities both domestically and internationally, and the establishment of comprehensive social security programs have collectively contributed to the decrease of both moderate and extreme poverty. In 2019, the poverty rate was recorded as 20%, but extreme poverty was approaching a single-digit figure, specifically 10%. By the year 2030, the nation aims to reduce its poverty rate by 50% (Admin, 2022)

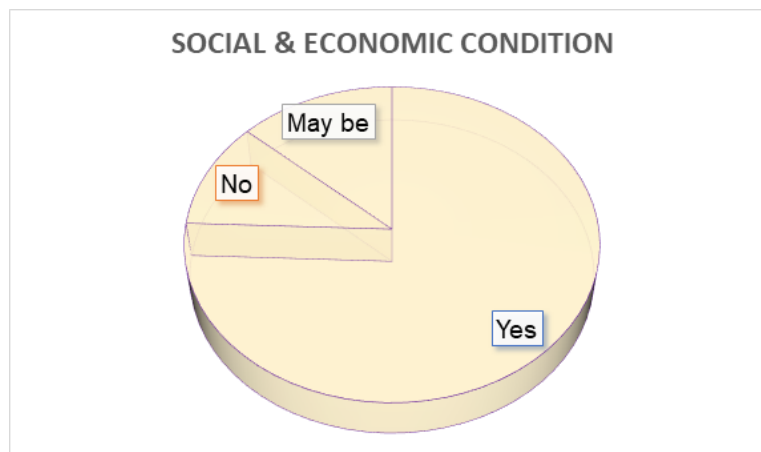


Figure 11. Social & Economic condition

So, we gave them a question and we see that 39% believe that they are living a developed life but 61% of the participants do not think they are living a developed life.

Individual Improvement & Development

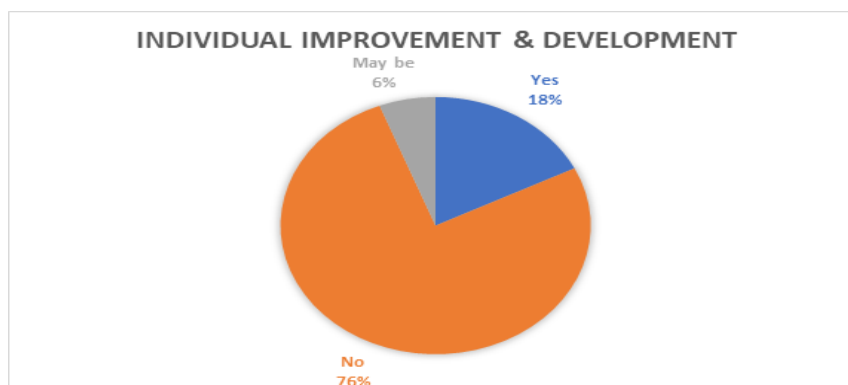


Figure 12. Individual Improvement & development

Individual or personal improvement is very important for development because when personal improvements happen then the overall development will come in the light. But 76% disagreed with that and they think individual improvement is not essential for development. The aforementioned statement emerged as the primary takeaway from the publication titled

"Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World," released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the Human Development Report for the year 2021-22. The report additionally provides a comprehensive index of human development for each nation. The Human Development Index (HDI) assesses a nation's overall progress in three fundamental characteristics of human development: longevity, education, and standard of living. Over the past two consecutive years, about 90% of countries globally have experienced a decline in their HDI performance. The regression of human development to levels observed in 2016 signifies concerning setbacks in the advancement towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Liller, 2022).

Preference

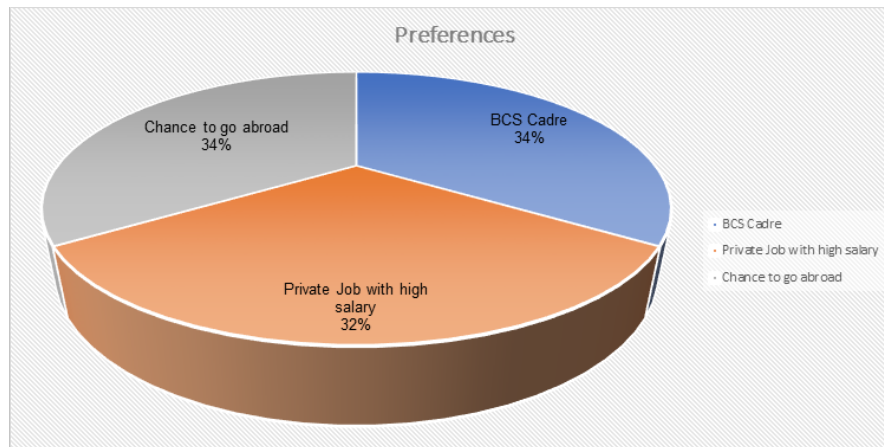


Figure 13. Preference

In Bangladesh we see that the graduates basically prefer their kinds of options. In Bangladesh BCS cadre is a luxurious job but it is very competitive. But many students think that only high salary can make the development. 34% of the participants think that career as a BCS cadre can make their life developed, besides 32% of the participants think that private job with high salary. But the shocking thing is that 34% participants think that if they get a chance to go abroad that will be development to them.

This article examines the concept of "development" from the perspective of college students in Bangladesh. Since "development" is a multifaceted concept, it means something different to each person. Only information from Bangladeshi college students is included in this report. Understanding the perspectives of today's university students is crucial to progress in the current day. This study demonstrates that everyone is familiar with the word "development," and that most see it as a routine process. This is so because numerous things prime our thoughts to consider development. The majority of them believe that economic factors are crucial to progress. There are additional factors to consider than money, such as social and ecological ones. The respondents believed that all of these factors were crucial since they are essential to the growth process as a whole.

Multiple accounts agree that Bangladesh is a poor nation on the rise. The majority of participants voted for "developing country," despite the fact that some respondents indicated Bangladesh is a developed country. Lack of education is a major problem that impedes progress. We all know that in this day and age, education is crucial. Everyone in a nation should have access to high-quality education. Thus, education is crucial to the development process, and progress cannot be made without it. A nation is made up of several diverse sectors, each of which plays an important but distinct function. Improvements in the country's social and economic climate are a key indicator of progress, and without them, progress is impossible. Most of those taking part feel they are not making progress toward a more civilized existence. It's to be expected, given that not everyone in a developing nation like Bangladesh can afford to live a Westernized lifestyle. Although many people believe they are living a sophisticated lifestyle. Most participants do not

believe that improvement at the individual level is necessary for growth, despite the fact that when improvement at the person level occurs, progress may be made at the societal level. While most people believe growth would occur when they get a position comparable to a BCS cadre, this study found that the opportunity to travel internationally counts as development as well.

CONCLUSION

For any individual person or for any country development is very important. As many may define development in many ways. The university students have many thoughts about development. In a developing country like Bangladesh many lead a developed life, on the other hand many are leading an underdeveloped life. The university students are the person who may think about development. And they also think that many dimensions are very important for life. Besides they also think that there are many barriers in the way of development. Its normal because development is not very easy. They may prefer various ways to develop their life. Development is only a positive change to someone. And sometimes leading a good life with the people surroundings is development.

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