



## Conscious Mind of Environmental Law in Bangladesh

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### Article History

Received: 09.05.2024

Accepted: 25.05.2024

Published: 06.06.2024

**Abstract:** It is critical to strictly implement environmental laws in order to solve the many environmental problems that Bangladesh is facing. The intricacies of environmental regulation are explored in this study, which also assesses how well it handles environmental issues at home. In order to achieve effective environmental governance, this study draws attention to the spaces and weaknesses inside the current constitutional structure and how that is put into practice. Also included are the environmental problems in Bangladesh, such as pollution and the loss of natural resources, as well as an evaluation of how well the country's current legal frameworks address these issues. The academic study goes on to ask how well-informed different groups are on environmental issues: governments, businesses, civil society, and the people at large. Efforts to preserve and safeguard the environment are also assessed in relation to this awareness. Drawing on empirical research and case studies, this paper proposes ways to strengthen environmental laws, enhance enforcement mechanisms, and cultivate a broader environmental awareness in society. Adopting a comprehensive approach to environmental law is vital for achieving sustainable environmental management and preserving Bangladesh's biological heritage. Along with this, we must raise awareness within the sector and inspire active participation.

**Keywords:** Environmental laws, environmental problems, Bangladesh, environmental regulation, environmental governance, pollution, natural resources, legal frameworks, environmental awareness, sustainable management, biological heritage, enforcement mechanisms, civil society, empirical research, and case studies.

### Cite this article:

Khan, M. H., Kabir, M. H., Nowroz, A. K. M. S. H., Ahmad, T., Islam, M. M., Chowdhury, M. R., Begum, L., Islam, M. N., (2024). Conscious Mind of Environmental Law in Bangladesh. *ISAR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(6), 11-26.

## Introduction

The world is currently experiencing an unprecedented number of environmental issues. Saving our planet's natural treasures entails, thus, one of the most urgent challenges confronting South Asia, including Bangladesh contemporary entire planet. The preservation of our planet and its natural resources are fundamental to our continued existence as a species. Just a tiny fraction of the population is woefully uninformed when it comes to environmental regulations and policies. How can we ensure the safety of our planet? Meanwhile, we need to be more cautious and diligent now if we wish to leave the earth in better condition for future generations. An in-depth understanding of environmental regulations and a sharp intellect about environmental issues are prerequisites for accomplishing this task. One may make the case that a country's ability to safeguard its environment increases as its

awareness of environmental issues rises. In comparison to countries that prioritise environmental protection, our level of environmental ignorance and carelessness is glaringly obvious. Bangladesh lags behind in terms of environmental law and environmental education. The literacy rate in Bangladesh is currently 76.8%, which is relatively low given the society's significant focus on education. The current illiteracy rate is approximately 23%<sup>1</sup>. The numerous regulations enacted with the purpose of safeguarding and proper management regarding Bangladesh's renewable materials are mostly unknown, even among the country's educated populace.

<sup>1</sup> Special Reporter, 'Literacy rate in the country is 76.8: State Minister for Primary and Mass Education', *Prothomalo*, 2023  
<<https://www.prothomalo.com/education/9hrte8ahdq>> [accessed 2 April 2024].

The progress of technology has resulted in an increased demand for natural resources and has worsened environmental harm, while the current rate of global population growth is fast escalating. The global environmental crisis is mostly a result of industrialization, unregulated urbanisation, excessive waste production, and the unsustainable exploitation of resources. Addressing environmental concerns requires deliberate acts performed by global, country, state, and local. The main environmental issues facing the modern world are ozone depletion, biodiversity loss, deforestation, marine pollution, radioactive waste, air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, ocean acidification, depletion of freshwater supplies, and climate change.

Contamination of the environment can occur in three ways due to human activity: unintentionally, intentionally, or deliberately. The most dangerous of these three is intentional contamination. Therefore, the majority of environmental pollution originates in the subconscious mind. Pollution and unintended damage, on the other hand, are the products of sudden and unforeseen circumstances. Operational pollution refers to the pollution that machinery such as ships, cars, and factories inevitably produce.

One effective method of environmental protection is the notion of legal governance. To protect the environment, environmental law incorporates many legal elements, such as statutes, regulations, and codes of conduct. Natural resource protection, ecosystem restoration, ecological sustainability, and harm prevention are the main objectives of environmental legislation. Any entity, whether a state or a non-state, whose activities have an effect on the environment is subject to environmental law. We can improve Bangladesh's ambience as a whole by raising people's level of knowledge and understanding, we can improve Bangladesh's overall ambience. Everyone, regardless of occupation, must always be cognizant of environmental issues, pollution, and laws. This is relevant for many different types of workers, including those in agriculture, blacksmithing, fishing, driving, social work, lawmaking, education, commerce, and the business and governmental realms. The environmental movement in Bangladesh has its share of problems, but that doesn't mean the country is immune to environmental troubles. Many people in Bangladesh voiced their worries about the state of the environment. They admitted that people aren't paying enough attention to issues like changing weather patterns, increasing temperatures, and the degradation and loss of natural resources. In addition, they recognised that environmental education and management may need some changes.

### Question

1. To what extent are Bangladeshis knowledgeable about the environment and environmental legislation?
2. What is the level of environmental law knowledge and comprehension in other countries?
3. What is preventing them from understanding environmental issues and laws?
4. To what degree were they previously cognizant of this matter?
5. What measures should be implemented to cultivate an awareness and understanding of environmental legislation?
6. What measures can the government do to safeguard the environment and enforce environmental legislation?

7. Is there an insufficient level of education in developing a conscious mind?
8. Are non-governmental organisations and international organisations involved in these activities?
9. What measures may be taken to address this issue in the future?

### The Following Are the Primary Concerns That Need to Be Resolved In Our Study:

### Literature Review

The environmental conservation movement in Bangladesh is still in its early stages. Bangladesh faces a multitude of ecological challenges, including the decline of biodiversity, contamination of groundwater with arsenic, contamination from air and the vastness of the ocean such as rivers together with the water, noise environmental degradation, hazardous waste, and the destructive practice of hill cutting, among other issues. In the 1960s, as people started in order to focus on the environmental issues caused by pollution, the environmental movement was born. The next step was the establishment of national-level institutional measures to combat pollution. It wasn't until 1985 that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) came into being. Additional NGOs emerged in the 1990s, mainly concerned with environmental protection. Environmental protection has become an integral part of the work of some multi-purpose non-governmental groups. The dramatic deterioration of the environment that started in the 1980s provided the background for these changes. An important stage one include the Environmental Ministry developing NEMA, or the National Environment Management Action Plan in conjunction with specific non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other groups.

A grassroots movement emerged, unaffiliated with NGOs, that brought together eco-conscious individuals from all walks of life. There is a lot of sustained social pressure from Bangladesh's civil society. Organisations such as Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and Bangladesh Education Leadership Academy (ELEA) have long been at the forefront of this sector. In the past few years, environmentalists in Bangladesh have made significant strides. BELA is a forward-thinking organisation that protects the environment using lawful means. The country's ecologists have found common ground in BAPA. In Bangladesh, environmental movements were mostly fueled by the media and press, in addition to civic and issue-based organisations. In response to BAPA-sponsored efforts and agitation, the government has passed several significant eco-friendly laws in recent years. Environmentally conscious individuals from all walks of life have banded together to form a new civic movement on a national scale, distinct from NGOs. The efforts of Bangladesh's civil society to influence public policy are ongoing and significant. Some of the first groups to work in this area were BELA and BAPA (Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon). There have been significant gains for Bangladeshi environmentalists in the last many years. BELA is a forward-thinking organisation that uses lawful means to protect the environment. The country's ecologists have found common ground in BAPA. Along with civic and issue-based organisations, Bangladesh's media and press were instrumental in the growth of environmental movements. As a result of BAPA-organized protests and agitation, the government has passed several significant eco-friendly laws recently. A new civic movement has emerged on a

national scale, led by eco-conscious individuals and including NGOs and other non-profits. There is a lot of social pressure from Bangladesh's civil society, and it keeps trying. Some of the first groups to work in this area were BELA and BAPA (Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon). There have been significant gains for Bangladeshi environmentalists in the last many years. When it comes to protecting the planet, BELA is an innovative organisation that takes a legal approach. The country's ecologists have found common ground in BAPA. Along with other issue-focused and civic groups, a new environmental movement arose in Bangladesh, backed by the media<sup>2</sup>. Environmental awareness is on the rise, and it's encouraging to see states passing legislation and signing accords to save the planet from a disaster<sup>3</sup>.

The administration of Bangladesh has decided that demonstrated its dedication on ecological issues through a variety of policy initiatives. In order to achieve sustainable development, the main policy initiatives, strategies, and plans were centred around the careful management of the environment and natural resources. When developing an environmental policy, it is crucial to first establish a clear objective and then identify the most efficient methods to accomplish it<sup>4</sup>. The intricate relationship between space, terrain, and liquid assets, coupled with throughout the period lag when considering environmental impacts and responses, intensifies the predicament. Since the 1990s, Bangladesh has prioritised environmental management and protection as a key area of concern. Various administrations have meticulously crafted comprehensive policy frameworks. The National Environment Policy—1992 serves as the primary policy document in this regard. When it comes to safeguarding the environment, several additional guidelines to consider. Various policies have been put in place to promote sustainable development in Bangladesh. Here are the policies that have been implemented in Bangladesh: Official tourism Policies in Bangladesh include established in 2008, followed by the National Forestry Policy in 1994. In 1998, Governmental Approaches to Fisheries and a programme for the country water and sanitation infrastructure were introduced. Policy on Agriculture at the Nation Level was implemented in 1999, along with Government Water Programmes and the Business Strategy. The Integrated Pest Management such as Policy was established in 2000, followed by the National Land Use Policy in 2001. In 2002, the National Integrated Pest Management Policy was introduced. The Renewable Energy Policy of Bangladesh was established in 2008, followed by the Strategy to Combat Global Warming in Bangladesh in 2009. How Bangladesh Handles its Rubber Policy and the National Bio-Safety Framework were implemented in 2010<sup>5</sup>.

Direct, indirect, or causal effects on the environment are caused by about 200 laws<sup>6</sup>. All sorts of environmental rights and obligations, as well as protections against specific environmental crimes, are

spelled out in these statutes. The government of Bangladesh takes great pride in its environmental protection policies and laws, as well as the many international conventions, treaties, and protocols it has accepted.

Bangladesh accomplished a great deal when it passed the National Environment Policy in 1992. A thorough plan to improve and maintain the environment was proposed, and the significance of tackling major obstacles to environmental protection was underlined<sup>7</sup>. Preserving ecological balance and promoting sustainable development are the top priorities of the country's 1992 Environment Policy. In order to do this, it is required to strictly monitor and control any actions that could harm the environment, in addition to protecting and preserving it. The policy also promotes sustainable development across all domains and aims to shield the country from natural catastrophes. Our goal is to guarantee the enduring and responsible administration of resources and to actively participate in all global environmental activities to the fullest extent possible. Every individual in this nation is dedicated to safeguarding the environment, irrespective of their profession or whereabouts. The policy provides comprehensive and specific strategies and instructions for implementing numerous initiatives across fifteen different industries. The 1992 Policy outlined various sectors, such as those dealing with food and farming, medicine, hygiene, power, power source, drinking water, infrastructure, flood prevention, cattle, woodland and animals, food, food production, housing, public awareness, education, science, and research. Additionally, it made reference to transportation, communication, and the coastal and marine environment.

The legislative branch passed several landmark environmental statutes. The primary legislation in Bangladesh that takes a comprehensive strategy for preserving the environment is the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995<sup>8</sup>. In order to provide a distinct venue for the settlement of environmental disputes, the Environment Court Act was established in 2000 and underwent substantial revisions in 2010. Subsequently, further regulations tailored to particular industries were put in place to deal with particular ecological concerns.

An institutional framework to protect the environment has been put in place by Bangladesh. Established in 1985 as an independent Ministry of Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency is the principal government agency accountable for preserving the natural environment.

Environmental protection is now a constitutionally protected right in Bangladesh, thanks to the country's 15th Amendment. A legal dedication to preserving the natural world arises from the federal recognition of ecological protection. Article 18A assigns the state the long-delayed duty of safeguarding the environment:

“The government will strive to safeguard and enhance the natural surroundings or ecosystem, together with protect and conserve ecology, flora, fauna wetland areas, and biodiversity for both now and in the next years residents.”

The Constitutional Policies at the Federal Level are located in the Constitution's Second Article, on the basis of what is stated in the

<sup>2</sup> Nazrul Islam, 'The Broader Significance of the Environment Movement in Bangladesh', *Bangladesh Environment*, 1 (2002), 1–16.

<sup>3</sup> Md Mokarrom Hossan, 'History and Development of Environmental Law, Policy and Organization in Bangladesh', 2013.

<sup>4</sup> MM Hossan, 'Evolution of Environmental Policies in Bangladesh (1972-2010)', *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Hum.)*, 59.1 (2014), 39–63.

<sup>5</sup> Abdullah Al Faruque, *Environmental Law: Global and Bangladesh Context*, 1st Print 2017 (Bangladesh: Md. shajahan, New warsi Book corporation, Dhaka-1000, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Md Mokarrom Hossan, 'History and Development of Environmental Law, Policy and Organization in Bangladesh'.

<sup>7</sup> Government of bangladesh, 'Preamble of the National Environment Policy, 1992', 1992 <<http://old.lawjusticediv.gov.bd/static/news.php>>.

<sup>8</sup> MM Hossan.

Constitution in Article 8(2) “the concepts outlined here are essential for the governance of Bangladesh, the state must incorporate these principles when creating laws and use them as a reference for interpreting the system of law in Bangladesh, which includes the constitution these concepts serve is the bedrock upon which the nation’s activities and the actions of its citizens, although they cannot be enforced by the judiciary<sup>9</sup>.” It is encouraging to witness the prioritisation of environmental conservation as a basic component of official policy. Nevertheless, the court is unable to enforce it as a result of Article 8(2). These beliefs lack legal authority. Paragraph two of Article 8 of the Constitution states, the state of is obligated to take into account these principles when creating legislation and apply them while interpreting the Constitution<sup>10</sup>. Although there is insufficient enforcement, environmental protection has been incorporated into both national policy and legislation. The constitution acknowledges this.

### Conceptual Approach and Methodology

We used an anthropological approach, conducting semi-structured interviews with randomly chosen key informants from eight different locations in Bangladesh, including cities, suburbs, rural areas, and outlying villages. Farmers, day labourers, blacksmiths, fishermen, weavers, small merchants, teachers, and the vast majority of educated and illiterate people, both in and out of formal institutions, make up the rural workforce shown in the table. People from all walks of life, including students, NGOs, lawyers, government employees, environmentalists, and those living in urban and suburban areas, will have the chance to participate in this opportunity. Individuals who identified as male, female, or non-binary made up the informants. Our team conducted the interviews mainly in a collaborative fashion over the course of three months, from September 1st to November 30th, 2023. Each participant was questioned for about 20 minutes using a combination of online and offline approaches. There were a total of one thousand minutes devoted to the interviews. A wide range of environmental and legislative topics were covered in the questions. We interviewed 20 people at random in Sylhet, the fifth-largest city in Bangladesh in the northeast region, to find out how well-versed in environmental law the locals are. Soil, water, air, sound, and forests were the five primary components of environmental law that interviewees were asked to name and rank in order of importance. The public's ignorance and a broken and socially unconscious political system are the main offenders. Furthermore, many people in both urban and rural areas, particularly those with lower levels of education, are unaware of the environmental rules and regulations that are in place. In this context, it serves no purpose and must be thrown out. It looks like the main significant informants we looked at weren't having much trouble. In our study, we followed a methodology that was comparable to that of Willard Kempton and colleagues when they examined environmental problems in the US attitudes (Kempton et al.1996) to guide organization of the topics to be discussed in our interviews. We shall utilise models that integrate mental, cultural, and international

viewpoints to delve into the conscious mind of environmental laws in Bangladeshi culture.

Cognitive framework data was gathered. In a conceptual model, abstract notions or ideas are depicted. Cognitive or spatial representations are what are referred to as visual models.

The relationships between causes and effects can be better understood with the help of causal models. We can better understand complex systems and the relationships between them with the help of systemic models. To help people better understand the dynamics and behaviours of social groups, social models are developed. What we mean when we talk about people's personal models is the specific views, values, and worldviews that they hold.

A different approach would have been to use cultural models to gather information about the relationships between people and the natural world, with an emphasis on a well-known environmental problem. Regarding the government's present strategy for dealing with environmental crises on a worldwide scale, we also looked at the policy justification and the viewpoints of each source.

<sup>9</sup> ‘The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh | 8. Fundamental Principles’ <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367/section-24556.html>> [accessed 4 April 2024].

<sup>10</sup> Dhaka Law Report, ‘Kudrat-E-Elahi v.Bangladesh,(1992),44 DLR(AD)319’; (DLR, 19092).

Table-1 key informants by Geographical regions, occupation, sex.

Ser. No	Geographical Region	Farmer	Day laborer	Police & legislator	Students youth	teachers	NGOs	Business & media	Govt .emp loyess	male	fema le
1	Dhaka (center)	02	03	04	02	01	02	03	02	10	07
2	Chittagong (south-east)	03	02	02	03	02	01	04	02	11	08
3	Sylhet (north-east)	02	04	01	04	01	03	04	01	13	08
4	Khulna (south-west)	04	03	02	02	03	02	03	03	11	11
5	Barisal (south-central)	02	02	01	03	02	01	02	01	08	06
6	Rajshahi (mid-western)	03	03	03	04	04	02	03	03	15	10
7	Rangpur (northern)	02	02	01	02	01	03	04	03	10	08
8	Mymensing (north-cebtral)	04	03	02	05	06	03	02	03	15	13
	Total	22	22	16	25	20	17	25	18	85	70

Geographical Map of Bangladesh



Various Bangla Perspectives on the Link between Environmental Protection and Human Rights

There is no denying the positive and inseparable connection between human rights and the natural world. Both the national and international legal systems have long recognised the link between environmental protection and human rights. Respect for human rights is typically a prerequisite for the enforcement of environmental rights, which in turn depend on the preservation of

human rights<sup>11</sup>. Consequently, there has to be consistency in how human rights and environmental rights are handled because the two domains are interdependent. An individual's right to life and health includes the expectation of a safe and healthy environment. However, there has been academic discussion over the link between environmental protection and human rights. Different specialists place different emphasis on different aspects of the right

<sup>11</sup> Yves Lador, 'The Challenges of Human Environmental Rights', *Human Rights and the Environment: Proceedings of a Geneva Environment Network Roundtable*, 2004, 7–13.



to the environment. It is considered by certain authorities to be a fundamental and inherent right of every person<sup>12</sup>. Some have even gone so far as to call it an absolute need, right up there with oxygen, food, clothing, and shelter<sup>13</sup>. It is clear from the informant data analysis that more steps are required to strengthen laws protecting the environment and human rights. Our country's national security depends on this partnership, and international law can help strengthen it. Every person has an innate right to personal freedom, equitable treatment, and adequate living conditions in a healthy environment. They are also deeply responsible for ensuring that the environment is protected and improved for the benefit of generations to come<sup>14</sup>. When compared to environmental issues alone, human rights are considered more important and have a bigger and more pressing social and political impact<sup>15</sup>. However, human rights can only go so far in their ability to aid in environmental preservation due to the intrinsic qualities of these factors<sup>16</sup>. The lack of a clear right to the environment in the constitution has led to the judiciary's employment of a unified and expansive interpretation of other basic rights to guarantee environmental preservation<sup>17</sup>. The right to life article in the constitution of Bangladesh currently governs all environmental initiatives in the country. Since the highest courts in the land can be reached directly through the written route, it is the preferred method. The necessity of protecting the environment was formally acknowledged by the high court in the cases of Dr. Mohiuddin Faroque vs. Bangladesh and others<sup>18</sup>. A lawsuit challenging the disruption of an election campaign created this acknowledgment. After the Attorney General promised to take action against campaign-related vandalism, the courts rejected the case. Earlier, it was said that there are no environmental rights under the Bangladeshi constitution. The first amendment to Bangladesh's constitution now has a provision that emphasises the significance of conserving and enhancing the environment, thanks to the relentless efforts of civil society and environmental activists. Environmental policy is also firmly established as a fundamental element of state policy by this law. Without a doubt, this is a positive development. Natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, and wildlife are all obligated to be preserved and kept safe under this article, which also requires the state to enhance and safeguard

the environment<sup>19</sup>. Thus, it does not provide a guaranteed right to a safe environment for any given person. Rather, it is proclaimed as an essential policy concept of the state, which is used to interpret the Bangladeshi constitution and other laws, direct the drafting of laws, and lay the groundwork for the state's operations<sup>20</sup>. Environmental protection is an essential public responsibility that must be met by the state, its agencies, citizens, and corporations alike. Though previously acknowledged via judicial interpretation, the opportunity to incorporate the right to the environment as a fundamental right was lost by the Bangladeshi government.

### The psychological aspects of ecological legislation

A relatively new subfield of psychology, environmental psychology law focuses on problems caused by either people or the natural world and how to fix them. The primary emphasis is on investigating factors that influence the environment and the degree of ease felt on a regular basis. In order to find solutions to present or future problems, the field of environmental law engages in substantial discussion and study on a global scale<sup>21</sup>. Both the complexities of human psychology and environmental conservation are investigated in ecological legislation. I find it fascinating that there is a connection between psychological traits and environmental laws.

The extent to which people support ecological control is strongly influenced by their assessment of the risks to the environment. While some fail to grasp the seriousness of environmental issues, others see them as critical threats requiring swift action. There is a common trend in legislation to try to bridge the gap between popular beliefs and hard scientific evidence<sup>22</sup>.

A person's stance on ecological regulation is significantly affected by their notions about nature and the environment. Legislation can promote environmental care or impose punishments for actions that harm the environment, reflecting and influencing societal values.

The development of effective ecological regulations requires an understanding of human behaviour gleaned from the study of behavioural economics. To encourage eco-friendly actions, behavioural economics principles can be applied. To do this, subtle indications and enticing rewards might be used. Companies that implement sustainable practices could be incentivized with tax incentives, while those that pollute could be penalised by legislation.

For ecological policies to work, the public must be actively involved and engaged. Research shows that public support for and compliance with environmental laws improves when more people are involved in crafting these laws. The best way to raise people's consciousness and get them behind legislation is to have public hearings, consult with them, and run campaigns.

<sup>12</sup> Edith Brown Weiss, 'Environmentally Sustainable Competitiveness: A Comment', *The Yale Law Journal*, 102.8 (1993), 2123 <<https://doi.org/10.2307/796861>>.

<sup>13</sup> Richard Falk, *Human Right and State Sovereignty* (New York: holmes and meier publication, 1981) <<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/abs/human-rights-and-state-sovereignty-by-richard-falk-new-york-and-london-holmes-meier-publishers-inc-1981-pp-x-251-index-2850-cloth-1575-paper/3635184C439C64F19FCD722CBE3AB611>>.

<sup>14</sup> Günther Handl, 'DECLARATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (STOCKHOLM DECLARATION), 1972 AND THE RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992', 1972 <<https://www.globalhealthrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Stockholm-Declaration1.pdf>>.

<sup>15</sup> Dinah Shelton, 'Human Rights and the Environment: Substantive Rights', in *Research Handbook on International Environmental Law* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010).

<sup>16</sup> F. Francioni, 'International Human Rights in an Environmental Horizon', *European Journal of International Law*, 21.1 (2010), 41–55 <<https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/chq019>>.

<sup>17</sup> Jona Razzaque, 'Access to Environmental Justice: Role of the Judiciary in Bangladesh', *Bangladesh Journal of Law*, 4.1–2 (2000), 01.

<sup>18</sup> Dhaka Law Report, 'Dr.Mohiuddin Faroque Vs. Bangladesh and others,48DLR,434'.

<sup>19</sup> 'The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh | 19. Equality of Opportunity' <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367/section-24567.html>> [accessed 4 April 2024].

<sup>20</sup> 'The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh | 8. Fundamental Principles' <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367/section-24556.html>> [accessed 12 April 2024].

<sup>21</sup> Dr.MD Shorif Raihan, *Environmental of psychology*, 1st (Bogora,Bangladesh: Kausar Ahamad,Alaya Book House 38/2A,Banglabazar,Dhaka1100, 2020).

<sup>22</sup> Olena Khrushch and Yuliya Karpiuk, 'Psychological Aspects of Building Environmental Consciousness', *Grassroots Journal of Natural Resources*, 4.2 (2021), 120–35 <<https://doi.org/10.33002/nr2581.6853.040209>>.

The term "psychological distance" describes how one feels when they are emotionally and mentally far from a given topic. In an effort to bring people closer to environmental challenges, several pieces of legislation highlight both the local and global effects of these issues, making them seem more pressing and relevant.

When it comes to how people act and think, particularly in relation to the environment, social norms play a major role. By laying out what is considered socially acceptable, environmental policy plays a vital role in shaping public opinion on conservation. When it comes to environmental laws, people are influenced by their peers and community norms.

When environmental laws clash with competing social values and interests, tensions are likely to arise. Because of possible conflicts of interest, industries heavily reliant on fossil fuels may find it challenging to align with environmental conservation goals. In order to pass laws that really make a difference, it is essential to fully understand these problems and come up with ways to fix them. According to Stokols and Altman (1987), environmental psychology is a field that draws from a variety of disciplines to explore how people's social and physical surroundings affect their behaviour and overall health<sup>23</sup>.

One's psychological state might be impacted by their environment. Better and cleaner living conditions are associated with better mental health outcomes, and legislation that prioritises environmental preservation and pollution reduction can help make that happen<sup>24</sup>.

According to sources in Bangladesh, the less educated population, including day labourers and farmers, has a limited comprehension of environmental laws. On top of that, nobody is forced to attend this type of school, so most of these people don't know much. But few people really understand the gravity of the situation and think it's critical that we find solutions immediately. To solve this problem, it is essential that individuals, business entities, and government agencies work together

When it comes to ecological regulation, education and knowledge are crucial, especially when it comes to psychological aspects. Attitudes and actions towards sustainability can be influenced by increasing public awareness of environmental concerns and the rationale for specific legislative initiatives. Having a thorough grasp of human behaviour, attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions is crucial for successfully tackling environmental challenges. This is due to the fact that ecological laws are impacted by a web of psychological factors.

### **Environmental regulations are an integral part of Bangladeshi culture**

One school of thought in this area held that a state's commitment to its international obligations depended solely on its desire to comply. The principal legal mechanism for promoting compliance was to levy heavy fines against the state in the event of noncompliance, especially through the use of secondary standards

of state responsibility<sup>25</sup>. A violation of a norm can lead to a variety of consequences. These can involve the states concerned in the process, beginning with claims of violation and continuing with conversations and consultations. Judicial dispute Bangladesh is an Islamic country that adheres to moderate democratic principles, according to the UN<sup>26</sup>. In contrast, secularism is one of the four guiding principles enshrined in the constitution of Bangladesh, making the country an officially secular state. All religions, including Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, are guaranteed equal rights and status in Bangladesh's resolution processes may occasionally make use of mediation, conciliation, or investigation<sup>27</sup>. constitution<sup>28</sup>. Disrupting the natural balance is strictly forbidden in every major religious text. One of the most important aspects of Islam is the importance of personal hygiene. To preserve the ecosystem and all its interdependent parts, religious people believe it is their moral obligation to adhere to environmental protection laws. The importance of understanding the need to preserve and value the environment can be greatly influenced by religious ideology and rituals. The current evidence suggests that many people are very concerned about environmental issues, but that corresponding actions are not being taken. To gauge experts' familiarity with the subject, a poll was sent to Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, and other areas. The findings revealed that individuals with lower levels of education, such as rickshaw drivers, small grocery store owners, and day labourers, had a dearth of understanding of the matter. The reality is that cars cause pollution every day, and everyone needs to be aware of this.

Typically, environmental accords provide measures for collecting data and reporting on the status of fulfilling responsibilities<sup>29</sup>. There will not be separate analyses of each treaty in this book. Instead, our primary focus will be on cataloguing the many methods actually used.

### **The Focus of This Study is Bangladesh's Perspective on International Environmental Law**

Many worldwide environmental regulations have gained widespread recognition in the modern era. The public's familiarity with this international environmental law is unclear, though, in the instance of Bangladesh. Interviews with working professionals reveal that, whereas college graduates know this, their less educated counterparts don't. We must immediately address and resolve this matter because it constitutes a grave danger to our nation. Some people do not understand the importance of international environmental legislation. Finding strategies to raise public awareness is just as important as attending to these nitpicky minutiae. No one will be able to help solve this problem unless it is widely known. In order to make the world a better place and raise

<sup>25</sup> UN, 'Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts 2001, Countermeasures in Respect of an Internationally Wrongful Act', Art 22.

<sup>26</sup> Golam Sarwar Chowdhury, 'A Moderate Muslim Country!', *The Daily Star*, 2010 <<https://www.thedailystar.net/news-detail-133107>> [accessed 4 April 2024].

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, 'United Nations Charter, Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes (Articles 33-38)', *United Nations* (United Nations) <<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-6>> [accessed 4 April 2024].

<sup>28</sup> 'The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh | 2A. The State Religion' <<http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/act-367/section-24549.html>> [accessed 16 April 2024].

<sup>29</sup> Rüdiger Wolfrum, *Means of Ensuring Compliance with and Enforcement of International Environmental Law* (Martinus Nijhoff, 1998).

<sup>23</sup> Daniel Stokols, 'Instrumental and Spiritual Views of People-Environment Relations', *American Psychologist*, 45.5 (1990), 641.

<sup>24</sup> Paula Castro and Carla Mouro, 'Psycho-Social Processes in Dealing with Legal Innovation in the Community: Insights from Biodiversity Conservation', *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 47.3-4 (2011), 362-73 <<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10464-010-9391-0>>.

living standards for generations to come, race awareness must be a top priority. The result will be a world that is both visually beautiful and exceptionally well-organised, making it an ideal place to live.

The preservation of biodiversity, which includes our natural environment, must be our top concern. It is widely recognised that biodiversity plays an essential role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. We need a global solution to the problem of biodiversity loss, which is a major concern on a global scale. Many beneficial ecological services rely on biodiversity to be provided to humans. Oxygen production, temperature regulation, nutrition cycling, and other features are all part of these services<sup>30</sup>. Enhancing resistance against pests and diseases and overall yield are two important functions of variety. Since these issues can be addressed during the questioning phase, it is critical to be ready for the increase in focus, consciousness, ethnic mindset, and infrastructure development. We must adapt our ideas and keep up with the development of industrialised nations if we want to be competitive on a global scale.

### **It Is Puzzling Why the People of Bangladesh Seem to Have Limited Knowledge about Environmental Legislation**

Environmental protection and development are addressed by a number of pieces of legislation in Bangladesh. Worryingly, though, these laws are not being put into practice. When we compare the conscious and unconscious parts of ourselves, it's clear that the unconscious is far more important. Our sources tell us that this ignorance is due to a combination of circumstances. Now I shall go into these points thoroughly.

### **Missing Knowledge**

The development and success of a nation depend on its educational system. Just like any other nation, it is vital to Bangladesh's progress. The literacy rate in Bangladesh is 76.8%, according to recent studies<sup>31</sup>. More than a quarter of the country's population is illiterate, which is concerning but not surprising. The average age of these groups is over seven years. Although there is a high rate of literacy overall, there is a slightly lower rate of literacy when it comes to applying skills. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Literacy Survey 2023 found that approximately 73.69% of students in the 7–14 age range are literate. Due to a lack of comprehensive analysis of environmental legislation in the country's textbooks, students in Bangladesh receive an inadequate education in this area. This setting is not familiar with the laws. The result is that most people in the nation don't even know this problem exists.

### **The Bangladeshi Directorate of Environment Is Not Paying Enough Attention**

Within Bangladesh, the Ministry of Climate Change oversees the Directorate of Environment, a government agency. Protecting the environment is the primary responsibility of this organisation. The first environmental preservation initiative was launched in 1973, following the 1972 Stockholm Conference on Human Environment<sup>32</sup>. Back in 1977, when the Environment Pollution Control Cell first came into being, there were just 23 members.

Like many other countries, Bangladesh faces regional challenges and is impacted by global environmental issues. Natural and manmade elements alike contribute to Bangladesh's myriad environmental challenges. Deforestation, water contamination, land degradation, salinity, unchecked urbanisation, improper sewage disposal, and industrial waste management are just a few of the many concerns that the Bangladesh Environment Directorate tackles. The real application of this issue and its advancement remain limited, notwithstanding the endeavours and investigations in this arena. Whether the issue is caused by nature or by humans, their method of correcting it lacks effort and diligence. Their involvement in ground-level activities, such as raising awareness, carrying out infrastructure development projects, and promoting education, is limited.

### **Problems with Poverty and Population Growth**

Overpopulation is a major problem for many countries, although population plays an important role in defining a nation. Bangladesh has a surface area of 148,170 square kilometres and a population of about 186,893,830 people, according to the United Nations Population Survey 2020<sup>33</sup>. As the seventh-most populous country in the world, Bangladesh also has the greatest population density among tiny nations. With the exception of a few island nations and city-states, this region has one of the greatest population densities in the world, at around 1,119 people per square kilometre. At 1.37 percent, the population is expanding. In this particular demographic, 72.3 years is the average lifespan<sup>34</sup>. The most up-to-date information regarding food revenue and spending in 2022 has been made public by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Poverty and overpopulation are major problems for any nation and its citizens. The problems of poverty and overpopulation have contributed to a general lack of knowledge and comprehension of environmental laws and concerns. Overcrowding, poverty, and a lack of educational opportunities are widespread problems in both rural and urban regions. We need to give this some serious thought, figure out what the issue is, and then try to fix it.

### **Insufficient Number of Individuals Who Are Committed to Long-Term Sustainability**

Environmental degradation worsens, and future generations are put at risk when people do not embrace sustainable habits. Raising awareness and promoting sustainable behaviour are critical to tackling these issues. Overconsumption, wasteful practices, and the use of limited resources are issues that contribute to environmental degradation. Addressing and overcoming the myriad obstacles that impede progress is critical for effectively navigating the complex path of attaining sustainability<sup>35</sup>. The Sustainable Development Goals were finalised in 2015 by the United Nations<sup>36</sup>. No two countries are the same when it comes to their degree of development and the capacity of their inhabitants to tackle critical problems. As a nation progresses, its citizens will gain greater

<sup>33</sup> 'Bangladesh', *Wikipedia*, 2024  
<<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bangladesh&oldid=1219294159>> [accessed 18 April 2024].

<sup>34</sup> 'Life Expectancy in Bangladesh Drops to 72.3 Years: BBS Survey | The Financial Express' <<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/life-expectancy-in-bangladesh-drops-to-723-years-bbs-survey>> [accessed 18 April 2024].

<sup>35</sup> Christian Berg, *Sustainable Action: Overcoming the Barriers*, 2019  
<<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429060786>>.

<sup>36</sup> Alex Opoku, *SDG2030: A SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE POST-2015 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS*, 2016.

<sup>30</sup> Alex Meguid, 'Law, Genetic Diversity and Hybrids: Future Perspectives for International Environment Law', *Asia Pac. J. Env'tl. L.*, 12 (2009), 203.

<sup>31</sup> Reporter.

<sup>32</sup> Md Mokarrom Hossan, 'History and Development of Environmental Law, Policy and Organization in Bangladesh', 2013.



insight into themselves, be able to think more clearly, and be more invested in the country's future. The information gathered from the informants clearly indicates that a large workforce with the necessary skills is needed to tackle this problem efficiently. Because this is a very serious subject, the people of Bangladesh must treat it with the seriousness it deserves.

### **Bangladesh Suffers from a Conspicuous Absence of Efficient Governance in the Realm of Environmental Legislation**

Bangladesh faces significant challenges in the field of environmental governance. The inadequate enforcement and execution of existing environmental laws and regulations can be attributed to various factors. These include limited resources, institutional shortcomings, corruption, and a lack of public awareness and engagement. Current issues in Bangladesh encompass pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change, which demand immediate attention. The occurrence of cyclones and floods exacerbates environmental issues in the country<sup>37</sup>.

The resolution of these issues necessitates the implementation of more stringent legislation and the establishment of more effective compliance mechanisms. Government agencies must possess the requisite knowledge and funding, while the public should be well-informed. It is essential to involve both the corporate world and civil society in these endeavours. In order to enhance its environmental governance and sustainability, Bangladesh requires assistance from the international community. Some people are blaming the shortcomings of the legal system for the problem, which became clear during the question-and-answer session. With the right legal procedures put in place, this problem will go away.

### **What Steps May Be Taken to Raise the Level of Environmental Legal Literacy in Bangladesh:**

Improving environmental legal literacy in Bangladesh will require an all-encompassing plan that includes all stakeholders and tactics. Here are some recommended actions:

#### **Public Education Efforts**

Make sure everyone knows their rights and responsibilities as it relates to environmental laws and regulations by launching comprehensive public awareness campaigns<sup>38</sup>. Workshops, seminars, educational materials, and social media outreach are some of the potential components of these initiatives. People in rural areas tend to be less knowledgeable about environmental rules and responsibilities than those in urban areas. When it comes to environmental activities, education, and information, urban areas usually have it better. The public at large is woefully ignorant regarding these advantages. The results show that there is a knowledge gap on environmental rules between the city's students and professionals with advanced degrees and those with less education. Conversely, there may be unique difficulties that rural areas face. But there are still worldwide campaigns that aim to educate people and promote sustainable behaviours in all sorts of settings. In addition, it became clear during the Q&A that rural Bangladeshi wrestlers don't fully grasp the significance of environmental protection and environmental laws. As a result,

people in rural areas must prioritise skill development through education, the creation of awareness posters, the organisation of small gatherings, and the cultivation of heightened awareness. In order to promote responsibility and protect ecosystems, environmental law is crucial. Constant communication and education are key to getting people to comply and seeing good results.

### **Integrating Environmental Education into School Curriculum**

Incorporate environmental education into the national curriculum across all levels of schooling. Instilling a sense of environmental responsibility from an early age and ensuring that future generations are well-informed about environmental laws can be beneficial<sup>39</sup>.

Create all-encompassing environmental education courses that support the goals and standards of the country's schools. Environmental science, conservation, sustainability, and environmental law and policy are just a few of the many topics that ought to be included in the courses<sup>40</sup>. Using a multidisciplinary strategy: Combine lessons on environmental protection with those on other academic topics, such as history, geography, sociology, and civics. Environmental issues have far-reaching effects on many parts of society, and our interdisciplinary approach teaches students how these effects are interrelated.

Involve kids in hands-on activities, field trips, and outdoor learning experiences to help them understand environmental issues and their impact on the environment. Incorporating this method into the classroom helps pupils retain more information about environmental topics and develops their appreciation for the natural world.

Give environmental issues top priority when teaching analytical, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. Encourage students to think critically by having them assess evidence, analyse data, and come up with solutions to real-world environmental problems.

Inspire children to consider their own values and the duties they have to the planet and future generations by starting conversations on the moral and ethical implications of environmental issues.

Encourage student participation in community environmental projects, campaigns, and advocacy activities to foster community involvement. Students may help safeguard the environment and have a positive impact on their communities by taking part in this endeavor.

Resources for educators and training: Provide teachers with extensive professional development opportunities and a wealth of resources to help them become more knowledgeable and effective environmental educators<sup>41</sup>. Ensuring that educators are adequately supported and equipped is crucial for the successful implementation of environmental education programmes in

<sup>39</sup> Elfia Sukma, Syahrul Ramadhan, and Vivi Indriyani, 'Integration of Environmental Education in Elementary Schools' (presented at the Journal of Physics: Conference Series, IOP Publishing, 2020), MCDLXXXI, 012136.

<sup>40</sup> Lydia Kimario, 'Integrating Environmental Education in Primary School Education in Tanzania: Teachers' Perceptions and Teaching Practices', 2011.

<sup>41</sup> Beatus Mwendwa, 'Learning for Sustainable Development: Integrating Environmental Education in the Curriculum of Ordinary Secondary Schools in Tanzania', *Journal of Sustainability Education*, 12.24 (2017).

<sup>37</sup> Abdullah Al Faruque.

<sup>38</sup> Naznin Islam, 'PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: PERSPECTIVE BANGLADESH', *ASIAN AFFAIRS*.

schools. Assessment and Evaluation: Create effective ways to measure students' comprehension of environmental concepts and their capacity to apply them in practical situations. There will be both interim and final tests to gauge progress throughout the learning process.

These steps, together with environmental education's incorporation into the national curriculum, will help Bangladeshi children develop into educated and conscientious environmental stewards. This promotes long-term sustainability and societal well-being while also helping the environment.

**We provide specific training sessions for legal professionals,** including solicitors, judges and police officers, with an emphasis on environmental rules and regulations. It may be to their advantage to strengthen their capacity to enforce environmental rules and guarantee compliance<sup>42</sup>.

1. Overarching Goal: Create training programmes that teach students all about the environmental laws, regulations, and treaties that Bangladesh needs to know, both at home and abroad. Among the many subjects addressed by these rules are EIA, land use planning, biodiversity preservation, water and air quality, and waste management.
2. How the Law Is Enforced and What It Means: Provide attorneys with in-depth information about the legal frameworks and strategies used to address environmental violations<sup>43</sup>. This includes a thorough analysis of procedures for civil, administrative, and criminal enforcement. Give specific directions on how various organisations and individuals should go about enforcing environmental regulations.
3. Use real-life examples, case studies, and exemplary approaches from throughout the world to show how environmental law enforcement works. In order to enhance strategies and tactics, it is important to examine effective enforcement methods and gain knowledge from previous difficulties and shortcomings.
4. Encourage teamwork and cross-disciplinary discussion by inviting professionals from a variety of disciplines to share their knowledge and insights in the training sessions. These disciplines may include public health, economics, environmental science, and policy. Legal practitioners might benefit from this resource by developing a comprehensive understanding of environmental concerns and their complex aspects.
5. As part of our strategy, we will be holding practical training sessions that will focus on honing essential abilities. Environmental impact assessments, investigating environmental crimes, collecting and analysing evidence, writing legal documents, and representing clients in environmental litigation are all part of the curriculum.
6. The ethical considerations and professional requirements related to environmental legal practice are examined in this portion. Conflicts of interest, protecting client confidentiality,

and upholding environmental standards and public welfare are all part of the subject matter<sup>44</sup>.

7. Create plans to help lawyers who focus on environmental law continue their education and build relationships with one another<sup>45</sup>. Workshops, conferences, webinars, and online forums are some of the different types of events in which attendees can take part. At these get-togethers, people can discuss successful techniques, share their experiences, and gain new insights.
8. Set up systems for evaluating training sessions and gathering participant input for continuous improvement. Keep an eye on how training affects the knowledge, skills, outlook, and behaviour of lawyers when it comes to enforcing environmental laws.

By providing specialised training programmes for legal professionals, Bangladesh can strengthen its ability to handle environmental issues, enforce environmental laws effectively, and make a substantial contribution to the conservation and sustainable management of the country's natural resources and ecosystems.

### **Support for Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations in Terms of Their Abilities**

Help non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) working on environmental issues by providing them with training and resources related to environmental laws<sup>46</sup>. Helping communities hit hard by environmental problems and giving people the tools they need to take an active role in conservation are two of the program's declared aims. To better inform their employees and volunteers on the many legal requirements and guarantee compliance, NGOs and CSOs can benefit from environmental law training. When people take these steps, they strengthen their ability to fight for environmental protection, ensure that rules are being followed, and hold those in power responsible for solving environmental problems<sup>47</sup>. A wide range of environmental-related activities can be enhanced when NGOs and CSOs participate in training programmes, including research, policy analysis, community outreach, advocacy, and the provision of legal aid. Better long-term management of environmental concerns is possible with increased organisational capacity. In order to educate and empower communities affected by environmental challenges, community NGOs and CSOs can use their understanding of environmental legislation<sup>48</sup>. In order to enable citizens to stand up for what they believe in, have a say in local decision-making, and do their share to keep their communities clean, these groups teach people about environmental rights and responsibilities. Legal assistance from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society

<sup>44</sup> Angela Smith and Simone Pulver, 'Ethics-Based Environmentalism in Practice: Religious-Environmental Organizations in the United States', *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*, 13.2 (2009), 145–79 <<https://doi.org/10.1163/156853509X438580>>.

<sup>45</sup> Taslima Yasmin, 'International Practice of Public Legal Education: A Missing Element in the Justice System of Bangladesh', *Commonwealth Law Bulletin*, 38.3 (2012), 467–83.

<sup>46</sup> Ann Marie Clark, 'Non-Governmental Organizations and Their Influence on International Society', *Journal of International Affairs*, 1995, 507–25.

<sup>47</sup> Raymond Freddy Manyuchi, 'The Role of Civil Society Organisations/Non-Governmental Organisations (CSOs/NGOs) in Building Human Capability: The Case of Africa Community Publishing Development Trust (Zimbabwe)', 2012.

<sup>48</sup> Nicola Banks and David Hulme, 'The Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Development and Poverty Reduction', *Brooks World Poverty Institute Working Paper*, 171, 2012.

<sup>42</sup> Ann Sinsheimer and David J Herring, 'Lawyers at Work: A Study of the Reading, Writing, and Communication Practices of Legal Professionals', *Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst.*, 21 (2016), 63.

<sup>43</sup> Lisa O'Brien, Lisa Broom, and Mohammad Mosayed Ullah, 'Outcomes and Participant Experience of an Online Train-the-Trainer Program for Bangladeshi Health Professionals: A Case Study Evaluation', *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*, 35.1 (2015), 46–56.

organisations (CSOs) versed in environmental law can greatly assist impacted populations in combating environmental injustices like pollution, land degradation, and resource exploitation. People and groups can seek redress for environmental damage, push for changes in legislation, and represent impacted communities in court by taking legal action. Environmental stakeholders, including NGOs, CSOs, and legal specialists, are able to connect with one another through training programmes. When conservation and advocacy groups work together, they are able to share more information, increase the efficiency of their activities, and create synergies among themselves because their talents and resources are different but complementary. It's important to give NGOs and CSOs training, but they also need resources like model legal papers, funding opportunities, and technical assistance<sup>49</sup>. Their ability to take part in environmental law-related activities will be greatly improved by this. The ability to make educated decisions, craft winning strategies, and roll out fruitful campaigns is substantially enhanced when relevant materials are easily accessible. Environmental intervention monitoring and evaluation can be included in training sessions. As a result, NGOs and civil society groups can gauge how successful their advocacy, public engagement, and legal actions have been. To ensure that actions are based on evidence and can adapt to changing circumstances, adaptive management solutions are established through a continuous feedback loop.

In order to achieve environmental sustainability and fairness, Bangladesh can do things like increase the participation of civil society in environmental governance, back conservation efforts spearheaded by local communities, and supply non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations with the resources they need to comply with environmental legislation.

### Legal Resources Accessible to the Public

It is important to make sure that environmental rules and regulations are readily accessible to the general public. This can be achieved through a range of internet resources, print media, and legal assistance programmes. When individuals are provided with easily understandable information, they tend to advocate for ethical causes and take actions to ensure environmental preservation<sup>50</sup>. Create accessible online resources that provide people with current information about environmental laws, regulations, policies, and practices. Websites run by environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), official government sites, and legal databases are examples of such platforms. Making legal information more accessible and encouraging active interaction through the design of user-friendly interfaces and improved search capabilities.

Make and distribute printed materials that provide an academically sound synopsis of key environmental legislation and individual rights; this could include booklets, pamphlets, posters, and guides. To ensure that these materials reach as many people as possible—including those with limited internet access or who lack digital literacy skills—distribute them through public events, schools,

community centres, and libraries<sup>51</sup>. Help communities and individuals with environmental legal concerns by establishing legal aid clinics or facilities that provide affordable or free legal representation. If you need help understanding your rights and responsibilities under environmental laws, filing complaints or requests, or navigating the legal process, our skilled staff and volunteers are here to help<sup>52</sup>. Get the word about their environmental rights and the legal options they have for dealing with environmental problems by holding public seminars, workshops, and information sessions. Join us for an event where government officials, environmental campaigners, and lawyers can exchange ideas, answer questions, and spark fruitful discussions on pressing issues.

Spread the word about environmental rules and regulations using a variety of mass media, such as television, radio, newspapers, and social media sites. Make PSAs, articles, and instructional videos that address environmental protection and emphasise important legal concepts, rights, and responsibilities. Bangladesh can encourage people to support ethical causes, have a voice in decision-making, and do their part to ensure the environment is preserved and sustainable for generations to come by making environmental rules and regulations easily accessible to the public through various channels<sup>53</sup>.

**Involve communities in environmental decision-making** processes by facilitating public consultations, hearings, and forums to encourage engagement and participation<sup>54</sup>. More people will follow the rules when they feel they have a personal stake in protecting the environment.

**Form alliances with media groups to raise awareness** about environmental issues through news articles and documentaries and to improve the public's comprehension of environmental laws<sup>55</sup>. The subject of environmental protection could be brought to the forefront of many people's minds through this. Bangladesh is just one of many countries where a large percentage of the population uses social media<sup>56</sup>. There are 46,548,000 Facebook users in Bangladesh as of January 2022, according to the most recent statistics from Global Data Frame Status. With this many Facebook users, Bangladesh is now ranked tenth in the world. People of all ages, from all walks of life, with all levels of education, from all kinds of professions, from students to stay-at-home moms, are constantly interacting on social media<sup>57</sup>. Our frequent Q&A sessions have shown us that social media is a powerful tool for

<sup>51</sup> Monaliza Hernandez Mamac, 'Re-Instantiating Legal Statute into Public Legal Information Texts for Young Persons: Are the Texts Accessible Enough?', *Unpublished Masters Thesis. University of Sydney: Sydney, Australia*, 2019.

<sup>52</sup> Farzana Akter, 'Legal Aid for Ensuring Access to Justice in Bangladesh: A Paradox?', *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, 4.1 (2017), 257–75.

<sup>53</sup> SM Hassan, 'Public Participation in Environmental Law in Bangladesh', *Asia Pac. J. Envtl. L.*, 4 (1999), 163.

<sup>54</sup> Benjamin J Richardson and Jona Razzaque, *Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making* (SSRN, 2011).

<sup>55</sup> Stuart Allan, Barbara Adam, and Cynthia Carter, *Environmental Risks and the Media* (Routledge London, 2000).

<sup>56</sup> 'More than 60 Percent of the World's People Are Now Actively Engaged in Social Media: Survey International' <<https://www.bssnews.net/bangla/international/99110>> [accessed 8 April 2024].

<sup>57</sup> 'In the Country, Facebook Users Have Decreased by 100 Crores in 6 Months Prothom-Alo' <<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/9mxaksj6fs>> [accessed 8 April 2024].

<sup>49</sup> Diana Mitlin, 'The NGO Sector and Its Role in Strengthening Civil Society and Securing Good Governance', *Civil Society and International Development*, 1998, 81–96.

<sup>50</sup> Maurits Barendrecht, 'Legal Aid, Accessible Courts or Legal Information? Three Access to Justice Strategies Compared', *Global Jurist*, 11.1 (2011).

environmental law and policy education. On top of that, it's interesting to see that most Bangladeshis spend around two hours a day, at home, interacting with various social networking sites<sup>58</sup>. Emphasise the importance of environmental regulations and personal responsibility for the environment, or, in short, academic postings on social media to promote sustainability.

Collaborate with international groups and experts to facilitate the transfer of technical knowledge, best practices, and experiences in environmental governance and law<sup>59</sup>. This can help local organisations become stronger and pave the way for innovative methods of protecting the environment to be adopted.

### **It Is Imperative That We Take Decisive Action to Eradicate Poverty**

The environment and poverty are closely related. Degradation of the environment and poverty are two sides of the same coin. There is a two-way street between environmental deterioration and poverty; the former can worsen the latter. Further impediments to attaining sustainable global growth include extreme consumption in wealthy areas and pervasive poverty in poorer countries<sup>60</sup>. Much has been said about human rights, yet few rights can be more basic than the right to live one's life honourably. The wealth gap between and within countries has been widening rapidly since the 1960s, contributing to a dramatic rise in the incidence of worldwide poverty<sup>61</sup>. The World Bank estimates that there are almost 1,300,000,000 individuals in the world who are poor, and that this number is rising at a rate of 8 percent each year<sup>62</sup>. A large portion of the world's poor live in Asia, and Bangladesh is no exception. The answer to reducing poverty is education. It is imperative that governments place a premium on high-quality primary, secondary, and vocational education. As a result, everyone would have a fair chance to get the education they need, which is essential for ensuring a sustainable future.

In order to increase employment, it is crucial to encourage an entrepreneurial mindset, provide support to small and medium-sized businesses, and draw investments to vital industries like agriculture, manufacturing, and services<sup>63</sup>. Improve the job chances of marginalised people by implementing employment techniques.

Help the downtrodden get the medical attention, food, shelter, and financial support they need by putting in place robust social safety nets. By helping people weather economic storms and meet their most basic needs, social protection initiatives lessen the impact of poverty.

Create and execute plans to level the economic playing field, eliminate income disparities, and expand opportunities for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and members of underrepresented

ethnic groups<sup>64</sup>. Ensure that underserved areas have equitable access to markets, financial services, and resources so that they may take part in and reap the benefits of economic growth. Improve neglected and rural areas' access to roads, transportation, water, sanitation, and power. Quality of life, productivity, and economic growth are all enhanced when basic services are more easily accessible.

Reducing poverty and marginalisation requires addressing social exclusion and prejudice. Prejudices based on gender, race, religion, disability, and other characteristics must be eliminated if these problems are to be resolved<sup>65</sup>. Promote human rights, tolerance, and social cohesiveness to build a society where everyone can thrive.

Proper management of our land, water, forests, and fisheries guarantees that everyone has an equal chance to enjoy and benefit from them. Put measures in place to safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to own land and control their own resources. Respect the environment and its rich biodiversity as top priorities for the benefit of generations to come. Make it easier for small and medium-sized firms and individuals with modest incomes to use authorised financial services such as savings accounts, loans, insurance, and money transfers<sup>66</sup>. Businesses and individuals benefit from financial inclusion when they are able to invest, acquire assets, and reduce risk. Consequently, this improves economic stability and lessens poverty. Back government structures that encourage openness, responsibility, and public input. These structures need to ensure lawful administration, punish corruption, and distribute funds equitably. Make it easier for people to get involved in their communities and have a say in policymaking so that we can hold institutions and governments to their promise to end poverty. Through implementing these measures, nations have the potential to eradicate poverty, advance fair and sustainable development, and secure a more promising future.

Bangladesh may greatly improve the understanding of environmental laws among its citizens and encourage better protection of its ecosystems and natural resources if it follows these steps.

### **Avoiding Environmental Damage and Fixing It Through Environmental Regulations in Bangladesh**

To ensure sustainable expansion as well as the welfare from Bangladeshi citizens, it is crucial to preserve the environment and fight against environmental degradation<sup>67</sup>. This is attainable with the help of robust environmental regulations. When thinking about environmental protection and the significance of environmental control in Bangladesh, keep the following in mind and do what you can:

Air and water pollution, habitat loss, soil erosion, and deforestation are just a few of the environmental problems that Bangladesh is

<sup>58</sup> Jagroto Joypurhat, 'Which Country People Spend More Time on Social Media?', *Jagroto Joypurhat* <<https://www.jagrotojoypurhat.com/science-technology/news/59007>> [accessed 8 April 2024].

<sup>59</sup> José Van Dijk and Thomas Poell, *Understanding Social Media Logic*, 12 August 2013, pp. 2–14 <<https://doi.org/10.12924/mac2013.01010002>>.

<sup>60</sup> Jeffrey D Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (Penguin, 2006).

<sup>61</sup> Guillermo Perry, *Poverty Reduction and Growth: Virtuous and Vicious Circles* (World Bank Publications, 2006).

<sup>62</sup> 'Poverty', *World Bank*

<<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>> [accessed 8 April 2024].

<sup>63</sup> Strategic Imperatives, 'Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future', *Accessed Feb*, 10.42,427 (1987).

<sup>64</sup> Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty: How We Can Make It Happen in Our Lifetime* (Penguin UK, 2005).

<sup>65</sup> UNICEF., *The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children: The Double Dividend of Gender Equality* (Unicef, 2006), vii.

<sup>66</sup> Thandika Mkandawire, 'Targeting and Universalism in Poverty Reduction', 2005.

<sup>67</sup> Golam Rasul and Gopal B Thapa, 'Sustainability of Ecological and Conventional Agricultural Systems in Bangladesh: An Assessment Based on Environmental, Economic and Social Perspectives', *Agricultural Systems*, 79.3 (2004), 327–51.

grappling with. If we want to stop future environmental damage and keep people healthy, we need strict environmental regulations that govern things like industrial emissions, waste management, land use practices, and resource extraction<sup>68</sup>.

Rivers, woods, marshes, and regions rich in biodiversity are just a few of Bangladesh's abundant natural resources. To maintain the long-term viability of our natural resources for present and future generations, environmental regulation is essential for their protection and appropriate management. To protect ecosystems and biodiversity, it is necessary to establish and enforce legal frameworks<sup>69</sup>. Sustainable forestry, animal conservation, and protected area management are all examples of such systems in action.

Increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather, and salt intrusion are among the many that the ways in which Bangladesh is being impacted caused by the shifting global climate<sup>70</sup>. As a means of preparing for and surviving the effects of climate change, environmental regulation is crucial. To this end, they are actively working to ramp up the use of green power, reduce energy waste, promote sustainable agriculture, and lend a hand in the development of resilient infrastructure<sup>71</sup>.

To address environmental injustices and safeguard the rights of disadvantaged groups, such as indigenous peoples, rural residents, and the urban poor, environmental laws should prioritise promoting equity, fairness, and social justice<sup>72</sup>. The public can be involved through legal frameworks, which provide them with access to information and allow them to analyse the environmental impact. As a result, affected communities are able to have their voices heard, find answers, and have a hand in making decisions.

When it comes to Bangladesh's economy, the industrial sector is crucial. However attenuate dangers from public ecological sustainability, health, appropriate legislation must be put in place<sup>73</sup>. Responsible to reduce risks to industrial practices and the reduction of negative environmental impacts can only be achieved through the strict implementation of regulations. Industrial pollution, hazardous waste management, and the protection of workers' health and safety on the job are all within the purview of these laws<sup>74</sup>.

Environmental laws must be included in all-encompassing frameworks that consider the aims of environmental preservation

and social and economic development if we are to achieve sustainable development<sup>75</sup>. To achieve environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and social well-being, we need legal frameworks that support green growth, the circular economy, and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The administration and enforcement of environmental laws in Bangladesh must be enhanced by strengthening the capacities of relevant government institutions, regulatory bodies, and law enforcement authorities<sup>76</sup>. Institutional capacity and enforcement procedures are strengthened through training courses, technical support, and resource mobilisation measures to guarantee compliance with environmental laws.

The Paris Agreement, an agreement reached at the Convention on Botany, and the Basel Convention are among the numerous international environmental accords and treaties that Bangladesh has ratified<sup>77</sup>. In order to accomplish global environmental goals, environmental laws should be in sync with international agreements and duties, encouraging cooperation, information exchange, and mutual aid<sup>78</sup>.

By enacting strict environmental laws and reducing environmental damage, Bangladesh may promote sustainable development, safeguard natural resources, and strengthen community capacity to address environmental issues. Achieving these goals and guaranteeing a prosperous and bright future for every inhabitant of Bangladesh depends on the effective implementation and strict enforcement of environmental laws.

## Conclusion

If Bangladesh wants to fix its many environmental problems, it needs an all-encompassing and integrated plan for environmental management. More public participation is required, and environmental law can have a significant impact on in raising awareness of these issues, according to this study. Our methods are obviously ineffective since environmental degradation is ongoing despite multiple regulations aimed at prohibiting it. Consequently, new laws mandating stricter environmental restrictions, better enforcement tactics, and more cooperation among all stakeholders are urgently required. We also need to encourage a mindset that places a premium on environmental consciousness and personal responsibility if we are serious about making a change. Collaboration between governments, corporations, civic society, and the public in embracing eco-friendly practices is crucial if sustainability is to be prioritised. By implementing these proposals, Bangladesh can build a future that is both sustainable and resilient. In order to ensure that next generations to come may take pleasure in the bounties of the earth., we must prioritise the preservation of these resources.

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<sup>70</sup> Aneire E Khan and others, 'Climate Change, Sea-Level Rise, & Health Impacts in Bangladesh', *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 53.5 (2011), 18–33.

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