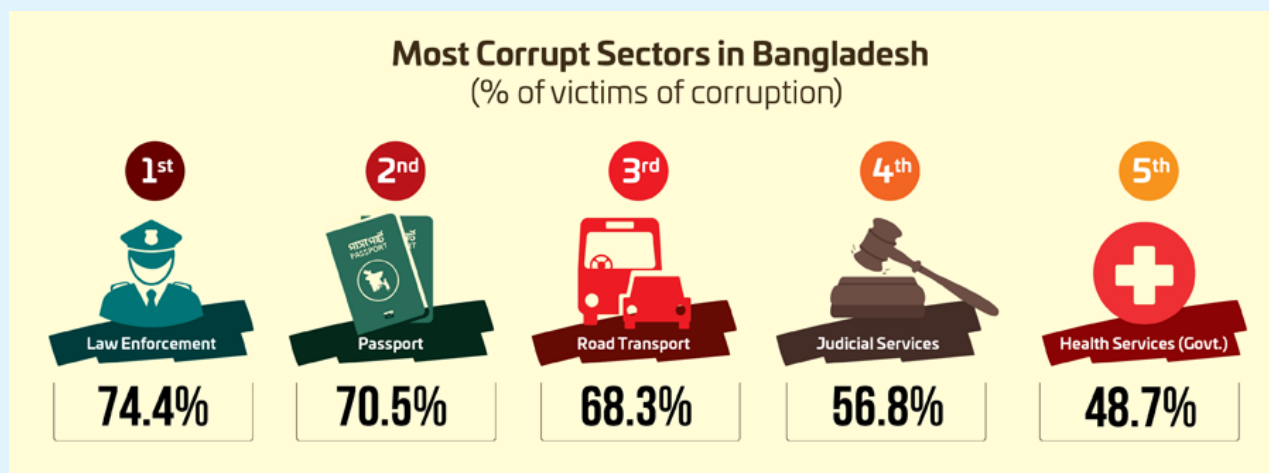


Law enforcement, passport services the most corrupt sectors: National Household Survey 2021



Dhaka, 31 August 2022: Dhaka, 31 August 2022: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has said that 70.9 percent households were victims of corruption in Bangladesh in the year 2021. TIB released the flagship study '[Corruption in Service Sectors: National Household Survey 2021](#)', which demonstrated that law enforcement agencies are the most corrupt institutes among the 17 public service sectors surveyed in the study.

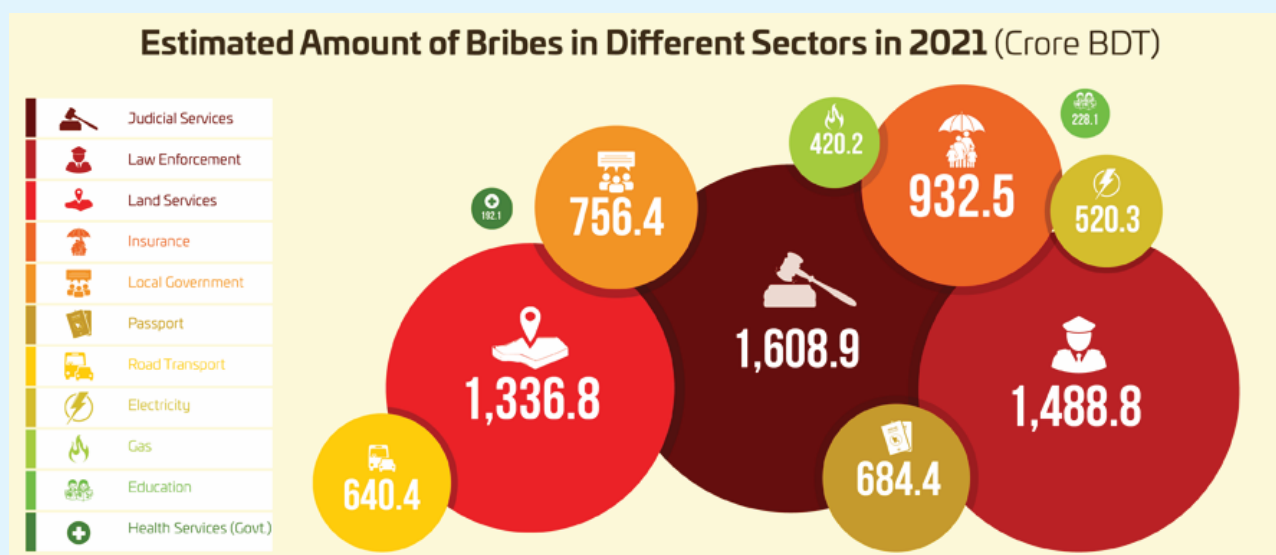
Passport service, road transport, judicial service, and the health sectors are also among the top corrupt institutions, as corruption has risen significantly compared to the last survey, which was carried out in 2017. However, as per survey results, corruption has decreased in education, agriculture, and power service related sectors. The survey results were published at a press conference held at TIB's Conference Hall on 31 August 2022.

More than 72 percent of households participating in the survey said, they are forced to pay bribes as it is impossible to get public services without paying them. According to the survey, the estimated amount of bribes transacted in 2021 is almost BDT10,830 crore (1.14 Billion USD). Each household paid an astounding BDT6,640 as bribes to get services from different sectors, which is significantly higher than the average in 2017 (BDT 5,930).



All indicators point towards a significant rise in corruption during the pandemic as around 71 percent of households said they were victims of one or many forms of corruption in 2021, while it was 66.5 percent during the household survey of 2017.

The survey results show that the amount of bribes significantly increased in 2021. Other forms of corruption have also plagued the service sectors, as the overall figure shows a significant rise in all forms of corruption in some sectors. Despite digitalisation drives by the government, some institutions have fallen behind, and corruption has remained the same there (law enforcement, passport, BRTA, etc.). Corruption has also increased in some sectors, namely local governance, NGOs, insurance, etc.



Data from the survey also portrayed how rural people, marginalised communities, low-income households, and persons with disabilities are more affected by corruption in different sectors.

Saying that corruption control mechanisms are not applied adequately, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "It is concerning that the ones that are supposed to keep corruption in check are the most corrupt themselves. More than 72 percent of people said they are forced to pay bribes, which means that corruption has been institutionalised in the service sectors. Despite the government's mandate of zero tolerance against corruption, the anti-corruption agencies fail to take effective steps. The process of filing complaints against corruption is inadequate, and people do not believe that filing complaints would bring any positive results. The legal and institutional mechanisms to control corruption must be enforced strictly, and the people must raise their voice against corruption."

To curb corruption in these sectors, TIB has also provided recommendations, which include strict law enforcement against corrupt personnel, enactment of accountability mechanisms, digitalisation of services to limit contact between service seekers and providers, launching of one-stop centres in different service sectors, and proper implementation of the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) in all sectors.

The National Household Survey 2021 covered 15,454 households from 64 districts in Bangladesh. The details of the survey results, infographics, and all related documents can be viewed in this [interactive dashboard](#) on the TIB website.

To compare data on multilateral variables of the survey, visit - <https://www.ti-bangladesh.org/beta3/index.php/en/research-policy/93-household-survey/6521-2022-08-31-04-46-29>

TCB's Family Card Programme impacted by irregularities and corruption; additional challenges for women and marginalized communities: TIB study



Dhaka, 11 August 2022: As the COVID-19 pandemic further disrupted the lives and livelihood of lower-income population while poverty rates skyrocketed amid soaring commodity prices and economic slowdown, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) had taken the initiative to subsidise food costs for 10 million families, accounting to almost 30 percent of the entire population. The TCB Family Card Programme initiative was a timely and commendable decision during economic hardship, but irregularities, corruption, nepotism, political influence, mismanagement, and an overall lack of transparency impacted the nationwide programme negatively. These came up in the research study 'Governance Challenges in TCB's Family Card Programme', released by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in a virtual conference on 11 August 2022.

The mixed method research study was conducted from April to June 2022 in 35 districts where 1,047 beneficiaries of the TCB Family Card Programme were surveyed. Despite being listed below the poverty line, 39.5% of respondents did not receive the TCB Family Card. The results show that women were more impacted by irregularities as 34.4% female respondents of the survey did not get the Family Card, compared to 31.4% male respondents.

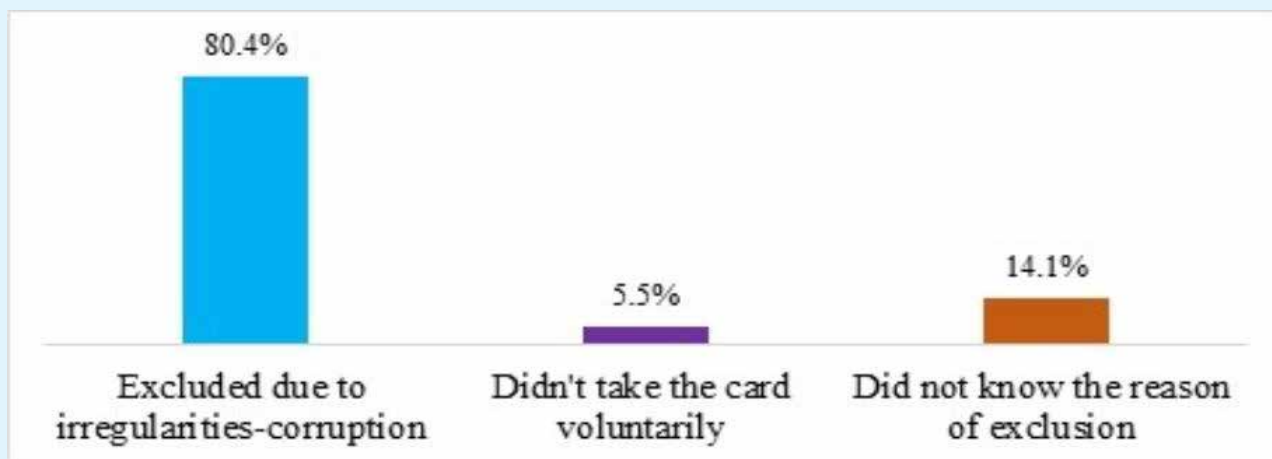


Chart: Causes of exclusion as beneficiaries

The family card enrolment process excluded many eligible persons for different types of irregularities. Lack of information, publicity, and transparency, illegal inclusion of wealthy and politically affiliated persons, fraud and bribery were listed as some of the reasons by the study respondents.

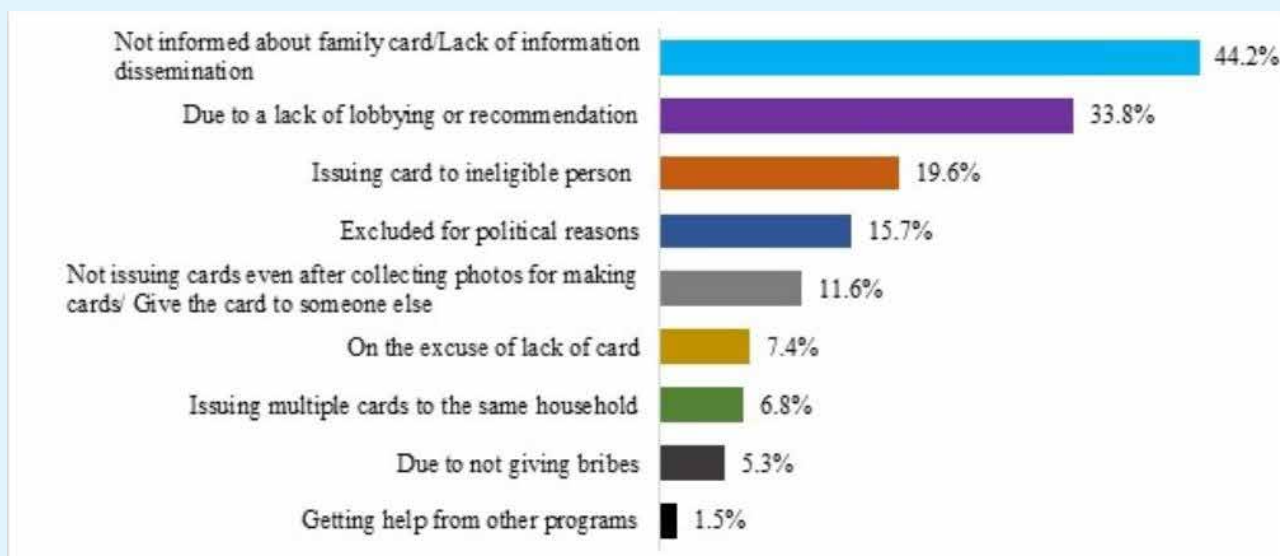


Chart: Exclusion of target population due to various irregularities and corruption

On the other hand, many marginalized people living in hard-to-reach areas have been deprived, especially women and ethnic minorities with whom public representatives have little contact. “There are many widows, helpless women in these hilly areas who did not get this card. They don’t even get any government allowance,” said an indigenous respondent.

Moreover, the purchasing capacity of marginalised people were not taken into account as the items were sold in packages, which made it impossible for some to gather the entire amount even with subsidised prices. “Some beneficiaries did not take this card willingly.

Because they did not find it profitable to take the products from truck considering the cost of travel, daily labour wages and other expenses,” said one of the respondents who got a card.

The lack of accountability mechanisms also afflicted the programme as 89.9 percent of beneficiaries who were victims of irregularities in enrolment, distribution, and purchase of products did not or could not lodge complaints.

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman weighed up the mismanagement and lack of accountability, saying, “Almost 80 percent of the excluded respondents said they did not get the TCB provisions due to corruption and irregularities. Affluent persons, politically affiliates, and relatives of influential people were listed as beneficiaries, while the ones who truly needed them were left out. In some cases, there were fraud, and the lack of transparency, accountability, and improper management had excluded many eligible persons.”

The TIB Executive Director further said that such mismanagement in the programme could have been avoided if there were proper checks and balances. He added that the programme could do better in the future if it considers following recommendations by TIB, which include public dissemination of the beneficiary list, adequate publicity, accountability mechanisms, and consideration of purchasing capability of beneficiaries among others. “We hope the TCB programme can work independently without being influenced by political and administrative pressure by following our recommendations.”

The full research report and recommendations can be found here - [‘Governance Challenges in TCB’s Family Card Programme’ - Transparency International Bangladesh \(TIB\) \(ti-bangladesh.org\)](https://ti-bangladesh.org)

The energy sector needs an effective national policy with focus on environmental protection: Speakers at the TIB-BAPA consultation meeting

Research conducted by TIB on the energy sector in Bangladesh has portrayed how power production in the country is not just a matter of meeting consumer demand; it has ripple effects involving corruption of global energy companies, persecution of marginalized communities, human rights violations, irregularities, land grabbing, loss of national wealth, and catastrophic environmental consequences. These matters were



discussed and a probable solution to the ongoing energy crisis was sought for at a consultation meeting with stakeholders organised jointly by TIB and Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) at the BICC on 3 August 2022.

The consultation meeting started with the presentation of the findings of TIB's research study titled '[Coal and LNG-based Power Projects in Bangladesh : Governance Challenges and the Way Ahead](#),' released back in 11 May 2022. The research findings had portrayed how the government has gaps in developing the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) and is heavily dependent on foreign donor agencies to formulate and regulate energy policies, which has resulted in conflicts of interest and unchallenged monetary gain for investors. Moreover, destruction of forest lands, corruption and irregularities in power companies, unlawful eviction and persecution of coastal communities, and the government's lack of coordination in implementing renewable energy sources were also highlighted in the research.

Corroborating the findings of the study, experts in the meeting said Bangladesh has fallen behind in internal energy exploration, resulting in excessive dependency on energy imports. On the other hand, unchallenged corruption in the sector has deepened the crisis. "All government-run energy offices act as individual entities where corrupt officials hold onto immense power. The people helming these offices see themselves as kings and destroy national resources at will," said one of the speakers.

Corruption in the power generation sector has also severely impacted marginalised communities in Bangladesh. Coastal people who had their lives uprooted due to environmentally destructive power plants told tales of persecution and human rights violations during the meeting. Some of the statements from victims went along these lines -

"I lost two jobs for protesting the power plants in my area. No one hires me now."

"Our rivers are losing everything. Where can we find drinking water? How are we supposed to earn a living when there are no fish anymore?"

"Our farmers, fishermen, and salt farms are facing a devastating crisis for the power plant. We cannot go on for long."

"People have been kicked out of their homes with little to no compensation just so the power project can be constructed. Our lands were forcefully grabbed with little or no compensation for these power plants."

Is there a way out of this crisis?

During the consultation meeting, experts discussed how the prolonged energy crisis in Bangladesh can be resolved.

Chief Executive of BELA, Syeda Rizwana Hasan said, environmental protection and power production do not have to oppose each other. "We have seen how many countries produce power without destroying the environment. Importing energy instead of using local gas reserves just shows how business interests are prioritised over national interests."

CPD Research Director Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem said, development must not only focus on GDP growth, but it should also work towards protecting the environment.

Dean of the faculty of engineering at the Daffodil International University Dr. Shamsul Alam said, “For good governance in the energy sector, the government must take initiatives to control the officials who act like dictators at autonomous power production companies.”

Honorary Professor at the Geology Department of the University of Dhaka, Dr. Badrul Imam said the government has not explored gas fields since legally gaining access to additional sea beds back in 2012. “While neighbours were exploring and utilising gas fields, what was Bangladesh doing?”

Policy makers say Bangladesh has made much progress in the energy sector, but challenges still persist. Special guest at the meeting, Director General of the government’s Power Cell, Engineer Mohammad Hossain said Bangladesh cannot be held accountable for the global climate crisis and the government is trying to balance out the impact of carbon-dependent energy sources by investing more in solar and other renewable alternatives. “We have also had many suggestions about the IEPMP and they will be taken into consideration accordingly.”

Chief guest at the event, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, said the government is not as active to protect national environmental resources as it is in international climate platforms. “We should prepare the IEPMP keeping national interests and the dream of the nation in mind. We need to immediately implement a national energy policy to ensure good governance in the energy sector.”

What does TIB recommend?

TIB has reiterated that the national energy master plan must include local experts and stakeholders. It has also suggested that policy-makers must do whatever is beneficial for the national interest and prioritise the lives of the citizens. “There should also be a strategic roadmap to prioritise renewable energy and to step away from quick rental projects. We expect that good governance and accountability will be established in the energy and power sector,” said TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman.

TIB trains 15 journalists on reporting power and energy security issues focusing on investigating resources

Gazipur, 21 August 2022: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has organised a special training on covering energy security issues for a cohort of journalists from TV, print, and online media platforms.

In total, 15 journalists from reputed media organisations took part in the



training. The training was based on the findings of TIB's research study titled '[Coal and LNG-based Power Projects in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and the Way Ahead](#)', funded and supported by the development partner European Climate Foundation (ECF).

The three-day long workshop took place at BRAC CDM in Rajendrapur, Gazipur from August 19-21.

The workshop focused on capacity building on reporting energy related news on both global and local perspectives. There was also particular emphasis on teaching journalists on how to prepare well-researched reports on the use and expansion of renewable energy sources in Bangladesh. Moreover, the participants of the workshop were introduced to tools that can be used for information collection, and directed on how such resources could be used for professional capacity building.



The summary of TIB's research study, [Coal and LNG-based Power Projects in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and the Way Ahead](#), was presented by TIB's research fellow Newazul Moula at the beginning of the workshop. Resource persons engaged in the workshop also presented different perspectives related to energy policies, investigation, and reporting. Research Director at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem presented 'Global Context – Power and Energy Sector of Bangladesh: Present and Future' to the journalists to give an idea on how energy issues are treated globally. Roving Asia Editor of GIJN, Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury presented 'Sustainable Energy: Sectors, Opportunities, and Forms of Preparing Reports on Power and Energy'. The final presentation was on 'Identifying Strategies and Sectors of Investigative Reports', which was presented by Head of Investigative Journalism Help Desk at MRDI, Badruddoza Babu. At the end of the three-day long workshop, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman presented journalists with certificates stating their enhanced capacity in reporting energy sector related news. During the event, he said, "TIB has always been vocal about irregularities, corruption, and other issues in Bangladesh. TIB thinks that journalists are

compatriots in the fight against corruption and it supports journalists with sincerity. To build capacity for journalists, TIB will stand beside them with all sorts of support.”

The TIB ED further stated that the energy sector is of high importance in Bangladesh and more work is needed on this during these moments of crisis.



TIB urges government to follow a ‘common reporting standard’ to tackle tax evasion and money laundering

Dhaka, 9 August 2022: In order to curb tax evasion and money laundering, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has advised the government to immediately adopt a Common Reporting Standard (CRS) that can assist automated information exchange on local and international transactions in banks and financial institutions.

According to Global Financial Integrity, 8.2 billion dollars were laundered by invoice fraud from Bangladesh annually from 2008-2015. Mentioning that updated data will portray at least 12 billion dollars laundered annually, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “Ever increasing money laundering is a big challenge in Bangladesh. Despite not having updated specific statistical data on it, it is beyond doubt that money laundering is skyrocketing. It is also beyond doubt that most of the money is laundered through mis-invoicing or invoice fraud in international import-export trade. As a result, there is massive tax evasion and huge amount of money is being laundered abroad. The government should keep in mind that tax evasion and money laundering increases during such economic crisis. It is the unavoidable legal and moral responsibility of the government to implement an effective CRS system so that money laundering can be tackled and tax collection can be increased. Implementing such a system would be a cost effective and sustainable way of increasing national income and foreign exchange reserves. It will also multiply and regularise national income more effectively compared to a loan taken from IMF or other similar organisations.”

The TIB ED stated that destination countries or tax heavens for money launderers have also adopted CRS systems and are exchanging information. He said, “The path to free itself from the complexities of international banking systems is within reach for Bangladesh. We call on the government to setup an example of goodwill by implementing the CRS system by overcoming all external pressure, fears, and conflicts of interest to overcome the economic crisis in the short and long-term alongside curbing tax evasion and money laundering. We hope that the government will immediately take international steps alongside amending relevant national laws to implement this.

It is notable that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) practices CRS from 2014 and more than 120 countries including some neighbours of Bangladesh have been monitoring the banking and financial transactions of its citizens through automated systems across the globe since 2017. This has allowed the countries to curb tax evasion in home and abroad, tackle money laundering, identify launderers, and recover assets with accountability.

Attacks on journalists to gag the media: TIB demands a protection law for journalists

Dhaka, 10 August 2022: The recent spate of attacks on journalists while reporting on irregularities and corruption are not isolated incidents, but a continuing trend of the alarming attempt of abusing political power and muzzling the freedom of the press.

The Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based anti-graft watchdog Transparency International made the remarks in a press statement recently, demanding justice for every single incident and a special law to protect journalists.

The TIB press release stated that although immediate action is taken in these cases, the trial process does not see the light of the day in most cases; which calls into question the constitutional and state commitment to ensure the freedom of the media and the protection of journalists.

TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “When the people of the country are facing a multi-faceted crisis due to money laundering and various forms of corruption by influential and power-linked corrupt people, the series of attacks on journalists for uncovering and exposing corruption are by no means isolated incidents.”

“In particular, the brutal attacks on journalists of several television channels and newspapers during the collection of information on corruption and irregularities in various public service providers and financial institutions, including the medical sector, clearly show how ruthless, powerful, and organised the corrupt are! They do not care about any state authority, let alone law enforcement. This reckless behavior proves that they get protection and impunity under the umbrella of some influential circles,” he added.

TIB in its statement said at least 119 journalists suffered various forms of torture from January to July this year. Of them, 38 were attacked while performing their professional duties and 19 were sued for publishing news.

Referring to the Press Freedom Index 2022, at which Bangladesh's position fell by 10 notches to rank 162nd out of 180 countries, the anti-graft watchdog said journalism in Bangladesh is becoming tougher day by day.

To prevent such heinous incidents, TIB called for the effective implementation of eight recommendations of the United Nations' 2018 Universal Periodic Review related to the safety and security of journalists.

Ensuring education and employment for youths necessary to achieve SDGs; TIB's nine recommendations

Dhaka, 12 August 2022: TIB called for ensuring a proper environment for the youth to make use of the workforce in ensuring SDGs and the development of the country.

Marking International Youth Day 2022, TIB in a statement said that one-fifth of the total population is youth and the unemployment rate among them is double, the rate of the national level. Therefore, proposing a nine-point recommendation, TIB stated that ensuring education and employment is a must in achieving SDGs, good governance, and a corruption-free society.

In the statement, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "According to the recently published census, Bangladesh has a great demographic potential due to the young population. However, that potential is entirely dependent on how effectively job opportunities are created, and how this vast young group is trained to become skilled workforces. However, Bangladesh is not in a satisfactory state in this regard as the data of 'The Global Employment Trends for Youth-2022' published by the International Labor Organization (ILO) shows that the youth unemployment rate in Bangladesh is 10.6 percent. Whereas the unemployment rate at the national level is only 4.2 percent."

Expressing disappointment, Dr. Zaman said that during the Coronavirus pandemic the youths were heavily affected, yet no visible and concerted initiatives were taken.

Pointing out the gap between education and employment, Dr. Zaman said, "A recently published survey says that 47 percent of educated people are unemployed in the country. The major reason is that the skills required to join the workforce cannot be acquired with the knowledge gained from formal education. Although this problem is slowly emerging, there is no effort to solve it, which is a matter of grave concern."

He demanded a proper policy and its implementation, allocation of enough budget, and ensuring job-oriented education. Besides, he also mentioned that if the government wants to use the demographic dividend in the real sense, the needs and opinions of the youths must be prioritised in the development plan.

Recommendations:

1. According to the demand of the international labour market, the youth population should be educated and technically skilled in job-oriented education.
2. Education should be ensured through special incentives for financially poor and female students. Special measures should be taken for persons with disability, ethnic minorities, and socially disadvantaged communities.
3. Emphasis should be placed on technical education in addition to the allocation of the education sector as per the recommendations of the United Nations.
4. Employment should be created for the youth through short, medium, and long-term specific plans.
5. Incentives should be provided for young entrepreneurs. Initiatives should be taken to prepare unemployed youth or fresh graduates for alternative careers (e.g.outsourcing, freelancing) through specialized training.

6. The recruitment, examination, and verification of all public and private jobs that are closed should be opened immediately under special measures.
7. The recruitment process for all posts should be corruption-free and equal competition on the basis of merit and qualification has to be ensured.
8. Government should take special initiatives to bring the students back to the classroom who dropped out due to COVID-19.
9. Personal privacy and freedom of expression should be ensured for all citizens, including the youth. Therefore, the necessary radical reform of the law and policy framework should be made.

Ensure living wages for tea workers, not threats: TIB

Dhaka, 16 August 2022: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for determining a reasonable wage through dialogue instead of threats to stop the ongoing peaceful and rightful movement demanding an increment of the wage for tea workers.

This meager daily wage of only Tk.120, along with some facilities, against eight working hours is discriminatory and unconstitutional. Calling upon the tea owners to come out of the colonial mentality, TIB demanded the implementation of the Labour Act for the tea workers and balancing out their wages in tune with the rest of the sectors.

It is customary to renew the wage agreement between the tea workers and the tea garden authorities every two years, although in most cases the wages are decided unilaterally by the tea garden authorities. Therefore, the tea workers have been out of the wage agreement for the past 19 months.

Terming the wage increment by Tk.14 against the daily price hike as mockery, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “According to a completely objective research-based analysis, taking into account all the facilities provided to the tea workers including housing, it can be safely said that the wages of tea workers are the lowest and discriminatory compared to any other sector in the country. But overall, this sector is economically very important.”

He added, “Moreover, so far no one has been able to say with any statistics or data that the tea plantation owners are financially distressed or in such a situation that they are unable to pay fair wages to the workers on whose contribution the tea industry thrives. Rather it is a profitable commercial sector. On the other hand, it is not right to leave the responsibility of ensuring the fair wages and other basic rights and facilities of the tea workers only to the discretion of the owners.”

“Considering the rights of the tea workers as citizens of the country, the relevant ministries should take appropriate steps understanding the rationale of the ongoing lawful movement and take effective steps to determine the reasonable wages acceptable to the tea workers through fair discussions,” he opined.

Dr. Zaman criticised the remarks of the Labour Department Director General for terming the movement, "A violation of the Labour Act". He said this is nothing but showing "solidarity towards a colonial mentality of the tea garden owners".

Besides, he also said that the "minimum wage board" has fixed the minimum wage of other sectors several times higher, but it's entirely the opposite in the case of the tea sector.

He demanded an investigation of those manipulating the minimum wage and violating the Labour Act in favor of the tea owners while denouncing the benefits of the tea workers.

Bangladesh Press Council Act: Disclose its draft amendment and take journalists' opinions, says TIB

Dhaka, 21 August 2022: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for making public the draft amendment to the Bangladesh Press Council Act for the interest of the people.

Also, the anti-graft organization suggested the govt. to take the opinions of the stakeholders, particularly the journalists, and incorporate them in the draft amendment to the act.

In the statement, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "It is one of the prerequisites of a fair democratic process to publish the draft of any law for the public interest and take the views of the stakeholders before finalising and amending it, that is followed in almost all the laws made recently in the country. We've seen that efforts of issuing a draft amendment of the existing law to strengthen the Press Council have been ongoing for several years. But in addition to keeping the draft of this law undisclosed, the press council has also expressed its inability to provide it to the stakeholders, especially the editorial board and various journalist organisations. Since freedom of expression and media, and the well-being of journalists and the press is directly impacted by this law, it is essential to be consulted at every step of the amendment."

"A logical question arises about whether the government is being secretive so as to use the Press Council to control the press, instead of protecting it," he questioned and demanded to disclose the draft amendment to the act.

Release of the draft amendments to the Press Council Act: TIB's statement on Press Council's interpretation

Dhaka, 24 August 2022: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) wants to consider the interpretation of the Press Council as an expression of goodwill regarding the draft amendments to the Bangladesh Press Council Act.

However, according to the statement of the Press Council, the organisation believes that there has been a disruption in the process of ensuring transparency in the law-making as there is no opportunity to evaluate whether the opinions of the stakeholders have been reflected in the final draft amendment approved in principle by the Cabinet Division.

Referring to the earlier press statement of the anti-graft watchdog, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "In response to TIB's press statement, Bangladesh Press Council issued a statement mentioning the time and the progress of the draft amendments to the Press Council Act. In addition, we would like to consider the effort of explanation-- that they had a discussion with the stakeholders including prominent journalists of the country before drafting the press council act-- as an expression of goodwill of the organisation (Bangladesh Press Council)."

Dr. Zaman mentioned that although Bangladesh Press Council had a discussion in 2020 with stakeholders before finalising the draft, the Council did not disclose the draft in the last two and half years. Therefore, it is not clear whether the draft, approved in principle by the Cabinet Division, has the reflection of the opinions of the stakeholder.

"We hope that the Bangladesh Press Council will take the initiative to release the final draft amendment to the stakeholders in public interest immediately before it is tabled in the National Parliament. Besides, we are expecting the proper initiative of the Press Council to ensure that the opinions and recommendations of all stakeholders including journalists and newspapers are properly incorporated in the final draft," Dr. Zaman concluded.

CCC News

CCCs commemorated the Father of the Nation on National Mourning Day

On August 15, 2022, on the occasion of the 47th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's martyrdom and the National Mourning Day, Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCCs), organised various programmes in 45 working areas of the country. These include discussions on Bangabandhu's life and work, rallies, anti-corruption quiz competition, art competition, recitation, essay writing and speech

competitions, video exhibition, display of banners in memory of all the martyrs of August 15, hoisting the national flag half-mast, placing floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu and observance of one minute's silence.

Organised under the theme '**Together Against Corruption**' which echoed the call of Bangabandhu, all these programmes ensured the participation of government officials, local public representatives, brave freedom fighters, teachers and students, representatives of civil society, members of CCC, Active Citizens Group (ACG) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups and TIB staffs.



International Youth Day observed across the country

YES Groups of different CCCs across the country along with Dhaka YES observed International Youth Day on 12 August 2022 aimed to make the young generation aware, encouraged and involved in the anti-corruption social movement. To mark the day different outreach and campaign programmes took place with the participation of students of different colleges and universities. The events included anti-corruption quiz, essay writing, debate competition etc. In these events the speakers and the participants emphasised on the social movement against corruption.



To mark the day, Civic Engagement Division of TIB organised a webinar on 14 August 2022 where YES leader, deputy leaders or representatives of CCC and Dhaka-based 61 YES Groups took part. Dr. Tasnim Jara, Co-Founder of Shahai Health and Physician of Cambridge University Hospitals and Redwan Rony, Film Maker and Chief Operating Officer at OTT platform Chorki were present as speakers. Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman delivered inaugural speech while Ferhana Ferdous, Director of Civic Engagement Division of TIB moderated the webinar.



In addition, YES Group, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University and YES Group, Jahangirnagar University, to mark the day, organised Anti-Corruption Quiz Competitions for the students of different colleges and universities across the country on 12 August, 2022 and 30 August, 2022 respectively. A total of 520 students completed registration and 158 submitted their answer sheet on time.

CCC's Advocacy Meeting with district education authority

CCC, Pirojpur organised an advocacy meeting with the District Education Authority on 24 August 2022 with a view to make the Pirojpur district education system more participatory, accountable and citizen-friendly. District Education Officer Idris Ali Azizi was present in the meeting as chief guest. Professor Abdul Jalil Akon, Convener of CCC's Education Sub-Committee delivered welcome speech. He delivered on TIB's new project



Towards Transparency and Accountability (PACTA) and the formation of Active Citizen Group (ACG) under PACTA. District Education Officer said that the District Education Office is implementing the educational service activities according to the curriculum prepared by the government. If all the citizens especially the parents had a better knowledge about the education services, both supply and delivery of services would have been easier. He thanked TIB and CCC for choosing Pirojpur District Secondary Education Office for the purpose. He further hoped that once the Active Citizen Group has been formed under the PACTA project, the issues related to education services would come to the surface and people would start enjoying the benefits.

Training of the Trainers (ToT) on use of PACTApp held

A day-long training in Barisal was held on 24 August 2022 at ABC Foundation Training Center where 44 CCC and YES members of Barisal, Borguna, Patuakhali, and Jhalakati took part. The inauguration session was presided over by Professor Shah Sajeda, President of CCC, Barisal while CCC's former President and current Member Principal Gazi Zahid Hossain delivered welcome speech. The aim of the training was to conduct practical session to learn how to collect data using PACTApp and simplifying the use of the application software suitable to use on Android mobile. PACTApp, developed by TIB, is an application



software suitable for using in Android mobiles.

Training of the Trainers (ToT) on the use of PACTApp has been successfully completed, in August 2022, in separate 12 batches at different locations including Faridpur, Gazipur, Jamalpur, Rangpur, Jhenaidah, Khulna, Barisal, Cumilla, Chattogram, Rangamati and Sylhet. A total of 422 selected YES and CCC members, comprising 266 males and 156 females, from 41 CCCs, received the ToT, aimed at facilitating training for ACG members about the use of PACTApp.

Editor: Sheikh Manjur-E-Alam

Sub-Editor: Mohammad Tauhidul Islam, Xavier Sku, Kazi Mahdi Amin, Mathews Chiran

Design: Samsuddoha Safayat



Write us: Transparency International Bangladesh

✉ advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org 🌐 www.ti-bangladesh.org 📱 [TIBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh)