

The Role of Upazila Parishads in Local Development in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Two Upazila Parishads (2011-2020)

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Abstract: Local government bodies in Bangladesh, especially the Upazila Parishad (UPP), the lowest level of local government, make significant contributions to local development. The primary goal of the study is to ascertain how much of a contribution the UPP makes to Bangladesh's local-level growth. In addition to gathering secondary documents, the study also included the collection of primary data. For this study, interviews with UPP chairmen and government representatives were conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire. In order to gather thoughts on the reality of the UPP's actions in the country's local area development, a semi-structured questionnaire was simultaneously circulated to members of the general public and civil society. A total of 100 people, including the UPP chairmen and government representatives, were picked for this task. Manikganj Sadar Upazila in Manikganj District and Birganj Upazila in Dinajpur District were the research locations. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methodologies were used in this investigation. The study finds that the UPP plays a pivotal role in ensuring the growth of local areas and often allots funds for local-level development, including the improvement of communication, educational institutions, the provision of healthcare services, and the extension of electrical networks for localities in Bangladesh's rural areas. The report concludes by recommending that the UPP be given the necessary financial, human, infrastructure, and resource allocations, as well as the establishment of efficient accountability and transparency procedures, for a proper development initiative in the local communities of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Local Development, Local Government, Upazila Parishad, Bangladesh

1. Introduction

An essential level of Bangladesh's political-administrative nexus, the Upazila Parishad (UPP), exists midway between local and central administration. The UPP Act, which ensures the strengthening of development and other local works, allowed for the reintroduction of the Upazila Parishad, an intermediate tier of a local government body, in 2009. (Selim & Ahmed, 2003, pp. 108–109). Local government in Bangladesh has a long history, which eventually led to the creation of Zila, Upazila, and Union Parishad. The Upazila Parishad concept was introduced by the Local Government (Upazila

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Parishad and Upazila Administration Reorganization) Ordinance 1982. However, it fell apart in 1991. In 1998, the UPP Act of 1998 restored UPP to the system of municipal government.

Policymakers, academics, development practitioners, and researchers have all given the subject of local-level governance a great deal of attention, and it has also taken up a significant amount of space in discussions regarding development and sustainable development. In accordance with the constitution of Bangladesh, elected representative bodies have the authority to create budgets, manage finances, levy taxes, and carry out public service and socioeconomic development programs at all levels of the administrative hierarchy (Bangladesh Constitution, 2008). The UPP Act, which was restored in 2009, also makes sure that local development and other projects are improved (Selim & Ahmed, 2013). Among UPP's duties are handling administrative and organizational concerns, upholding law and order, offering welfare services, and creating and putting into action regional plans for economic and social development. The Parishad's primary duties include formulating five-year development plans; building, mending, and maintaining a connecting road inside the upazila; starting and carrying out modest irrigation projects; generating employment; and starting initiatives to combat poverty. Over the course of the years 2011 to 2020, the Chairman, members, and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of UPP all played diverse roles in the upazila level development process. The purpose of this study is to ascertain what function UPP performs in local development. This study explores and evaluates local residents', elected officials', governmental employees', and members of civil society's opinions on the function of UPP at the Upazila level local development process in Bangladesh.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The primary goal of this study is to ascertain how much of a contribution an upazila parish makes to local development in Bangladesh. However, the research also addresses the following goals:

1. To demonstrate Bangladesh's local government's current setup,
2. To explain how the Upazila Parishad (UPP) works in Bangladesh to provide public services,
3. To evaluate the Upazila Parishad's contribution to local development in Bangladesh, and
4. To find out what locals and members of civil society think about the Upazila Parishad's contribution to local development in Bangladesh.

1.3 History of Local Government Institutions in Bangladesh

Over the years, Bangladesh has experienced a variety of governments, and each one changed how things were done. The nation has experienced six successive regimes since obtaining independence in 1971. It is amazing how important it has been for MPs to participate in local politics under each succeeding dictatorship. The Awami League government made multiple attempts to replace traditional local leadership with the local rank of their party during the first regime (1972–1975). The Bangladeshi government disbanded the Pakistani Union Council system in 1972 and replaced it with Union Panchayats, where members were chosen by government nomination. The "Union Relief Committees" were also created by the administration. Members of two local

organizations known as "Union Panchayats" and "Union Relief Committees," who were essential in distributing relief supplies and carrying out construction and reconstruction work, were chosen by lawmakers and the local party (Rahman, 2012, p. 79). The "district governor" served as the chief executive of Bangladesh's district-level local government administration when the Awami League government later in 1975 developed a structure for supporting local governance.

After the military seized state authority under the second regime (1975–1981), four layers of local administration were established. By the end of 1980, Zia had marginalized the Union Parishads by imposing a new Swanirvor Gram Sarkar structure throughout every village in Bangladesh. MP took charge of the Gram Sarkar coordination committees at the district and thana levels to make sure that the rural area was under control.

General Erashad replaced the Gram Sarkar system, which the Zia administration had imposed and was unpopular, with the Upazila system, which had been formed to oversee local issues due to the lack of MPs, during the later regime (1982–1990). A notable shift in the local government system was started in 1982 with the implementation of the local government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration Reorganization) ordinance. As a result, the Erashad-led government passed the Zila Parishad Act in 1988, which designates MPs to serve as the District Parishads' chairs and serves to coordinate all district-level development efforts (Rahman, 2012, pp. 71–78).

The upazila structure was quickly eliminated by the BNP-led government in 1991, and the Thana Unnayan Samannay Committee was established at the upazila level to function as a coordinating and development body. MPs were appointed advisors to the organizations in the upazilas based on their respective constituencies. However, after regaining control in May 1997, the Awami League established a local government commission that altered the pre-existing structure. The Commission has recommended the establishment of the Gram (Village) Parishad, the Union Parishad, the Thana/Upazila Parishad, and the Zilla Parishad in addition to a four-tier local government structure. In Bangladesh, there are currently two different sorts of local government institutions: one that represents rural areas and one that provides services to metropolitan areas. Three tiers of local administration are typical of hierarchical structures in rural areas. Urban local government is concentrated into two categories: category I, known as the City Corporation, which works for large cities, and category II, known as the Paurashava, or the municipality, for small towns. For instance, UP is at the village level, Upazila Parishad is at the upazila level, and Zila Parishad (ZP) is at the district level (Panday, 2011, pp. 51–52). In Bangladesh, upazila parishad is said to be the most important layer for bolstering local administration. By passing a law designating MPs as advisers to the Upazila Parishads inside their respective constituencies, the Awami League-led government restored the Upazila Parishads in 1998. The Upazila Parishad Act of 1998 was reintroduced by the current Awami League administration.

The central government's burden on service delivery and development initiatives has been significantly reduced, thanks in large part to local governments. It is believed that local government is "a fruitful environment for democracy" (Islam, 2018). Democracy functions best when all individuals, particularly the most disadvantaged, are involved in the political process and have the opportunity to voice concerns and demand answers. The central government in Bangladesh has always been a crucial component of local administration, despite the latter regularly exploiting the former's authority to achieve its

own political objectives. Utilizing local and corresponding committees to their fullest extent is a crucial step in enhancing local government institutions without undermining the executive. Thus, improving local government is a requirement for good governance as well as a crucial element of democracy. Between municipal and central governments, the UPP is a significant level in the political-administrative nexus. More importantly, the UPP acts as a conduit for the implementation of government initiatives between the municipal and federal levels of government. We must talk about local government and its function in the system for delivering national services as we go closer to a general election later December of 2023 that will lead to the establishment of a new central administration the following year.

2. Theoretical Framework: The Relationships between Local Development and Local Government

2.1 Different Dimensions of Development

The idea of development has gone through a tremendous transformation over the course of time. As of right now, it includes things like sustainable development, structural shifts in production processes, technological innovation, social, political, and institutional innovation, and the enhancement of people's living situations. The term "development" refers to a multi-step process that encompasses not only the sociological, psychological, and political components of a society but also the economic sphere. To put it another way, the idea of development ought to be construed in a broad sense and not merely in terms of the concept of economic progress.

The component of human development is a process through which an individual builds self-esteem and becomes more self-confident, self-reliant, cooperative, and tolerant of others by becoming more conscious of the defects in their own character as well as the opportunity for change. (Bukeey, 1993)

In addition, social development includes the investments and services that are provided for the common good of society. These can include things like medical care and facilities, education, water, and electricity, as well as other things. There are monetary considerations to be made in order to guarantee efficient social development (Conyers and Hill, 1990, p. 28).

The political dimension of development is concerned with the distribution of power among various groups or individuals, in particular the power to control or make decisions regarding the use of popular participation in governance and decision-making. Specifically, the political dimension of development is concerned with the distribution of power among various groups or individuals (Conyers and Hill, 1990, p. 29). People also experience a progressive shift over the course of time in which they grow more conscious of their own capabilities as well as the rights and obligations of third parties. To attain a holistic type of development, it is necessary to take into account each of these aspects in their entirety. They are dependent on one another, and the growth of the human race is considered to be the cornerstone upon which all other levels of development are constructed. The political and economic aspects of growth are also seen as important foundations of social progress (Burkey, 1993, p. 38). This research effort focuses on the

economic component and how it is promoted at the local level, despite the fact that various levels of development are interconnected and dependent on one another. This is due to the fact that actions for local development incorporate other crucial aspects of development and solve certain fundamental problems that arise during the process of development, thereby empowering actors who are active in the process.

2.2 Definition of Local Government

The local government in a given area is responsible for a wide range of important services that are provided to the residents and enterprises in that area. Some of them are mostly better than others, such as social care, the development of local roads and schools, housing and planning, and waste collection. There are also some functions that are less well-known, such as licensing, business support, registrar services, and pest treatment. Local government is defined by the United Nations as "a political subdivision of a nation that is constituted by law and has substantial control over local affairs, including the authority to impose taxes or exact labor for prescribed purposes." This definition describes a local government as "a political subdivision of a nation that is constituted by law and has substantial control over local affairs." The governing body of such an institution is chosen through local elections or by some other means (quoted by Sady, 1962, in Khan 2006, p. 58). A local government is also defined as a territorial unit that has defined boundaries, a legal identity, an institutional structure, powers and duties that are outlined in general and special statutes, and a degree of financial and other autonomy. Other definitions of local government include these characteristics: (Hill, 1974). Local government is also defined by Roberts and Benjamin (1996:4) as the authority that is constitutionally empowered to raise and spend money for local purposes and that is responsible for government at the grassroots or local level, particularly on matters that fall within its jurisdiction. Local government is also defined as the authority that is constitutionally empowered to raise and spend money for local purposes.

2.3 Definitions of Development

Growth, progress, and good change are all examples of development, as is the addition of new elements to the physical, economic, environmental, social, and demographic landscapes. The purpose of development is to raise the population's standard of living and quality of life, as well as to generate or extend opportunities for income and employment at the local, regional, and national levels, all while preserving the natural resources of the surrounding environment. Changes in quality are a part of development, as is the process of establishing conditions that will allow such changes to be maintained over time. Development is observable and beneficial, although it is not always immediately evident. However, the meaning of this term shifts depending on the context in which it is articulated. It is thought to incorporate a number of interventions, each with unique content that is specifically connected to the context that is now being discussed. The idea might be construed as signifying a change for the better or an improvement from the previous state (Coetzee and Graaff, 1996, p. 139). According to Kotze, it is a beneficial shift in social norms, economic conditions, and political structures in a nation or society (1997, p. It is also a process through which individuals in society strengthen their potential and institutional capacities to mobilize and manage resources in order to achieve long-term and fairly distributed improvements in their quality of life that are congruent

with their own objectives. This improvement in quality of life is achieved through the process of socioeconomic development (SED) (Koretz and Klaus, 1984, cited in Deyana, 2006, p. 20).

2.4 Local Development

One definition of "local development" is "the process of modifying the local economy and society in order to overcome current difficulties and challenges." This definition captures the essence of what "local development" entails. Its goal is to improve the living conditions of the local community by coordinating the efforts of a variety of local agents, both social and public, with the objective of making the most effective and environmentally responsible use possible of the endogenous resources that are already available. In this method, the importance of social capital and ties of collaboration with external actors in capturing human, monetary, and technological resources aids the local development strategy. This is one of the ways that this approach contributes to the local development strategy.

The expansion of the village's population is the primary component of what is meant by "local development." In general, "local development" refers to both improving the standard of living of village residents and including them in the overall growth of a nation. There is no way to get around the fact that the development of the local community is essential for Bangladesh or any other growing nation.

Each and every one of the definitions that have been examined up to this point incorporates one of the two techniques that were covered before. Local government is defined in this study as all subnational units of government that have legal personality, specified powers to perform certain specified functions, involve effective citizen participation, and have substantial budgeting and staffing autonomy in promoting the development of their area of jurisdiction. This definition is based on the discussion that came before it. Local government is defined as all subnational units of government that have legal personality. As a consequence of this, this definition lays the groundwork for a conversation on the qualities that Olowu identifies as constituting local government (1988).

2.5 Review of the Secondary Documents

In this study, the role of local government in regional development is examined. It always has something to do with development studies and municipal administration. In order to acquire a wider perspective, the study evaluates previous research on local governance and local development in this part.

Mohammad Mohabat Khan's 2011 book, *Local Government in Bangladesh: Some Contemporary Issues and Practices*, drew attention to the practical and legal limitations that prevent local governmental entities from reaching their full potential and carrying out the duties set forth in the constitution. In this book, the author clarified the objectives, procedures, and limitations of the laws governing various local government levels. Kamal Siddique's book, *Towards Good Governance in Bangladesh: Fifty Unpleasant Essays*, was split into five chapters and published in 1996. A quick introduction to

Bangladesh's politics and administration is given in the first chapter. In this chapter, the author describes the nature of the government and its political philosophy. The third part concentrates on personnel issues that affect administration, whereas the second chapter addresses broad issues that impact the entire civil bureaucracy. The relationship in Bangladesh between the civil bureaucracy and local government is discussed in these two chapters. The fourth chapter concentrated on problems peculiar to certain divisions, industries, or organizations. The author covered some of the institutional and financial problems that local governments experience in this chapter, including inadequate training and inadequate budgets. A concluding statement was underlined in the book's last chapter.

A. K. Ahsan (2010) wrote a book titled "Problem of Cooperation in Local Administration in Bangladesh" that concentrated on inter-organizational coordination in Bangladesh at the local level. Inter-departmental coordination, according to the study, "suffers from a number of reasons, such as obvious separation of activities, duality in authority over officers of separate departments, lack of proper functioning of committees, and differing organizational cultures among different cadres." According to the author of this book, informal communication has long been considered a crucial component of ensuring that everyone is on the same page.

Parimal Sarker (2011) wrote a significant report titled The Role of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) in the Coordination Process at Upazila Administration in Bangladesh. It attempted to investigate the UNO's role in the coordination process in the context of local development from the viewpoint of other upazila-based officers working at the upazila level.

He found that there needs to be good coordination between UNO and other upazila-based staff for policies and development programs from the central government to work well at the upazila level.

In a recent article called "Strengthening Local Government and the Effective Role of Upazila Parishads in Bangladesh," the upazila was called the center of rural government. It looked at how the Upazila Parishad functions as the best development organization for fulfilling governmental objectives. Although it is a local government entity with autonomy, it depends on financial aid from the federal government to grow its economy. The responsiveness and accountability of the Parishad to its members are projected to dramatically improve with the implementation of an elected UPP system. But when it comes to development projects, local government in Bangladesh is still in its early stages as a political body.

The Upazila Parishad Act 2009 kept the provision for MPs' role in the Upazila Parishad as advisors and monitors of the various activities of the local government bodies from a distance, just to make sure they adhere to the policies adopted by the Bangladeshi parliament. Mohammad Tarikul Islam's article, "Cooperation or Interference: The MP's Role in Local Government," focused on this provision. The Upazila Parishad Act of 2009 states that as long as an MP is interested in the welfare of the residents of his or her constituency, the job of advisor to local government bodies is not necessarily

incompatible. However, in reality, the "recommendation" of MPs frequently becomes an "executive order" that supersedes and directs the plans and deeds of elected officials at the Upazila Parishad for development.

The goal of an article written by Muhammad Sayadur Rahman and published in 2013 titled "Role of the Members of Parliament in the Local Government of Bangladesh: Views and Perceptions of Grassroots in the Case of Upazila Administration" is to describe the general state of local government, particularly in the context of UPP in Bangladesh. He discusses the contentious academic question of whether MPs ought to contribute to the strengthening of the government. This study conducted fieldwork in eight upazilas in Bangladesh and determined that local government institutions should be reinforced and that MPs have functions in them. Based on the results of this study, the Bangladesh Parliament should put a high priority on local government organizations so that they can be truly effective and efficient institutions at the local level while still following the Constitution's rules.

2.6 A Research Gap

Most books and papers study information from secondary sources. Prior to 2011, the Upazila Parishad's contribution to Bangladesh's local growth was the focus of the scant research that has been done on primary knowledge sources. No comprehensive study of primary sources of information on the conditions behind UPP's role in local development in Bangladesh exists (2011–2020). This study focuses on the role played by the UPP in local development in Bangladesh as well as rural people's perceptions of the role played by elected bodies in this setting. It seems sense to investigate how much the UPP contributes to local-level development in Bangladesh by participating in various activities and development projects since the study clearly fills knowledge gaps.

3. Methodology of the Study

3.1 Data Sources

The study has both a theoretical and an empirical component. In this context, the study has gathered relevant secondary literature and documents for the theoretical part. For secondary literature and documents, the study has primarily used Google Scholar, Scopus, and library searches. Secondary documents on local government and development activities in Bangladesh have been gathered from various books, journals, editorials, commentaries, newspapers, magazines, and policy documents. The study also collected primary data and information from UPP in order to determine their role in local level development in Bangladesh. At the same time, the study gathered views and opinions from chairmen of the Upazila Parishad, public officials, local elites, and members of the general public to get a true picture of the development activities of the local level government bodies in the country. Both qualitative and quantitative data were gathered for the study.

3.2 Methods of Data Collection

Two sets of questionnaires have been used for the study. The first set of questions was used to collect opinions from Upazila Chairmen and public officials about the

development activities initiated by the Upazila Parishad. The study mainly used a key informant interview (KII) technique to find broad opinions about the development activities of the Upazila Parishad. The study has also used an open-ended questionnaire for the KII method. The study's second stage employed a semi-structured questionnaire to interview members of the general public and civil society to ascertain their perspectives on the scope of development activities initiated by the Upazila Parishad. By using an unstructured question set, the study has interviewed local elites and members of civil society, including teachers, religious leaders, retired officers, and businessmen, to cross-check the data. The study has used the interview technique because it helps collect rich information from the participants. The study purposefully chose these participants for interviews in order to gather rich information about the activities and role of Upazila Parishad in local level development in Bangladesh.

3.3 Research Area

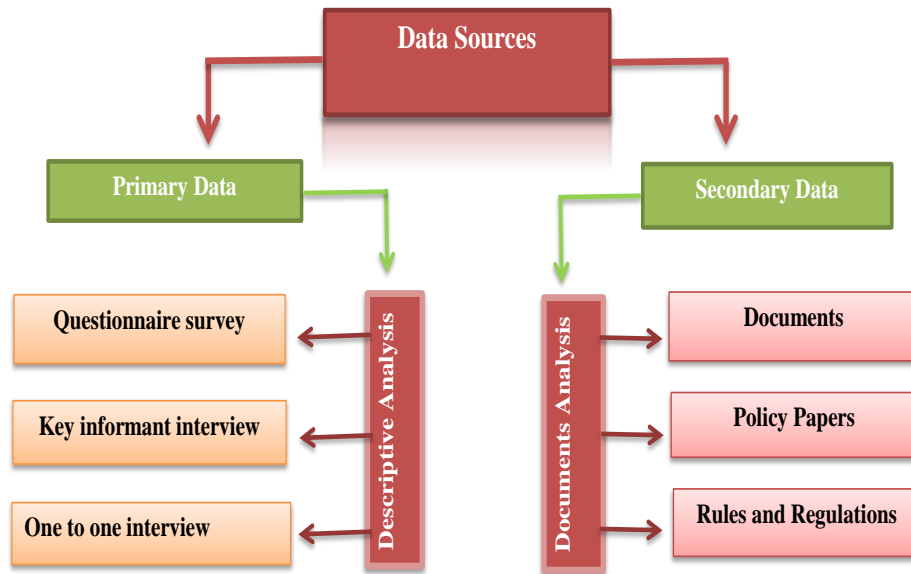
For this study, two research areas were selected. These areas were selected purposefully. I chose these areas on purpose because I wanted to collect information from participants that would be useful for comparing the activities and roles of Upazila Parishad in the development process in Bangladesh. The first is in a semi-urban area, and the second is in a rural area. The study's field was chosen from two upazilas (Manikganj Sadar Upazila in Manikganj district and Birganj Upazila in Dinajpur district). Two research areas were chosen because these may represent both urban (or at least semi-urban) and rural areas.

3.4 Sample Size and Units

Participants in the study include two groups. The study interviewed two upazila chairmen from two areas, and a total of four public officials have been selected for interviews from these areas. The study has interviewed and gathered opinions from two upazila chairmen from two upazilas (e.g., constituencies) and four public officials to find supply-side information about the development activities initiated by the upazila Parishad. The second group, on the other hand, is made up of ordinary people, local elites, and members of civil society. The study interviewed 100 people from these three upazilas to learn about their perspectives on the role of the UPP in local development. Furthermore, the study interviewed ten members of civil society and local elites from these two areas. Civil society members and local elites, including religious leaders and local representatives, should double-check the upazila Parishad's development initiatives.

3.5 Data Analysis

This research employs both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis. This type of data analysis method is a research method that combines quantitative and qualitative data analysis elements. The data were primarily collected in Bengali (Bangladeshis' native language) and transcribed into English for analysis. The quantitative data were presented in tables or figures. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26 was used for the analysis of quantitative data and information. The qualitative interviews were analyzed using a thematic analysis technique. The fieldwork began in early April 2022 and was completed over a two-month period. The following details are about the research methods I have applied for the study:



4. Study Findings

4.1. Quantitative Findings

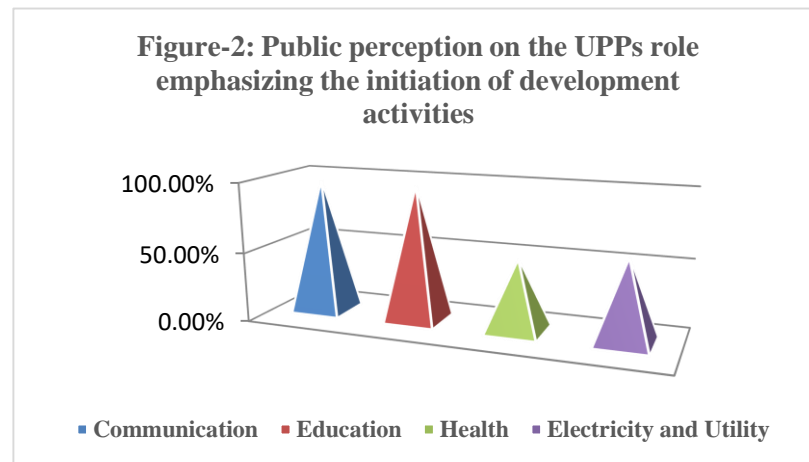
4.1.1 The Role of the UPP in the Development of Local Level

In Bangladesh, the Upazilla Parishad (UPP) plays a vital role in the process of development in its different regions. The UPP is often responsible for distributing resources and kicking off development projects in their respective areas. The public is aware of the activities that UPPs are conducting in their respective localities. The research questioned one hundred people from two Upazilas, and all of those people had some knowledge of the function that UPPs play in the community development process where they live (see Figure 1). The overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that the areas of education, communication, health, electricity, and utility sectors receive the most attention from the UPPs in terms of development. This is followed by other development activities such as the construction of mosques, markets, clubs, and playing fields, amongst other things (see Figure 2).

Figure -1: Public perception of the UPPs' initiatives on a development project

Indicator	Percentage	Respondent
Yes	100.00%	100
No	0.00%	0
No Answer	0.00%	0
Don't Know	0.00%	0
Total	100.00%	100

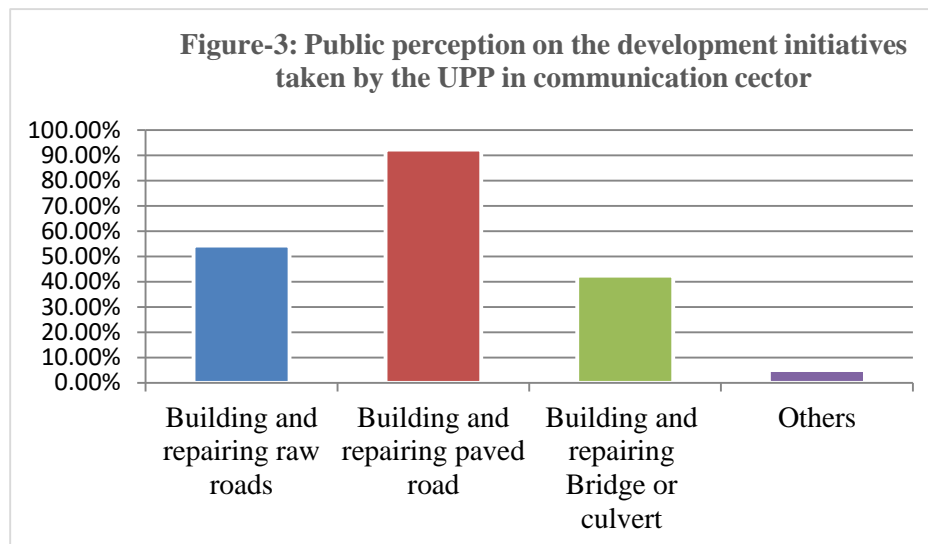
Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022



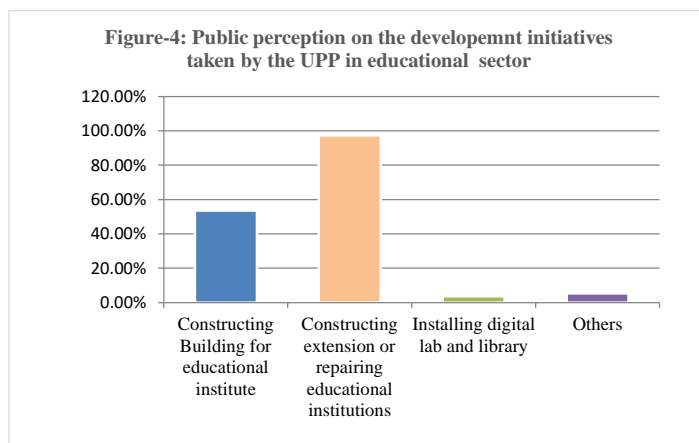
Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

4.1.2. Development Initiatives Taken Activities Initiated by the UPPs in the Development of Communication, Education, Health, and Electrification Sectors

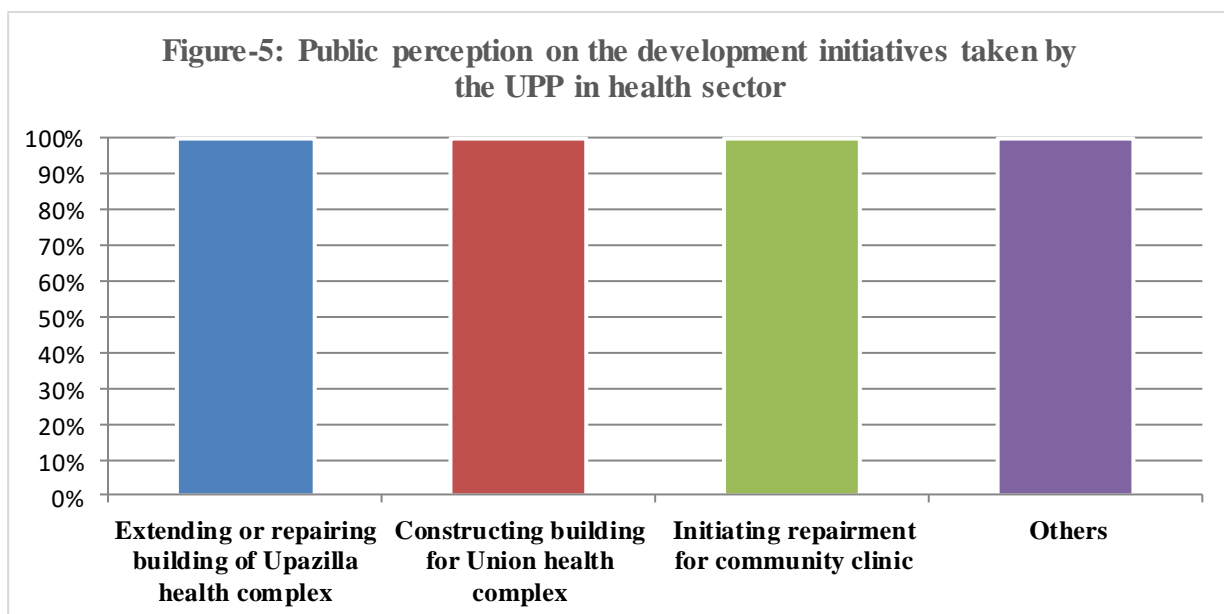
Figure 3 demonstrates that 90.52 percent of respondents think that UPPs primarily operate to enhance transportation and communication in rural Bangladesh. A respectable proportion of people think that MPs ought to be in charge of building bridges, culverts, and roads. Since there are elementary and secondary schools in every Upazila and sub-district in Bangladesh, UPP focuses on building more of them. In rare circumstances, UPPs have madden effort to form new institutions. Many people think that UPP is doing nothing to digitally transform institutions (see Figure 4). However, they frequently carry out different kinds of medical support activities for their constituents, such as organizing a medical camp or bringing in experienced physicians for a short period of time. Work is mostly focused on restoring the Union health complex and neighborhood clinics.



Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

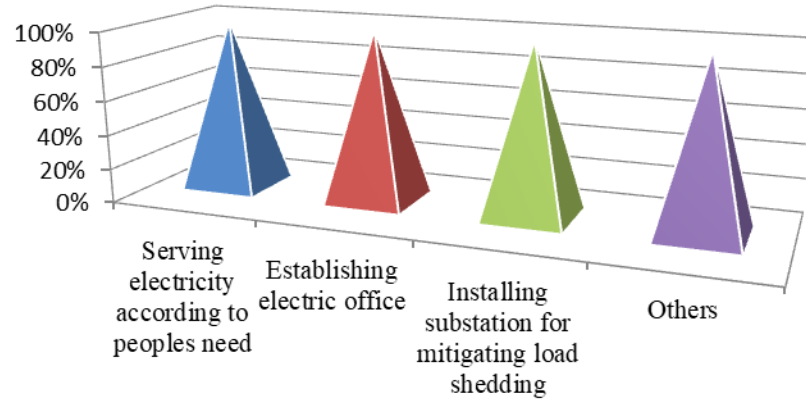


Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022



Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

Figure-6: Public perception on the development initiatives taken by the UPP for electrification

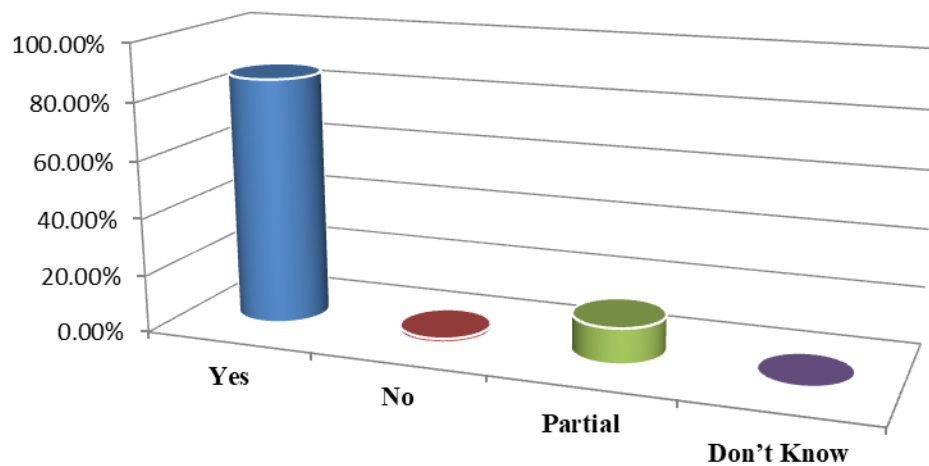


Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

4.1.3 Considering *Public Demands while Undertaking Development Projects*

UPP takes public demands into account when undertaking projects for the development of their constituencies. Figure-7 shows that 80 percent of people believe that the UPPs should consider public demand when starting any development project because it is a good practice to lead a transparent and democratic power practice.

Figure-7: Public perception about the role of the UPPs in considering public demand while initiating projects



Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

4.1.4. Role of the UPPs for the Betterment of the Public in the Economic Development Activities

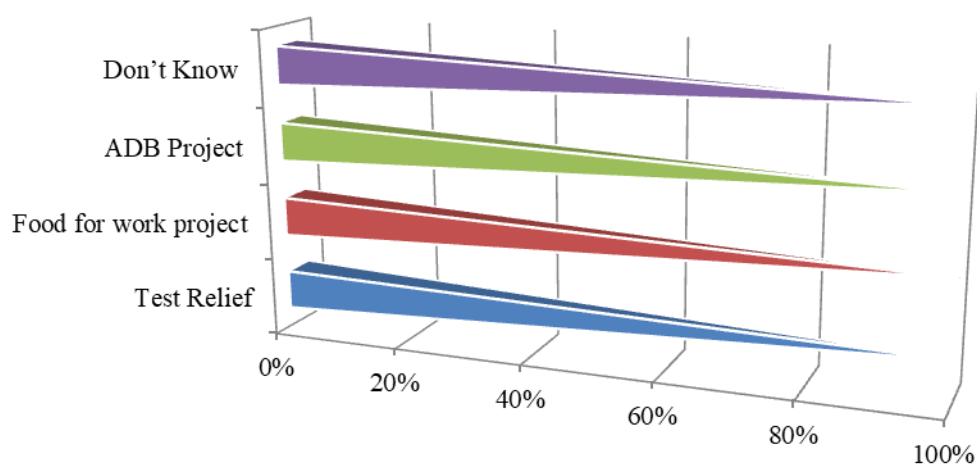
In general, the UPP works to improve the lives of the people in their constituencies. Even though 34 percent of respondents have no idea about development projects underway in their area, 29 percent are aware of them, and 27 percent have no answer (see Figure 8). Figure-9 depicts how respondents perceived the testing relief and food for work projects to be the most popular in terms of economic development for individuals in communities.

Figure-8: Public perception about role of the UPP for the betterment of the public in the economic development activities



Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

Figure-9: Public perception about initiating projects in localities



Source: Authors Field Survey, 2022

4. 2 Qualitative Findings

4.2.1 Role of the Upazila Parishad in the Development of Local Level

The constitution gives the local government the power to spend money on local development. The local government is in charge of running the government at the local level. To put it simply, the Upazila Parishad is an institution that performs an essential part in the procedure of development at the neighborhood level. So, the study's results show how UPP has helped the surrounding community grow. The term "development" refers to an improvement in the status of something and is most commonly applied to "underdeveloped" or "developing" nations. Bangladesh is a country that is considered to be in the third world. To improve Bangladesh's social and economic standing, a development initiative is needed. Some of the most important parts of development are building new roads, bridges, culverts, schools, hospitals, farms, and so on. According to a statement made by the Chairman of an Upazila, "development in rural areas is under the power of the Local Government. However, what I mean is that the UPP acts as the representative of the specific constituency and launches various development initiatives in local areas." This study will primarily concentrate on answering the question, "What kinds of development projects do UPP create in their area in order to undertake the demands of the people who live there?"

According to the findings of this investigation, the activities in development that strengthen local government bodies include projects that were undertaken by the UPP for development initiatives regarding roads, bridges, educational institutes, medical institutes, utility support, and socio-economic structures. The reaction of the people in each of these locations to the activities carried out by the UPP serves as the basis for the evaluation of these programs. The UPP is doing everything it can to improve communication, education, and health care, among other social infrastructures. Even though they also admitted to putting in less time or effort to grow the agriculture sector, which is the third biggest contributor to our country's GDP, this does not change the fact that they did admit this. An Upazila Chairman was quoted as saying that the UPP mostly works to improve communication by building or fixing roads, bridges, culverts, metal and non-metal roads, schools, colleges, and other social sectors as well as a masjid, mondir, club, etc. in our areas. The chairman of the UP also said that their main focus is on structural changes in the area, such as communication and education centers, mosques, madrasahs, markets, and other places that are more visible to the general public. On the other hand, the chairmen said they didn't like how nothing was being done about agriculture and health care in their area. He also noted that while the UPP placed an emphasis on the development of infrastructure, this was due to the demands that were placed on their party and the members of their party. A member of the civil society has conflicting sentiments regarding the function that the UPP plays in the process of local development. In addition, he stated that "the majority of the given monies have not been appropriately utilized, and the development of the local regions has remained a concern for a great number of people. "According to a member of civil society, the UPP is most prominently developing in the educational and transportation sectors. UPP focuses primarily on contributing to the socioeconomic advancement of the surrounding area. As a result of the UPP's distribution of ADB, TR, and food for work to their various Union Parishads, the UPP puts the requirements of the party ahead of the suggestions made by

government authorities. The majority of the time, the initiatives for growth in local regions that are taken by the UPP are spur of the moment, and they are based on the requirements of their party members. Because of this, the general population will likely have less of an impact from these changes."

One member of the public said, "Since the UPP is the autonomous local government body in local areas, its job should be to help local people build a better socioeconomic structure." [Citation needed] I think that UPPs should have the authority and power to give resources and money to specific projects as part of the process of community development. People who were interviewed for the study also said that the UPP should take steps to improve the development of agriculture and education. Residents say that the UPP in their communities has led to a lot of development projects, most of which have been in the areas of communication, transportation, and education. They have said that most of these changes were made because his party members asked for them, which is completely unacceptable. They have built schools, colleges, and Madrasah, as well as paved roads, bridges, and culverts, among other things. However, they have also stated that they have constructed a variety of other things.

The respondents responded that they are aware of the development that is taking place in their neighborhood, but that they are unaware of the process being used or the planning that is going into that project. They also said that the UPP only starts projects that have to do with developing roads, schools, and medical services. They said that the UPP almost never starts projects that have to do with developing agricultural land. People are happy with the role the UPP has played in the growth of communication, education, and other socio-structural changes, according to the results of the survey. People tend to think that UPP doesn't do anything obviously good to help the agricultural industry. After looking at every part of a local development project, it is clear that the UPP gives the most importance to building schools, roads, bridges, culverts, and other drainage systems. The UPPs focus the majority of their efforts on development issues, which gives them something to talk about on a national scale. They also help shape the social structures of the Upazilas to which they belong. But the main thing that determines the priority of projects and how much money is spent on them is what their political parties want. When starting a project, people often don't pay attention to what government officials say or what the public needs.

5. Concluding Remarks

The findings of this study demonstrate how vital and essential the UPP's function as a local government body in the development of local areas is when it comes to initiating and completing projects for local development. The UPP is obligated by the UPP Act of 2009 to provide funds and resources to Bangladesh's rural areas in order to aid in the development of their educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and electrical networks. These development initiatives help the various local government entities in Bangladesh earn trust and confidence, which promotes the consolidation of that level of government there. Local governments that are effective guide both regional and national growth. Local government is where addressing the issues of democratic development must start as a key tenet of a democratic and public service revolution. In order to ensure

that the state isn't a remote, inflexible monster, local governments should seize the chance of increased devolution to implement new methods of service provision. However, it must do so in conjunction with other local and central services. Effective democracy is a requirement for successful governance, and strengthening local government is a crucial component of effective democracy. Democracy only functions when all citizens, even the most marginalized ones, are able to engage in the political process, raise questions, and demand answers. The findings of this study point to the need for the UPP to get additional funding, personnel, infrastructure, and technological advancements, as well as the implementation of efficient systems for accountability and transparency. The people who reside in rural Bangladesh would benefit from this and advance.

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