

Climate change policies and practices in Bangladesh: An investigation on climate change and urban management

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Increasing population living in urban areas is reflected by both the functions and city forms create a distinct climate has a contribution into GHG emission in urban areas. Conversely, changes in climate are likely to have impact on cities situated along rivers, at lower elevations and close to coast are vulnerable to changing rainfall regimes, sea-level rises and storm surges. Two-thirds of Bangladesh, a country of 150 million population density, is less than five meters above sea level and is vulnerable to river and rainwater flooding and tidal flooding during storms. Consequently, most of the cities and towns located along rivers like Dhaka; cities like Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong located at coastal areas and another city like Rajshahi located at severe drought prone area are vulnerable and going to be worst affected with rapid and unplanned urbanization. Although a set of regulatory measures have been developed to manage cities and towns over the years, there is little evidence that climate change issue is incorporated into urban planning and design practice. However, international treaties and pressure make Bangladesh to prepare climate change policies and action plans to address the vulnerability.

This paper focuses the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategies and Action plans, 2009 (BCCSAP) in order to observe that what kinds of adaptation and mitigation strategies are undertaken especially for urban management and what is the current situation in the name practice. Essentially, this objective assesses how these agendas translated to projects/programs in the ground by NGOs/CSOs/government experts, how well each organization facilitates adaption, mitigation and awareness capacities with availability of development fund and its effectiveness. Finally, it draws a conclusion on how NGOs/CSOs/government experts ensure urban management negotiating international treaties on climate change, international pressures, domestic needs and politics. Qualitative research approach is applied for this study using some selected techniques such as: secondary data analysis/ documentary review, and case study analysis.

Keywords:

Climate Change policy, adaptation, Mitigation, Urban management, Planning and design, Bangladesh.

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