

“Bangladesh, with its challenges, can be a development model for African nations”

- 1. Name a nation where 44 percent of people live in extreme poverty, women have an average of 4.5 children, and the per capita income is less than \$500? The answer -- Bangladesh around 1990.**
- 2. Despite its issues, the nation is changing today. The average GDP has multiplied eight-fold. Women typically have two children, which gives parents more money to spend on each child's education, health, and wellness — and more funds for banks to lend to business. Less than half as many individuals now live in absolute poverty, writes David Pilling in an opinion piece for the Financial Times.**
- 3. Women now have much better status. Secondary enrollment is higher for girls than for boys. One in five children died before**

the age of five in 1971, the year the country gained independence. It is now one in thirty.

4. However, one should not overstate. Bangladesh still lives under poverty. Political unrest, environmental dangers, and a high level of corruption are still some of the challenges it faces today. It only approached the IMF this week to request a multibillion-dollar loan. However, if you look at Bangladesh in the long term, which Henry Kissinger once called a "bottomless basket," you will see that it is a development success.
5. Though it is rarely cited as a model for development, it has lessons to teach for many regions of Africa. Although South Korea and Singapore are usually mentioned, no African nation has achieved development on par with them.
6. Bangladesh is a reminder of what is actually feasible and a retort to those who disregard the potential of the entire continent

in favour of past national achievement. Following the end of its Liberation War, the newly independent Bangladesh experienced starvation and political assassinations. This bleak beginning eventually led to some measure of prosperity.

- 7.** This is due to three primary factors, according to Oxford University's Stefan Dercon, a development economist. The first is the textile sector, whose exports increased from \$32 million in 1984 to \$34 billion in 2018. Bangladesh made twice as much money from exporting clothing in 2020 as all 54 African nations put together. The remittances are the second. Last year, \$22 billion was sent home by Bangladeshis working abroad. Third of all, Dercon places non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like BRAC and the Grameen Bank, which act as a safety net and lift some impoverished people out of poverty.

- 8.** Dercon contends in his book *Gambling on Development* that the government had no "grand design" in any of this. Instead, it stayed out of the way. For instance, it abstained from destroying the budding textile industry and allowed NGOs to operate freely. It is true that Bangladesh has expanded by using its own inexpensive labour, often at awful costs. The Rana Plaza catastrophe of 2013 resulted in the death of over 1,000 garment workers. However, every industrialising nation has seen similar horrors, from Britain with its filthy Victorian slums to Japan with its Minamata mercury poisoning catastrophe.
- 9.** The success of Bangladesh's development, according to Charlie Robertson, chief economist at Renaissance Capital, can be attributed to three things. Economists prefer threes. They are electricity, fertility, and literacy. In his book, *"The Time Travelling Economist"*, he makes the case that Bangladesh meets all three requirements for

industrial take-off: adult literacy rates of at least 70 percent, an electrical supply of at least 300 kWh per person, and a fertility rate of no more than three children, says the opinion piece.

10. Many African nations have literacy rates above 70 percent, providing them with a ready-made labour base for factories. But just a few nations can deliver dependable electricity at affordable prices. There is a direct link between family size, household savings, and the accessibility and cost of bank loans for industry. Compared to Nigeria 12%, Bangladesh has a rate of loans to GDP that is 39% higher. Compared to Nigeria's 5.2, it has a fertility rate of 2. Bangladesh is now where South Korea was in 1975, just before it experienced a miracle. Governments that are upright and progressive surely assist. However, Bangladesh demonstrates that there is also a haphazard route to riches.

Sample Summary

Bangladesh was very poor in 1990 with extreme poverty and families with many children. But things changed. The country's economy got much better, and families now have fewer children. More kids go to school, and fewer babies die. Still, Bangladesh has some problems. Recently, it asked for money from the IMF. But if we look back, Bangladesh is a success story based on the textile industry, remittance, and NGOs. Even Africa countries may get some important lessons from Bangladesh. Bangladesh's success came without a big plan; but the government mostly let things happen. Now, Bangladesh is like South Korea in 1975, and it shows that countries can find their own path to success.

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the passage deal with?

The passage mainly deals with Bangladesh's remarkable development journey, particularly highlighting its transition from extreme poverty, high birth rates, and low per capita income in the 1990s to a nation that has experienced significant economic growth, improvements in various socio-economic indicators, and the factors contributing to its development success. It discusses the impact of this growth on the well-being of the population, improvements in the status of women, ongoing challenges, and the factors contributing to Bangladesh's development success. The passage also emphasizes the lessons Bangladesh's development story can offer to other regions, particularly in Africa, and how the country's history, including the Liberation War, has influenced its path to development.

(Please follow class lecture to write this answer)

2. How has Bangladesh's GDP changed over the years, and what impact has it had on the population's well-being?

Bangladesh's GDP has experienced remarkable growth over the years, multiplying by eight-fold. This economic transformation has had a positive impact on the well-being of its population. The increased GDP has translated into

- reduced poverty rates,
- improved access to education and healthcare, and
- enhanced overall living standards.

3. What improvements have been observed in the status of women in Bangladesh, particularly in terms of education and child mortality rates?

Bangladesh has made significant improvements in the status of women. Girls now have higher secondary enrollment rates than boys, **signaling**

progress in gender equality in education. Additionally, child mortality rates have significantly decreased over the years, **indicating improved maternal and child healthcare services and overall well-being.**

4. What are some of the ongoing challenges that Bangladesh faces despite its economic progress?

Despite economic progress, Bangladesh still faces several ongoing challenges, including

- political instability,
- environmental threats (such as flooding and cyclones), and
- a persistent high level of corruption.

These challenges continue to pose obstacles to the country's development efforts.

5. In what ways does Bangladesh serve as an example for development in regions like Africa?

Bangladesh serves as an exemplar for development in regions like Africa by demonstrating that sustained progress can be achieved through a combination of factors; such as

- economic growth,
- investments in education and healthcare, and
- the effective operation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in poverty reduction.

6. How did Bangladesh's history, including the Liberation War, influence its path to development?

Bangladesh's history, including its Liberation War, played a pivotal role in shaping its development route. The unity,

sacrifice and spirit during the liberation war and the subsequent rebuilding efforts influenced the nation's determination to overcome adversity and strive for prosperity. Under the pragmatic leadership of BSMR, Bangladesh started to advance vehemently....

7. What are the three primary factors identified by Stefan Dercon as contributing to Bangladesh's development success?

Oxford University's renowned scholar Stefan Dercon highlights three primary factors that contribute to Bangladesh's development success providing social safety nets and alleviating poverty:

- the significant growth of the textile sector,
- substantial remittances from expatriate workers, and
- the role of NGOs like BRAC and the Grameen Bank.

8. How did the government's approach in Bangladesh differ from a "grand design" for development?

Unlike a planned "grand design" for development, Bangladesh's government took a more laissez-faire/positive approach by allowing industries to grow spontaneously and fostering the operation of NGOs. This approach facilitated economic growth and poverty reduction.....

9. According to Charlie Robertson, what are the three key factors attributed to Bangladesh's development success?

According to Charlie Robertson, three key factors attributed to Bangladesh's development success are

- access to electricity,
- controlled fertility rates, and
- high adult literacy rates.

These factors create a conducive environment for industrialization and economic growth.

10. Write a suitable title of the passage.

(Please follow class lecture to write this answer)

A suitable title may be-

- i. The Bangladeshi Miracle: How a 'Bottomless Basket' Became a Success Story" *Or,*
- ii. "Bangladesh's Development Success: Challenges and Triumphs" *Or,*
- iii. "Lessons from Bangladesh: A Blueprint for Development in Africa" *Or,*
- iv. "From Poverty to Progress: The Bangladeshi Model of Development" *Or,*
- v. "Bangladesh's Development Story: A Case Study in Economic Growth" *Or,*

- vi. "Unraveling the Bangladeshi Miracle: Factors Behind the Nation's Rise" *Or,*
- vii. Bangladesh's Journey from Poverty to Prosperity: A Model of Development"