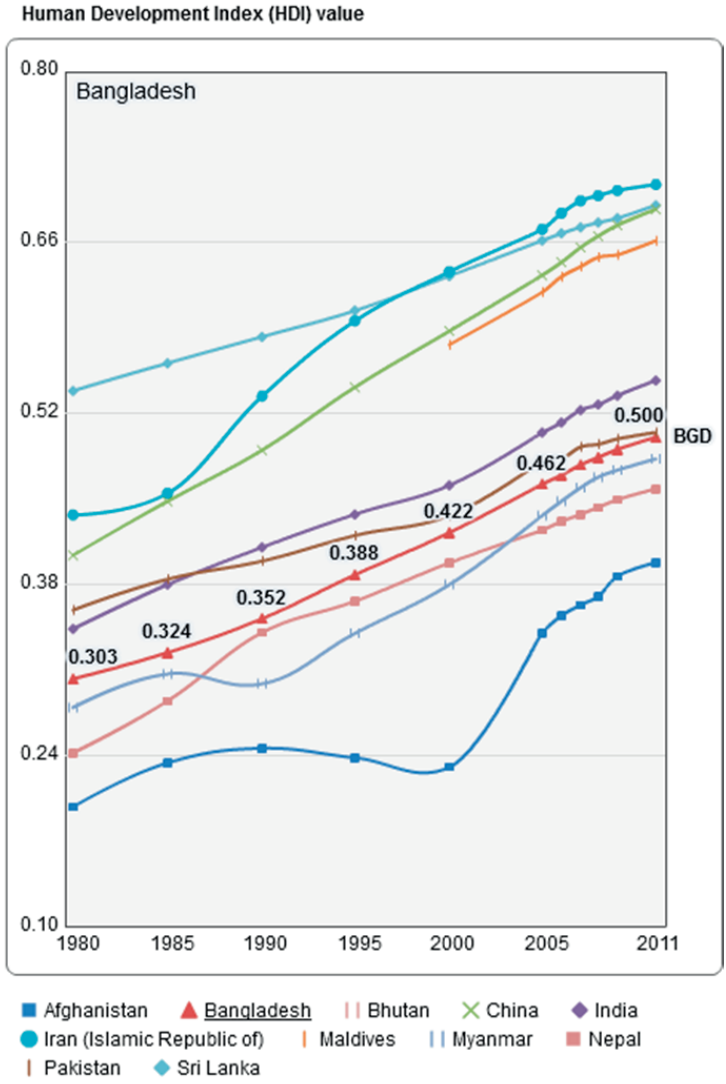


Figure 1



Source: Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/trends>

The multi-dimensional poverty value for Bangladesh is .292 and it sets Bangladesh 146th among the 187 developing countries in HDI ranking (HDR, 2011). The likeliness of death at a relatively early age, which is represented by the probability of not surviving to ages 40, in Ban-

gladesh's case is 11 percent. This probability is the highest in Myanmar, followed by India and Bhutan, to which Nepal and Pakistan show similar rates.

Table 3. Selected indicators of Multi-dimensional Poverty Index of Bangladesh and some countries around.

	HDI rank	Multidimensional Index		Population in multidimensional poverty				Share of multidimensional poor with deprivations in environmental services		Popula- tion below income poverty line
		Year	Value	Head count	Intensity of depriva- tion	Population vulnerable to poverty	Popula- tion in severe poverty	Clean Water	Im- proved sanitation	PPP \$1.25 a day
				(Per- cent)	(Per- cent)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Per- cent)	(Per- cent)	(Per- cent)
Iran	88	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1.5
Sri Lanka	97	2003	0.021	5.3	38.7	14.4	0.6	3.0	2.6	7.0
China	101	2003	0.056	12.5	44.9	6.3	4.5	3.0	7.7	15.9
Maldives	109	2009	0.018	5.2	35.6	4.8	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.5
India	134	2005	0.283	53.7	52.7	16.4	28.6	11.9	48.2	27.5
Bhutan	141	2010	0.119	27.2	43.9	17.2	8.5	2.6	16.9	26.2
Pakistan	145	2007	0.264	49.4	53.0	11.0	27.4	6.9	32.1	22.6
Bangladesh	146	2007	0.292	57.8	50.4	21.2	26.2	2.5	48.2	49.6
Myanmar	149	2000	0.154	31.8	48.3	13.4	9.4	25.2	19.1	....
Nepal	157	2006	0.350	64.7	54.0	15.6	37.1	14.4	56.3	55.1
Afghanistan	172	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

Source: HDR (2011)

Notes: Symbol... Data not available.

The third aspect of the most basic dimensions of deprivation relates to a decent standard of living; in multidimensional poor with deprivations in environmental services its computation includes the measurement of the unweighted average of the percentage of the population without access to clean water. In 2006, Myanmar, Nepal, and India are found to have the highest rates of population without access to improved water supply followed by Sri Lanka, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh featuring at the same level. Pakistan, however, has a higher rate with 6.9 percent than the aforementioned countries of Sri Lanka, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

According to the table, Nepal has the higher percentage of population with 56.3 with improved sanitation followed by Bangladesh and India with each having 48.2 percent. This is followed by Pakistan with 32.1 percents. China consists of 7.7 percent whereas Myanmar has 19.1 percents. Bhutan follows Myanmar closely with 16.9 percents. Sri Lanka and Maldives have the lowest improved sanitation percent with each having 2.6 and 0.4 respectively.

The the highest percentage of mutidimensional poverty by head count is in Nepal followed by Bangladesh, India, Pakistan. Myanmar and Bhutan fall next, with China, Sri Lanka and Maldieves having the lowest percentage in all those places. According to the same table, the population with the highest intensity of deprivation is again Nepal, followed by Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China. Maldives and Sri Lanka have the lowest percentage of deprivation in this region. Next, the population most vulnerable to poverty is Bangladesh, by having 21.2 percents. This is followed by Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. Maldives and China has the lowest percentage of population being vulnerable to poverty.

Lastly, the population that is most severe in poverty is Nepal. This is followed by India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Myanmar and Bhutan have a similar percentage in severe poverty, whereas Srilanka, and Maldieves have the lowest percentage by having percentages below 1.

Table 4. Selected indicators of HDI of Bangladesh and some countries around.

	Adult literacy rates (% ages 15 and older)	Education			Health			GDP Per capita (PPPS)	Public expenditure on education		Total expenditure on health (% of GDP)
		Gross enrolment ratio			Mortality				of	of	
		primary	secondary	tertiary	Under Five (per 1 000 live births)	Adult					
						Female	male				
Iran	85.0	102.8	83.1	36.5	31	90	144	11 558	5.5	5.5	
Sri Lanka	90.6	96.9	87.0	....	15	82	275	4 772	4.0	4.0
China	94.0	112.7	78.2	24.5	19	87	142	6 828	4.6	4.6	
Maldives	98.4	111.0	83.7	....	13	70	97	5 476	8.0	8.0
India	62.8	116.9	60.0	13.5	66	169	250	3 296	4.2	4.2	
Bhutan	52.8	109.1	61.7	6.6	79	194	256	5 113	5.5	5.5	
Pakistan	55.5	85.1	33.1	5.2	87	189	225	2 609	2.6	2.6	
Bangladesh	55.9	95.1	42.3	7.9	52	222	246	1 416	2.0	2.0	
Myanmar	92.0	115.8	53.1	10.7	71	188	275	...	3.4	3.4	
Nepal	59.1	114.9	43.5	5.6	48	159	234	1 155	5.8	5.8	
Afghanistan	....	103.9	43.8	3.6	199	352	440	1 321	7.4	7.4

3.2. Introduction to Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a South Asian country coasting at the north side of the Bay of Bengal. It has a small land mass of 147 570 square kilometres (BBS, 2009), mostly low lying land¹⁸ (mostly at sea level) on the bank of the largest active delta in the world. Its territory is surrounded mostly by India on

18 Chittagong Hill Tracts is the only significant area of hilly terrain, which is one-tenth of the nation's territory.

the north, west and east, and a bit on the southeast by Myanmar (see Figure 2). The Bay of Bengal, which is a gateway to international trade and tariff, fishery industries, sea port, etc., contributes to the economy considerably. However, the natural disasters such as cyclone sandstorms formed in the Bay of Bengal cause huge loss of its resources and people, especially the unprotected and poor on the coastal area. For example, the recent cyclone in 2007 named Sidr, formed in the Bay of Bengal caused heavy damage and casualties of its coastal people and will have long-term effect on the country's already weak economy. Because of its low-lying landscape, the country is flooded every year and the people have experienced many catastrophes in the country's history.

Figure 2. Bangladesh in the map of South Asia.



Source:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:223547,00.html>

democracy enables the people to control the politicians. However, this is not the case for Bangladesh.

3.2.4. Regions

Different studies (for example, World Bank, 2007) found variations of poverty rates significantly across the divisions of Bangladesh for the adults. The findings from this dissertation (see Chapter 5) show similar results. The spatial inequalities in human development are considerable, with the central (Dhaka) and south-western (Khulna) regions doing well since both divisions have some better advantages of better prosperity.

Literature on poverty of Bangladesh shows spatial variations in poverty. However, specific and detailed information on what factors are important for these differences is limited. Some of the issues in this context are addressed in Chapter 5 and Chapter 7 using quantitative method. More research is needed to explore this issue. This section presents some possible reasons for spatial difference of poverty across the administrative divisions of Bangladesh. As mentioned earlier, the new divisions, Sylhet and Rangpur are included in Dhaka and Rajshahi respectively in the empirical analysis; and the discussion on these two are not included separately in the following discussion. The administrative divisions are shown in Figure 3.

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, was founded in the 10th century, and has a long history of being the capital of then Bengal during Mughal period (1600-1700), and served as trading centre for the British, French and Dutch. Dhaka, as per UN estimates, is the fastest growing mega city in the world along with Lagos, Nigeria (World Bank, 2007). Its estimated population is around 12 million, which is about one third of Bangladesh's urban population (see BBS, 2009).

Dhaka division is centrally placed in the map (Figure 3) and the city is the centre of industrial, commercial, cultural, educational and political activities for Bangladesh and has better prosperity. It attracts people from the other parts of the country because of the better job opportunities, living standard, and other facilities of a mega city.

Figure 3. The Map of Bangladesh showing divisions of Bangladesh.



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bangladesh_divisions_english.png

This results in an extra constraint on its economy and makes the lives more difficult for the poor people, including their children, which this city is not prepared to deal with. Among them, a significant number of poor floating populations live on the footpath, railway stations or in slums that deny both them and their children access to a minimum standard of living as they expected before migration.

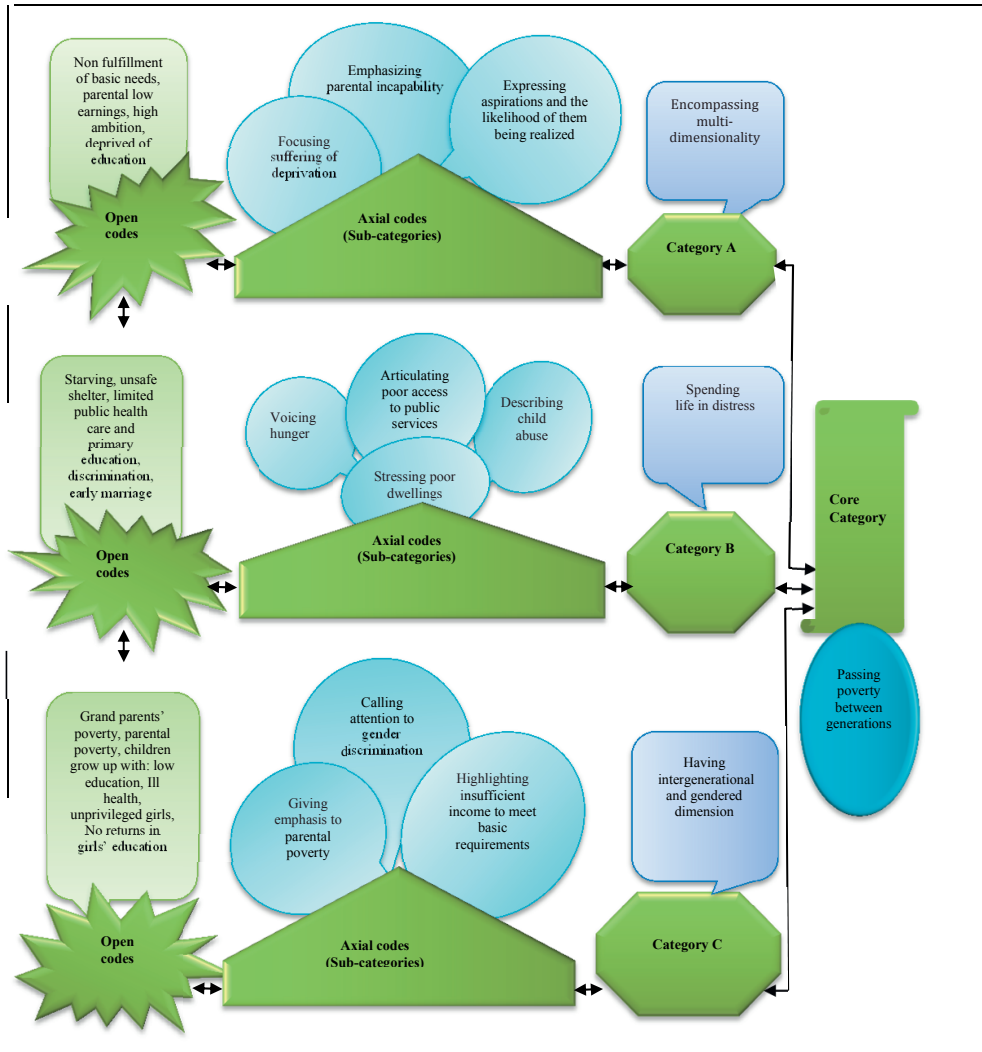
Rajshahi lies on the northern part of the country (see Figure 3), which is comprised of

mission of poverty, as was mentioned by the mothers and the children, though there is no concrete evidence behind this. Child poverty has been found to be transmitted from older generations to younger generations and on to following generations. The discussants indicated that child poverty acts as both a cause in one generation and as a consequence in the next, as child poverty is regenerated in the next generation. For example, as reported above, one child said:

 Their (parents') parents were poor and they couldn't give them an education. That's why our parents are poor. And now, in the same way, they cannot educate us either. They can't educate us due to the lack of money.

Participants' made it clear that the vicious circle (see Figure 7) needs to be broken if child poverty is to be eradicated.

Figure 7. Summary of open codes, axial codes (sub-categories), and core category.

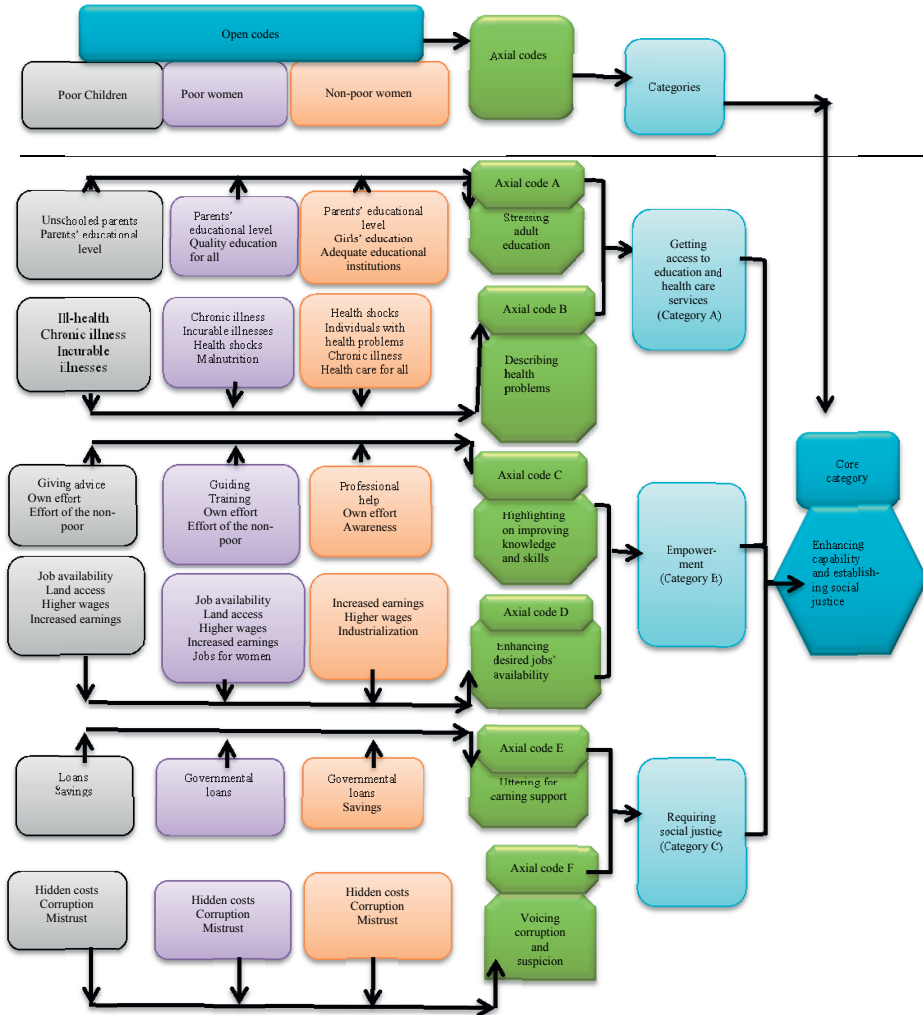


Source: drawn from focus group discussions of children's and women's groups.

8.5. Results

To each of the five focus groups I introduced the same question: “What can be done to alleviate child poverty?” Afterwards, I let the participants develop their thoughts and ideas. In the discussions, one core category, “capability enhancing and social justice”, emerged from the three categories: i) “getting access to education and health care services” (Category A), ii) “empowerment” (Category B), iii) “requiring social justice” (Category C) (Figure 8). These categories were derived from different axial codes, which came to appear while reading through and analysing the transcripts of FGDs. For example, axial codes A and B lead to the formation of Category A (Figure 8). “Stressing adult education”, axial code A was formed from the open codes: “un-schooled parents”, “parents’ educational level”, “quality education for all”, “girls’ education” and “adequate educational institutions”. Figure 8 provides examples of open codes, categories and core category that emerged from the focus group interviews. The extracted open codes from the participants of the FGDs are shown separately for each group in the first, second and third column in Figure 8 under the heading poor children, poor women and non-poor women.

Figure 8. The summary of open codes, categories and core category that emerged from the focus group discussions.



For child poverty reduction, the participants in all groups put emphasis on securing employment at a living wage for the parents in the family. Participants' views show that the impact of education and resource on children's wellbeing is very important, particularly, in reducing