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With a focus on Ethical and Sustainable Business

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Editorial: The War on Civilisation: Illusion and delusion, good and evil and the descent of man

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Historically our great thinkers and philosophers have mostly seen humans as evil, if not by design at least in practice.

In his 1930 book, *Civilizations and its Discontents*, Freud wrote "...men are not gentle creatures, who want to be loved, who at the most can defend themselves if they are attacked; they are, on the contrary, creatures among whose instinctual endowments is to be reckoned a powerful share of aggressiveness (sic)."

Towards the end of his life, Freud became largely disenchanted with the human species and considered us one of the worst types of animals. Of course he witnessed World War I and died just as another major war, World War II, was getting started. Sadly our history shows a never ending parade of brutal war mongers, and greedy merchants.

Hundreds of years before Freud, philosopher Thomas Hobbes had a similarly pessimistic view of humanity and famously wrote that the life of man in his natural state is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Essentially, he believed all men were equally capable of killing, and when two people want the same thing the inevitable outcome is war. In his mind, government and civil society were the only ways to curb the brutishness, yet he admitted even governments and the elite were full of corruption.

Havel, who I have only learned about recently, was a Czech statesman, author, poet, playwright, and former dissident. Havel served as the last president of Czechoslovakia from 1989 until the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Havel's political philosophy was one of anti-consumerism, humanitarianism, environmentalism, civil activism, and direct democracy.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer's political philosophy influenced the progress of the Age of Enlightenment throughout Europe.

According to Rousseau, nature is man's state before being influenced by outside forces. At the same time, he asserts: "If man is left... to his own notions and conduct, he

would certainly turn out the most preposterous of human beings. This creates a conflict between "nature" and "artifice" in attitudes to society, education and religion. The influence of prejudice, authority... would stifle nature in him and substitute nothing."

In other words, human beings need outside intervention to develop their propensity for good and it is obvious, evil. "We are born weak, we have need of help, we are born destitute... we have need of assistance; we are born stupid, we have need of understanding."

Man needs to work with nature, not against it. Rousseau says, in his treatise, that man is discontented with anything in its natural state and claims that everything degenerates in his hand... "...he mutilates his dogs, his horses and his slaves; he defaces, he confounds."

Prophet Muhammad said Muslims are warned in the Quran to be on guard against greed. A Muslim should not save and hoard great sums of money, but should distribute it to those who are in need of it.

Jesus was said to have thrown the money lenders and traders out of the temple and said

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:25)

What they witnessed, we witness today with arguably most countries of the world being overtaken by the greedy rich who "own nearly everything" and those 'ruled' by some ruthless psychopathic monster who has amassed inordinate wealth and power and who wants to take out his anger and feelings of rejection and worthlessness on humanity generally. Particularly he wants to murder those in his own country who never bowed and deferred to him until he had amassed inordinate power and a brutal repressive regime. The current global examples can be seen everywhere and the reason they get away with it is they have no conscience about rape, mass murder and genocide. This is allowed to happen because of the evil men surrounding the 'tin Hitlers', jumping to their bidding and, in non-dictatorial states, because of mass delusion and inability to discern fact from fiction. These are the hallmarks of dictatorships and 'failed states'.

Lao-Tzu believed in spiritual immortality, in which your soul does not die, but instead, becomes one with the universe after death. The chi (or qi) is the energy that guides the universe, and he believed that we should exist in harmony.

John Locke strongly believed in all persons' rights to life, liberty, and property, and refuted the divine right of kings. He also believed that if a ruler does not adhere to individuals' rights, the people had the right to remove the king by force. First and foremost, he believed that a government's duty is to exist for the people.

Sadly our current dictators suppress their own people violently and aspire to do that to all humanity.. Confucius, a philosopher from China who lived from 770 – 481 BCE, believed in living life around ethical and moral social standards. He is remembered for wanting to make education available to all and established teaching as an actual career. (It looks like the University of the People and Confucius have something in common: they both believe in making education accessible for all).

He also established Confucianism, which is a school of belief revolving around personal ethics and morality. The four main principles of Confucianism are referred to as his ethics. They include: justice, beneficence, non-maleficence, and respect for autonomy. His five constant virtues that are most referred to are benevolence, righteousness, trustworthiness, propriety, and wisdom.

Even early in life, people show distaste for rule-breakers and wrongdoers. Past research has shown that children, at certain ages, will refuse to help or will even shun someone who's behaved badly. "As young as three months, babies are showing these preferences for pro-social over antisocial characters," says Arber Tasimi, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale. But a recent study by Tasimi, published in the journal *Cognition*, found that children, even babies will abandon those principles if the payoff's good enough. Children don't just parallel adults in their recognition of moral and amoral behaviour they're also like us, it seems, in their willingness to become more morally flexible for the right price.

The religions, in their pure beginnings also recognised the fallibility of man and tried to find principles of living that embrace the ideals. But, and sadly, many have become tools of men to secure their own advantages.

So many 'philosophers' have come and gone and spoken their wisdom – sadly most people see that as 'an intellectual exercise' and not as the very means of mutual survival – which it is.

These philosophical treatises were all written as a gift to humankind to take their eyes and minds off the contemporary, the selfie and self-worship and to open their eyes and look around them. These days the dealers of avarice, greed and political monopoly use the self-worship of

humans against them. They work on the premise that it is better for them not to have people open their eyes and their minds. It is the reason for fake news as a political ploy to influence those of low intelligence.

Education is something we have always valued. We want to pass on our knowledge to the next generation and for them to build on that knowledge. It is the mark of man and was our path to eternity. The modern day propaganda merchants try hard to counter that and prey on the global population and teach them selfishness and self-worship to be able to continue to profit from human weaknesses, those with frail minds and frail egos.

Studies have shown approximately 90% of humans cannot tell fact from fiction. But when we look at race relations and gender relations, pseudoscience, various political systems and beliefs, it is so obvious.

It comes as no surprise that none of the dictators and despots through the eras have been remembered for their great minds, words or deeds, or their great thoughts; theirs is a horror story, merely proof of the evil within humanity.

The latest thinking in academic astrophysics shows 'we' creatures made of light and electricity (atoms) are 'time-space'. We know so little - we do not even know or see what 95% of the universe is. We call it dark matter and dark energy. I have 'moved through time and space' and dared not even discuss it but quantum physics shows most likely I see 'reality'. Prof Rob Lanza's book *Bio-centrism* offers clues. Our bodies may disintegrate but our minds belong elsewhere. I suspect the answer to this is in the duality (wave/particle) of sub atomic matter. We are (potentially) both here and somewhere else in the universe. We always will be.

A civilised and a caring humanity holds a 'promise' for all but it also requires respect for and protection of all life. The Buddhists got that right. Respect for all life forms who are literally our brothers and sisters, is respect for us. It is all in the genetics and we can all be traced back genetically to early life. Indeed we are all the same self-reproducing organism that has lived relatively safely until these last moments of our collective lives.

When our brothers and sisters die, we all die. That is what life is – an interdependent organism feeding and helping each other. But humans kill other species and their own for the love of murder and their own egos. They think killing a wild animal (or another human) shows their mark, their mettle, when in reality they are just unbelievably brainless cruel brutes..

So here we all stand (crawl) close to the end of time with the monsters blindly trying to grab every last bit for themselves. **They say 'this is the new world order' – they are wrong, this is the end of everything.**

Rape, torture, murder and theft is not a 'new world order' – it is the same brutal, disgusting order humans have lived under since man could pick up a large rock and bash it over the head of another man.

And they know they are wrong in all they say and do, they are just trying to find justification for, and satisfaction from, their evil. They know it is a lie. This is the end.

Arch Capitalists along with the endless parade of brutal dictators also do their best to rape and destroy our planet and all who walk upon it. They do it at the altar of personal wealth and power. Such wealth can buy them the same altar the dictators worship at. When I started working and earned my own money I wondered how much we all needed to give so that everyone on the planet would have the basics – food, healthcare and shelter.

I did those sums over months and it was, as I recall, (what I and all working people would have to give per month) \$243 Australian. So easy to do, so easy for all of us to do, and while charities have done and do their best we all have it in our power to make this place a paradise. It used to be a paradise but we all wantonly destroyed it.

It is not because of their ideology, or racism, or politics that we have to rein in the evil idiots – it is for them as well. No-one will die as hollow and alone as the human monsters. **Their lives are sad and have no value. They secretly want to die. But they want everyone else to die along with them and for no-one to be able to live after they go.**

Humans will never as a whole become 'good'. All we can do is educate people and build modern civil societies that try to rescue and care for those who fall prey to misfortune or ill health or crime and whose circumstances have them fall through the cracks.

It is an amazing universe out there and we all have a job to do here. Sadly, very few work for life itself. Maybe most don't have the capacity to look after themselves let alone the planetary ecosystem they are part of.

The average human suffers from an unrealistic sense of their own importance and an unrealistic sense of optimism. Self-delusion may be a 'survival mechanism' of hu-

mans but you don't see other life forms suffering from such delusion. Most have a very good take on what is real and what is not. They treasure their females and protect their young.

My purpose in writing this is not to condemn everyone on the state of humanity. It is too late for that. My purpose is and always has been to try and save all life on earth and lift us from our self-imposed death sentence and to ease the burdens of life through peace and parity. Our current situation is in great danger of ceasing for evermore due to greed and cruelty. These are human 'qualities' alone. There will be no great book saying weren't those humans wise and decent creatures - we will be the failure the universe will learn from.

We delude ourselves and run in circles trying to avoid the truth. **Maybe that is how we survive but it only works for one man/one generation. We are not thinking ahead.**

Diversions and false platitudes and short sightedness have us spiralling into oblivion and, more sadly, taking the rest of life with us.

And the simple truth is all other life can exist without us, but not us without them.

We need to choose a different reality. It is within us to do that. I suspect we cannot see it as our hearts and minds are in the wrong place.

Many of the billions of decent people around the world may be insulted by the premise that humans are evil (OR tend to be evil when society seems to condone it) and it is insulting to me as well, but if we look around the world at the moment or any time during our appalling history on this planet, – then yes, the philosophers words ring true. We have made so many advances in science and engineering but we haven't made any advance in the critical area of planetary survival. Rather we tend to deliberately avoid it and it has resulted in a planetary crisis, one we are still avoiding - aided and abetted of course by the right wing press, with their pockets lined by the wealthy status quo, and along with the propaganda of the dictatorships.

Some women and children have been raped and enslaved by some men forever, and domestic violence is the scourge of human society. When some human 'alpha males' are humiliated by a stronger male, then they turn around, to subjugate those around them.

Is sexual selection part of the problem?

Is the fatal flaw in the very nature of life? – sexual selection and the dominant/alpha male has led to male seals so large they crush their females and babies, along with psychopaths and mad dictators in the human world. They are all abominations. **If we look at sexual selection and the triumph of the alpha male it only delivers in the physical brawn department; it does not make us more intelligent, wiser, more decent, and empathetic or any quality other than brute force and lack of empathy for all others. In fact you can call it devolution.**

Of course we cannot change our physical properties but we can change our mental acuity and our 'heart'.

Life on earth started as fractals which just needed sunlight to grow and fractal life gave back to the planet – indeed it was their good work that current humans are destroying for 'personal wealth' – well what they see as 'wealth' (and numbers of life forms killed, tortured, raped and enslaved).

Certainly many of the anthropologists and philosophers throughout history regarded humans as 'the evil ape' – evil seems to be our speciality. Other species fight to protect their females and offspring and their habitats.

The wealthiest 1 percent of the world's population now owns more than half of the world's wealth, according to a Credit Suisse report.

It is because of these so called 'people' that children starve and die of treatable illness, that the planet is being raped lifeless.

The War on Civilisation

In this time when the barbarians are intent on destroying life along with the planet on which life resides, we need to document what went wrong, as because time does not exist the barbarians will be condemned by the universe eternally, by their own deeds and lack thereof.

Can stars weep? They are the generators and authors of life. I think they can and they must when considering the failed human experiment and its endless cruelty.

What the ancients called heaven and hell, or karma – we now see is written in the mathematics of quantum physics; it is written in the spaces between the stars, those places we cannot see and some will never see.

Not that the rest of us get all things right – most of us are learning and trying within the confines of our own

egos and abilities. While we have come a long way with 'tool making' and see the value of education we have not come so far when it comes to decency, respect, empathy, compassion, wisdom and good governance, which we claim as the 'values of civilisation'. The modern civil democratic societies are the best we have at this stage in our collective downfall.

And of course all the tin Hitler dictators would be less dangerous if there were not millions of evil (or stupid) men to do their killing, torturing and raping – **we are now in the classic fight of good vs evil on planet earth** – no need to avert your attention to video games – we have a real game to play now, in living colour, and there are real consequences.

It is mainly the young protesting and working to save our earthly home; the young who will inherit the earth – sorry, who will inherit nothing.

Seems we'll have died out before we reach our potential and a full understanding of who and what we are and our place in the universe.

Herman Hesse in the *Glass Bead Game* (1943) (read it and be shocked by its accuracy) wrote about this time which he called The Age of The Feuilletons.

They were people obsessed with their own image and reading trivia and gossip about each other and trying to star in their own self-made fantasy of their own perceived greatness. Yes, they are a sad joke but that is not how they see it – they are willing slaves to their own delusion and illusion, their own debasement and ridicule. Hesse's is such an accurate description of our current bathos.

John Wyndham, a science fiction great, also wrote accurately about the future in *Pawley's Peephole* about a future where the squalid pastimes of the masses of people were fascinated by anything they think is dirty or rude and they travelled around in space-time to spy on the private affairs of other people. The pornography tours of the quantum era. Maybe the brains of these great authors were not confined either.

One of the saddest indictments of current life on earth is our treatment of women and children – women are the true heroes of the planet; the forbearance of far too many women who have had to endure so much to survive and have their children survive. The *Grapes of Wrath* (John Steinbeck) was all about the endurance of women. Today far too many men prey on women and deny them their human rights. The most enslaved group on the planet are women and children – those who should have been protected first.

Death is easy - having to stay here and fight for life and the planet is hard- and so many are currently fighting for the planet and life from the Amazon to the ocean depths. They are not doing it for money or personal glory - they are doing it for you and for us and our planet. And they are ridiculed for their efforts by people who know they are right.

Paradise lost - the descent of man

The lineage of life on earth is the most astounding story - we are living breathing universe that has taken eons to bring us to this point- we were born in the stars, themselves created from cosmic clouds and which when hot and dense enough 'switched on' and eventually manufactured carbon in their internal furnaces. Carbon the basis of life on this planet at least, has the aptitude to form molecules with all other atomic matter until life as we know it developed here when these carbon molecules learned to self-replicate and on this planet became timid birds and beautiful flowers, cheeky possums, magnificent animals, creatures that could live under water and fill all habitats and eventually (much later) humans.

But life on this planet has been brought down from its path to universal glory. Seemingly here, life is a failed process. Evil seems to be embodied in some life forms. Not the evil that means you have to kill and eat others to survive, but deliberately destructive evil.

Medically, the psychopathology of the dictators of the world is the worst kind of serial killer - the criminally insane, who in another era may have all been kept away from society in secure asylums. Now they are free to destroy the world and are doing just that, along with genocide, mass rape, mass torture, and mass murder - the list of their insane depravities is endless.

So with what looks like a fatal flaw in the cosmic design of the human, what can good men, women and children do with millions of tonnes of weaponry being pointed at all of us from various locations around the world.

Certainly when the evil ones have used up or destroyed all the food stocks in their destroyed world they will eat us all - there is no depth to which some men will not sink. That is evident around us every day.

The good men of the planet have no power - they are the good fathers, the farmers and the doctors, and that rare thing, a decent politician trying to bring civilisation to their countries.

We can wait for evil men to 'see the light' and the sheer stupidity of their pathetic grossness and turn toward

good, or a kinder option for the planet and all life forms would be for all women and girls to show the planet mercy and kill ourselves - then we can let the evil and ignorant feast off our carcasses until we all become extinct.

(...yes, this is satire a la the intelligent Johnathan Swift but truth is often embdded in satire)

This is the true story, the only story of man currently written in the universe.

This was the true test of man - to continue the path of life in the universe and to play our part in the great and grand scheme of time and space.

But we do have people to give us hope, independent and brave people, the real heros of society who are unbowed by the criticism and ridicule and denial from their fellow humans.

Some humans don't refuse to open their hearts and minds to anything that does not benefit them personally.

Gustavo Francisco Petro Urrego ODB ODSC is a Colombian economist, politician, and former guerrilla fighter who is the current president of Colombia since 2022. He defeated Rodolfo Hernández Suárez in the second round of the 2022 Colombian presidential election on 19 June.

The Colombian president attacks the world's "addiction to power and money" and calls for end to war on drugs

The Colombian president slams destruction of Amazon rainforest in his first UNGA speech

"The climate disaster is full of viruses which are working to overcome us, but you are turning even medicine into business and vaccines into merchandise."

Inside the UN assembly hall, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres echoed protesters' calls for climate action, kicking off the day of speeches with a warning that the planet is burning and global action to stop it still halting and uncoordinated.

The UN chief says that the world must better tackle the climate crisis and end its "suicidal war against nature"

During his remarks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the world must end its "suicidal war against nature."

He said that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed by 45% by 2030 to have “any hope of reaching net zero by 2050.” The UN chief noted that presently “emissions are going up at record levels – on course to a 14% increase this decade.”

“We have a rendezvous with climate disaster,” Guterres said, adding that **“Planet Earth is a victim of scorched-earth policies.”**

“The past year has brought us Europe’s worst heatwave since the Middle Ages. Megadrought in China, the United States and beyond. Famine stalking the Horn of Africa. One million species at risk of extinction. No region is untouched,” Guterres said.

He continued: “And we ain’t seen nothing yet. The hottest summers of today may be the coolest summers of tomorrow.”

Bravo to one good man. The rest need to be more active. We can only die trying and that is our lot anyway.

Demographic Change vs Quality of Life in China: A Sociological Appraisal

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Abstract

Demographic change in any country highly affects its population. China with a current population of about 1.436 billion adopted various policies to balance its population with quality of life including daily livelihood and food per person per day. It adopted industrialization to be able to reach a higher income to maintain its quality of life and facilitate feeding its population. Though China has made increasing policies, yet it is confronting 200 million villagers migrating to cities for urban jobs and the like. China tried to halve its births between 1930-1966. Since 1979 China declared a one-child policy in order to better administer its population vs quality of life.

Keywords: Population growth and quality of life. Population control. Socio-economic modernization of China. Migration in China. Sociology.

Introduction

In its first report on April 28, 2011, China's State Bureau of Statistics reported that China's 2010 census was 1.339 billion. In China, as in other countries, the census takes place every 10 years. The statistics and information obtained from the census in China are very decisive and play an important role in the industrial and agricultural plans and programs of that country. Although China has the largest population in the world, regular censuses are held every 10 years. Realizing the results of the census, the planning machine in that country follows the development plans according to the needs in urban and rural areas in a principled and statistical manner. Thus, compared to other Third World countries, China's population statistics are always systematic and principled in seeking to improve the quality of life of its people. The census data, while comparing many of the obtained indicators with the indicators of previous censuses, also makes it possible to compare and evaluate the demographic indicators of different provinces and urban and rural areas.

Sociologically speaking, quantity of population widely affects quality of life everywhere, especially in China with an immense population of different castes and classes in rural and urban areas. China has made various decisions in different eras to organize its population according to its possessions and policies. The country made unprecedented population before modern technology of family planning was discovered. China had a huge population before its industrial development. Therefore, it is too hard for China to promote its human capital when sufficient infrastructure is not available. Besides, China became aware of its population when it was too late to control it. But, though too late to control, yet progressive policies have highly helped. China's population in 2022 was estimated 1.436.6 billion with 8 births per 1,000 population 7 deaths per 1,000 population, projected population of 1,410 billion in mid 2035 and 1,322.5 in mid 2050, T.F.R. of 1.2 children, and life expectancy of 78 years for both sexes (WPDS, 2022).

Method of Research

Methodology used in the present article is of qualitative type, in that, various paradigms have been used to find the facts regarding democratic change and QOL during history. Qualitative research usually studies people, events or areas in their natural settings. In finding facts for the research, the researcher engaged in careful data collection and thoughtful analysis of what was relevant. In the documentary research applied for the present research, printed and written materials were widely regarded. The research was performed as a qualitative library-type in which the researcher had to refer to the relevant and related sources. In the current research, various documents were thoroughly investigated, and the needful inferences were made. The data fed by the investigator in the present article is hopefully reliable. Though literature on democratic change and QOL is very limited, yet the author tried to investigate many different resources in order to elicit the necessary information to build up the text.

Environment and Migration

The subject of environment and immigration was first taught as a course in the International Affairs Department of the University of Paris. This was the first of its kind to examine the complex relationships between environmental change and migration flows. The start of this course at that university has led many researchers to research and analyze the two topics of environment and migration. Because environmental change has inevitably occurred in recent decades, migration has acted as a safety valve, and has helped many people achieve better status by migrating. Natural disasters, violence, environmental degradation and the like, lead to the relationship between the environment and migration, and are subsequently the subject of analysis in this field. As the human population is scattered in different parts of the world today, this has caused the environment to face various dangers and threats in many cases. The mentioned conditions have provided the ground for migration as much as possible. In general, the issue of environment and migration has attracted the attention of many demographic, social and economic thinkers. Finally, increasing global awareness is recognized as a vital dimension of environmental protection (Macionis: 1997), and it itself plays a major role in balancing the environment and migration.

Population growth and quality of life

China's average annual population growth rate for the past 10 years is 57 percent, according to the report. It is important to keep population growth at this level, over a 10-year period. This has led to a slow and limited increase in China's population. In contrast, following the decline in average population growth in China, living standards have always been on the rise. Following such conditions, personal, social and economic health has improved. At the same time, various natural and human resources are well preserved, so that future generations will not face a shortage of resources in that country. The example of China in other societies should also be considered, and population policies should be developed and implemented accordingly. Under such circumstances, communities can achieve welfare, economic health and social security. Adopting progressive demographic policies has led to an unprecedented rise in life

expectancy in China; the highest is 79 years in Shanghai and the lowest is 69 years in Tibet. This increase in population is due to the improvement of the quality of life in that country. Likewise, declining fertility improves education, increases women's participation in the workforce, improves health and nutrition patterns, each in turn improving quality of life indicators (Dyson: 2010). According to forecasts, the absolute number of elderly people in China will reach 200 million in 2050, and 300 million in 2100. It is a phenomenon that itself requires comprehensive quality of life planning (Zhai: 2010; Zeng: 2007; Wang: 2011).

During this period, the share of the population (10-14 years) has decreased from 22.9% in 2000 to 16.6% in 2010 in China. The decline in the population under the age of 15 in this country has taken place on the basis of careful and well-considered planning, that is, a stream that has been pre-targeted. China has been looking to reduce its birth rate since 1979. In this way, while solving many problems, it can also solve the employment problem. Thus, during 10 years (2000-2010) the young population in this country has decreased by nearly 0.5 percent. This demographic change has brought with it many welfare facilities, health of life, better nutrition facilities and so on. This trend has been introduced and accepted as part of public culture. Reforming the age structure of its young population also affects other age groups; that is, those who are in adulthood also enjoy these benefits. Demographic reform in China has attracted the attention of many other developing countries. Therefore, any improvement in socio-economic conditions and quality of life is itself subject to demographic reform.

Also, during the same period, the share of the elderly population aged 65 and over has increased from 7% to 8.9%. Demographic indicators are thus interrelated; that is, as the young population decreases, so does the elderly population. Therefore, demographic planners must always consider the various dimensions of demographic change. Thus, demographic studies are recognized as a prerequisite for any development program in countries. China today pursues economic growth in a regular and calculated manner by changing the age structure of its population. During the first 10 years of the 21st century, economic growth in that country fluctuated between 8 and 11 percent annually. This move will have an unprecedented impact on the quality of life of different sections of that society.

Of China's displaced population (2000-2010), about 220 million villagers have moved to urban areas to live and work without being officially registered as urban households. Population pressure itself causes many cases of social, economic, statistical and other disorders. A society like that in China, which has been very serious in terms of registration statistics, has faced many challenges following the increase in immigration during the first 10 years of the 21st century. Therefore, for any balanced economic development in countries, the existence of a system of registration statistics is very necessary and a prerequisite. Among developing countries, China is ahead of other developing countries in terms of registration statistics and job creation in terms of manpower. Therefore, in order to achieve their economic and social development goals, less developed countries should always prioritize registration statistics in their programs.

China today is in a phase of demographic change; that is, it is changing from a rural to an urban community with the goal of a higher quality of life. Improving economic conditions and rising gross national product (GNP) have made the Chinese people enjoy the "population gain" over the past 30 years; That is, they have a higher quality of life (Lewis: 2008). Likewise, that country is evolving from a young society to an elderly one. Because of such developments; that is, demographic and social changes are inevitable for countries, planning systems must always consider the proportions of population, economic proportions, proper use (exploitation) of resources and the like. It is noteworthy that these stages, which are taking place in China today, occurred in the first decades of the twentieth century in industrialized countries. Likewise, this change may occur in the coming years for many less developed countries. What is important is to benefit from the experiences of countries that have gone through these stages.

A preliminary report on China's 2010 census indicates an increase in the country's urbanization ratio; that means more than 665 million people, or about 50% of China's urban population. Thus, in the 10 years from 2000 to 2010, approximately 20% was added to China's urban population. As a result, the Chinese government has placed a lot of emphasis on immigration information in its last census in 2010. The increase in migration, followed by the expansion of urban areas, brings with it many needs related to employment, housing, transportation, food supply, and the like. Therefore, countries (Third World countries) today should be more careful about the spread of urbanization within their communities. This means that population density in urban areas also carries with it many economic, social and cultural complexities. This means that compared to 2000, urbanization in China has increased by about 13%. It is noteworthy that many villagers have also moved from smaller rural areas to larger rural areas that are also more prosperous. Information about China should also be considered by other developing countries. Following their economic and industrial development, countries are generally aware of this phenomenon (migration). In 2010, nearly 260 million people in China lived outside the pre-registered areas. It is also worth noting that is despite the very strict and regular registration system in China; that is, the registration of all people in urban and rural areas. In other words, about 260 million people have announced that they are employed in new places. This situation generally occurs in other countries as well, as they do not have a precise registration system similar to that of China. Therefore, less developed countries have to prepare for many of the challenges and contradictions of migration and displacement in the coming years.

Under such policies, the Chinese government has not been able to achieve its desired population growth rate. This prompted the Chinese government to reconsider its demographic policies; in such a way that it can achieve its economic and industrial development goals. As a result, Chinese leaders reaffirmed that rapid population growth was hampering the country's economic, industrial, and social development, and their interest in birth control was rekindled. Thus, with the change of many policies, China in the following years was able to pursue policies in which the population in urban and

rural areas and between different social classes is limited and controlled. Based on such policies, many economic and socio-cultural development plans and policies were implemented in that society, the results of which are rapid economic growth and improving the quality of life in that country.

Population Control

At the beginning and after the events of 1949, Chinese leaders believed that population growth was a tool for China itself, and soon the rapid results of this growing population became apparent. In 1956, many opportunities were provided to the Chinese Ministry of Public Health to begin efforts to control the population, but these efforts had little effect on fertility. As a result, Chinese leaders reaffirmed that rapid population growth was hampering the country's development and quality of life, and their interest in population control was revived. In the 1960s, the privileges of delaying marriage became stronger in the minds of Chinese leaders. Following this mindset, birth control was established in 1964 in many government offices. In this way, China provided the first steps and the necessary groundwork for birth control; initially, the urban population reduced its fertility rate to an unprecedented rate. Such measures also provided the basis for economic development and progress in that country. It is noteworthy that China's demographic, economic and social planning has been used by many governments today as a model of progress. China's declining fertility rate has led to greater prosperity and per capita income, and thus improved quality of life among its citizens.

This struggle was especially successful in urban areas, and subsequently the birth rate was halved between 1966 and 1980. This change in the structure and fertility of Chinese families has led the government and the planning system to find more investment opportunities in the economic sector. Thus, as fertility declines, countries have more opportunities to implement their economic development programs. Otherwise, a large portion of the nations' wealth would have to be spent on food, education, housing, etc. for the rising fertility index.

Between 1972-1973, the Chinese government mobilized its resources for a national birth control campaign. While the one-child policy in China was announced and implemented in 1979, the necessary groundwork had to be laid before that. By mobilizing its resources in urban and rural areas, and by institutionalizing its birth control policies, the Chinese government was able to create the necessary preparedness among its vast population. Thus, in a serious and continuous form, the national policy of birth control in that country expanded as much as possible. In contrast, other demographic and economic indicators in this country took a positive trend. For example, the life expectancy index of men and women increased, and in contrast to employment opportunities, education, public health, and so on, it also increased. Thus, a great change took place in the demographic, economic and social structure of China, which will affect future generations. It is noteworthy that gender imbalance at birth in China due to sexual preference and sex-selective abortions over the past 30 years has paradoxically hampered the quality of life of young people 20 and older in terms of choosing a spouse and marriage (Li: 2007).

Committees were also set up to oversee birth control activities at the level of various organizations in China. The establishment of such committees was merely to limit births between urban and rural families. It is also worth noting that in the 1960s and 1970s, most of China's population lived in rural areas, and thus the literacy rate was negligible. Therefore, the generalization of birth control was to a large extent a challenging and complex task at the time. As a result, oversight committees generally monitored how birth control policies worked.

This effective and extensive network covered the urban and rural population throughout the country. In this way, to some extent, urban and rural families more or less acquired the necessary grounds to control births. While in urban areas the advancement of these policies was somewhat easier, the rural population was more resilient. At the same time, with the introduction of population policies, as well as the pursuit of continuous monitoring, some birth control was achieved in that country.

In urban areas, public safety headquarters included population control units, and in rural areas, barefoot physicians were responsible for distributing information and prevention tools to council members. As urban areas had more and easier facilities for transmitting information, the public security headquarters undertook this mission. While the rural areas, which were generally more numerous, and very scattered, received the services needed for family planning and birth control only through barefoot physicians (physicians who had undergone intensive and short periods of training), the Chinese government made such efforts. They explained the use of family planning programs to all citizens; that is, the contexts that led to more serious family planning policies in later years.

In 1973, Chinese leader Mao Zedong became aware of the family planning movement in China, and subsequently made a greater commitment to it under his leadership. Hence, Mao himself made a significant contribution to China's demographic reform. In order to advance economic goals, provide food for all, improve the quality of life, and promote health and public education, China had to adopt new demographic policies; that is, the context that led to more economic policies.

After Mao's death in 1976, China's leadership system showed little interest in population control, and was largely hesitant about the fact that population control was a necessity for economic growth and well-being. This situation continued for some time in that society, and thus many previous population plans and programs were suspended. By the mid-1970s, urban families in China had a two-child norm, and in rural areas a three- to four-child norm. As a result, living standards in China's urban and rural areas remained low. It is noteworthy that at that time China continued to be largely based on an agricultural economy. As a result, many per capita and wages in that country were low. From 1979 onwards, the government announced a one-child policy in urban and rural areas, allowing families with a maximum of two children only in special cases. According to this policy, China's demographic and consequently economic and social situation changed so that families with one child found more economic, medical, health

and other opportunities. Also, following the limitation of the number of children in urban and rural families, the opportunity to access education was provided more than ever in the past. Thus, following the one-child policy in China, a kind of industrial-economic revolution emerged in that society, which is still going on. During this transformation, the economic, social, and demographic situation of Chinese citizens changed dramatically. Today, the country has the second highest gross domestic product (GDP) in the world after the United States, that means more than (\$ 5.87 trillion) annually. This economic situation has provided an unprecedented opportunity for Chinese citizens in various fields, that is, with economic, social and cultural facilities different from any time in the past.

The overall goal of this policy was to ensure that China's population did not exceed 1.2 billion by 2000, which in turn promoted and expanded public education. By pursuing population policies in that country, China has largely prevented a small increase in population, and in return has paved the way for a qualitative improvement in its population. In recent years, there has been an unprecedented improvement in the quality of public education in that community, that is, a phenomenon that has further strengthened the economic development of that society. Therefore, by pursuing population contraction policies, the chances of economic improvement and quality of life in a society are provided.

Table 1: China population forecast between 2100-2020

Year	Population
2020	1.387 billion people
2030	1.393 billion people
2040	1.360 billion people
2050	1.295 billion people
2060	1.211 billion people
2070	1.125 billion people
2080	1.045 billion people
2090	984 million people
2100	941 million people

Source Science: 2011

According to the table above, China's population will decrease from 1.387 billion to 941 million over the next 80 years; that is, almost a quarter of the country's current population is declining quantitatively. This in itself contributes to economic development, greater utilization of per capita income (medical, educational, income, food, housing, etc.). Therefore, based on the data in the table above, China has pursued its population policies in a planned and calculated manner over the last 30 years; which is decisive in improving quality of life indicators. In other words, during demographic reforms, socio-economic reforms also took place in parallel, that is, circumstances that affected the situation of individuals and families as a whole. Thus, many items per capita, such as per capita gross national product (income), per capita food, per capita health facilities and the like, improved and increased in some way. In the language of sociology, a set of such reforms is called modernization. However, the less developed countries of the African continent, like China, have not been able to implement the flow of modernization in their countries for the past three decades, or in other words, have not achieved such a situation. Therefore, the population factor itself can play a decisive role in economic and social reforms in any society.

While the demographic factor has played a role in China's socio-economic modernization, other factors such as educational advancement, improving the status of women, and the like have also played a major role in this movement (modernization). Thus, following the decline in the fertility rate in that community, more educational investment was possible, and

consequently women were given the opportunity for more social and economic participation. The set of mentioned trends has led to the modernization of the society in question. It is also worth mentioning that following the acquisition of new patterns in the coming years, other newer forms and patterns will be replaced; that is, what is conceptually called development in economics and sociology.

Reducing the total fertility rate (TFR) from about 2.2 children per woman in many of China's central provinces to less than 1 child in some cities, such as Shanghai and Beijing, has led to varying levels of socio-economic development in that country. Some regions of China that have not easily followed demographic policies have similarly lower socio-economic development; Like parts of western China, eastern China, including Shanghai, which has embraced more demographic reforms, has similarly higher levels of socio-economic development and a higher quality of life. At the same time, more elderly people live in those areas. The increase in old age, following the transformation of the population of China, has made the quality of life of this population problematic. While China in 2010 had a population of 118.8 million people aged 65 and over, the age group in that country was estimated at 100.45 million in 2000. More developed lands with more economic, commercial and industrial attractions generally provide the basis for more urbanization. For example, China, which has been at the forefront of industrial and economic development over the past three decades compared to many other societies, has also seen an unprecedented expansion of its urbanization ratio.

The level of urbanization in China was very low before the 1980s, and relatively little industrial and economic development was reported in those areas. However, following the industrial-economic leap from the 1980s onwards, the urbanization ratio has been declared unprecedented and somewhat uncontrollable by the authorities of that country. The 2010 census confirms this claim. By the late 1970s, only 20% of the country's population lived in urban areas, up from more than 45% in 2009. The process of industrial-economic development of China requires that in the coming years more population be added to the urban population. Therefore, other societies should also be prepared that following industrial and economic development, the expansion of urbanization in such societies is inevitable.

Socio-economic modernisation of China

China's socio-economic modernization has been largely based on the plans and administrative system of that country, and has been based primarily on the adoption of a one-child policy in urban areas of the country (Gu: 2007). The population factor or in other words, the decrease in its fertility index gave this society more opportunities to make more investments in various social, economic, educational, civil, industrial and similar sectors.

The process of urbanization has been on the rise since the beginning of China's economic reforms in the early 1980s. In other words, today about half of China's population lives in 655 cities and more than 20,000 towns. What has given rise to urbanization in China is the country's industrial and economic development. The spread of urbanization in that country itself has led to many disorders caused by environmental pollution, the clash of cultures and many class conflicts. China, meanwhile, has high authority to oversee the expansion of cities in that country.

At the same time, between 2000 and 2010, China's urban areas attracted more than 15 million newcomers each year, mostly employed in the industrial and manufacturing sectors; That is, between 2000 and 2010, there were nearly two hundred million cases of population displacement in that country. This means that, according to the sources of the 2010 census in that country, unregistered persons (citizens) were obtained at their place of residence at the time of the census. In general, despite the social, cultural and economic advantages that urbanization brings with it, many negative cases such as environmental pollution, social pollution, anti-social behaviors, etc. occur from it.

Between 2010 and 2000, China's urban areas attracted more than 15 million newcomers each year, mostly employed in the industrial and manufacturing sectors. While China has an exceptional industrial position among developing countries, and has generally been able to use immigrants in the manufacturing sector, other developing countries are not in such a position; that is, new entrants to new urban areas do not find work and employment easily, and as a result, while not using their abilities and skills, in uncertain conditions, it itself provides the ground for many problems and disorders in urban areas.

Economic and industrial attractions in cities, despite the existence of a very strong and serious registration system of that country, between nearly 2000-2010 have attracted nearly two hundred million people (Note: 2010). The implementation of serious demographic policies in places such as Shanghai, Beijing and other parts of the country has led to a greater proportion of immigrants entering these areas (Shen: 2007). The experiences of countries such as China, as far as population and urban planning are concerned, should be used by other communities as well. It is also crucial for the development of urban spaces, the development of progressive population policies, and the redistribution of population for developing countries.

Rural-to-urban migration as a labor force greatly reduces the gap between rural and urban incomes. This means that the significant gap between urban and rural incomes has been recognized as the most important factor in the expansion of urbanization in China in recent years. Not only China, but many other developing societies today face this challenge; That is, a significant gap in income and, consequently, the difference in quality of life in rural and urban areas. According to research, industrialized countries have minimized this income gap as far as rural and urban areas are concerned. Therefore, China and other less developed countries must reduce the gap between urban and rural incomes in their communities if they are to maintain their environmental health, as well as to cope with high urban population density. While this problem has emerged in China today, it will become more widespread and severe in the coming years; That is, what endangers the urban environment more than anything else. While in the past this type of immigration was opposed in China, but following the industrial-economic development of that country, today many laws have been amended, and with recent tolerance by the government, recent immigration has been dealt with. The need for more manpower in workshops and industrial and service facilities has led the Chinese government to ignore many cases of unregistered rural-urban migration between 2000 and 2010. However, its negative and environmental effects can now be observed and evaluated. This phenomenon will have more environmental-social effects in the coming years. In a way, it will largely neutralize the progress and achievements of the economic development of that country.

At the same time, there is a kind of regional inequality in immigration in China. There is less migration in western China, which is more impoverished, while in the eastern parts of China, due to the existing industrial and economic development, there are more incentives to migrate in that region. Because eastern China has enjoyed greater economic prosperity over the past decades due to its vast coastline, and has been more involved in manufacturing, industrial, and commercial trade, it has enjoyed a higher social and economic status. As a result, more immigrants are generally seen in the eastern parts of the country. Western China, meanwhile, is underdeveloped due to its mountainous terrain and lack of access to beaches and open waters. As a result there is less urbanization and a lower quality of life in these areas.

Conclusion

The article reaches the conclusion that any population change affects quality of life. That is why countries especially the industrial ones began to control their population growth rate in order to have better quality of life. Such an action results in higher life expectancy, especially for women. Population change results in lowering of mortality in various forms and for different age groups. If population is uncontrolled and increased, it is difficult to then stop/ lower it. Now two nations of China and India are in that status. Large countries comprised of various cultures and minorities find it hard to tackle their population size. Number of population makes problems from cradle to grave. Now-a-days many countries are involved with their increasing old population who cannot work, but need care, feeding and nursing in their old age. With the medicines available, people are getting the life chance for many more years. Rural to urban migration as a labor force greatly reduces the gap between rural and urban incomes.

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Contribution of the establishment of Uttara Export Processing Zones to the Social Development of the Nilphamari District and Surrounding Areas in Bangladesh

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Abstract

The study's primary methodology was descriptive research in nature. Structured surveys and secondary data were used to obtain data from the Uttara EPZ. Export processing zones (EPZs) in Bangladesh are crucial for luring foreign direct investment and enticing domestic investment, both of which help raise the nation's overall export volume and foreign exchange revenues. One of the most successful and well-known investment firms among the eight EPZs in the nation, Uttara EPZ (UEPZ), has developed a model to draw both FDI and local investment to strengthen the national economy. The Uttara Export Processing Zone provides a framework for transforming Uttaranians' livelihoods. Although there was a sizable labor population in the area, they spent the majority of the year unemployed due to a lack of economic activity and productive jobs. Such a scene is uncommon in most places today. Currently, Uttara EPZ is regarded as a center for producing a wide range of goods and as one of the most alluring locations for investments. The Nilphamari district and its surrounding areas now have better economic and social conditions. A healthy and effective workforce, resulted in increased exports with a value of USD 1101.27 million, with investments of over USD 190.02 million, and a sizable workforce of roughly 34,088 individuals. The study's findings demonstrate that the Uttara EPZ has the potential to both directly and indirectly alter local residents' way of life.

Key words: Uttara EPZ, Social development, Nilphamari, Surrounding areas

Introduction

Present-day world economic competition, and export advancement is perceived as a significant strategy as a means of promoting economic growth in developing nations. The governments of those countries are therefore taking a variety of steps to promote export appeal. As a strategic means of attaining this vision, the perception of export processing zones (EPZs) has expanded significantly in recent years. The EPZ is a common institution and obviously it is the relationship between national economy, technology and available resources for sustainable development in a particular state. Thus, the impact of EPZs in promoting trade across countries has attracted renewed interest recently. Most of the countries have started the concept of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) as a means of advancing the commercial area's economic and social growth (Cirera, & Lakshman, 2014). It is perceived that the investment by the government and multinational companies would immensely accelerate the number of jobs and opportunities (Madani, 2003). It is also believed that investment from them could not only accelerate management skills, but also knowledge and technology for the welfare of human beings by means of improving domestic organizations (Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2011). Therefore, most of the Bangladeshi EPZs have been successfully operated as an efficient and rapid means in order to accelerate development and industrialization of the particular region especially as regards income, employment, health, education, accommodation, poverty, mobility, sustainability and leisure time (Fakir, A.A, Miah, S.M & Hossain, 2017). Since special economic zones have become widespread, this combination of success of nations allows us to induce significant instructions (Razzaque, M.A., Khondker, B.H. and Eusuf, A., 2018). According to (Farole & Akinci, 2011), instructions on how to draw attention to business organizations that generate job opportunities and

employment scopes; how to confirm sustainability from social, environmental, and economic perceptions; how to enable positive externalities, as well as advancement of structural transformation catalyze economic improvements in socio-economic development of Uttara EPZ (Doeleman, 2018). The EPZ is a geographical or economic outpost where goods can be imported, manufactured, and reshipped while customs officials reduce fees or intervene as little as possible (Van Assche & Van Biesebeek, 2018). The Open-Door Policy evolved in China's trading system in the late 19th and early 20th centuries so that it was also completely open to the rest of the globe (Serols, 2021). An economic indicator is a statistic about an economic condition. Economic indicators allow economic performance analysis and future performance forecasts (Monkbot, 2020). The influence of EPZs on the national economy in a study conducted by Islam (2018) found that the EPZs play a significant role for the foreign revenues of that country by facilitating exports, foreign direct investment, and job growth. Gibbon et al. (2008) have assessed the effects of export processing zones and identified suitable actions to aid in the development of EPZ in a few chosen nations. The research revealed EPZ's output is focused on per capita investments, per capita exports and investment exports and regional exports, the share of imported inputs in established production, infrastructural growth changes and productivity (Manghnani, 2020). Madani (1999) discusses the role of the EPZs in promoting the export of diverse products in terms of the effect of the economic enclaves on Bangladesh's national economy (Madani, 1990). The role that EPZs play in FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) attraction and education, banking, insurance, logistics, and shipping was founded by Bhattacharya et al. (2002) (Bhattacharya et al. 2002). Islam and Siengthai (2009) also found a similar result emphasizing the contribution by the Government of Bangladesh of liberalized export policy to keep pace with the World Trade Organization's rules and regulations (Islam and Siengthai, 2009). The EPZ's producers produce a wide range of toys, coffins, various leather goods and fashion bags, computer printers, carnival goods, wigs and fashion hair, paper cartoons, optical frames, and sunglasses in addition to conventional goods.

Its establishment has had a significant impact on the social development of the Nilphamari district and the neighboring surroundings. In Bangladesh, there are many EPZs, including the Uttara EPZ. Uttara Export Processing Zone is a great example of a region's changing lifestyle. When the decision to establish Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari Sadar Upazila under Nilphamari district, in the northern region of the country shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, was made, the area was falling behind the rest of the country. There were plenty of personnel in this region, but they were unemployed for the majority of the year due to a lack of constructive employment and economic activity.

However, after setting up Uttara EPZ, the situation began to alter. The EPZ has transformed a once-poverty-stricken area into a thriving industrial hub. People who were once poor began to rise out of poverty as a result of job opportunities in the Uttara EPZ. Additionally, the government's investment-friendly policies entice both domestic and foreign companies to invest in this region. As a result, the Uttara EPZ has been thriving in every manner, including the volume of exports, the amount of investment, and the creation of jobs.

The key attractions of investing in Uttara EPZ are the reduced rates of land and factory construction, the extended tax holiday facility, and the availability of easily trainable personnel. Connectivity by rail, road, and air has been offered as a bonus for investors. Additionally, the government's investment-friendly laws encourage participation in this zone by both domestic and foreign investors. Along with traditional commodities, the EPZ's manufacturers make a variety of toys, coffins, various leather goods and fashion bags, computer printers, carnival items, wigs and fashion hair, paper cartoons, optical frames, and sunglasses, among other things. Uttara EPZ is now regarded as a center for generating diverse products and one of the most attractive investment destinations.

The goal of establishing Uttara EPZ is for it to significantly advance Bangladesh's economy. The goal of Uttara EPZ is to strengthen Bangladesh's economic foundation through the promotion of investment, industrialization, employment creation in export processing zones, and the development of skilled labor.

Problem statement

Although the effect of EPZs on the national economy has been highlighted in various studies, no literature exists on finding the direct influence of export and investment on Bangladesh's GDP growth (Rosenberg, 2005). In order to close this gap, this study examines how these economic enclaves affect economic growth. The acute shortage of skilled human resources, public perception, stakeholder involvement, public-private partnerships, funding, climatic factors, quality of governance, incentive programs, infrastructure facilities, etc., are some of the major challenges faced by emerging/developing nations like Bangladesh in socio-economic development (Rahman & Others, 2018). In light of this, this study aims to present an overview of the effects of improving export processing through quality governance (Showgat Jahan Shourave, 2020), incentive programs, infrastructure improvements, and a zone system based on advanced technology in Bangladesh in order to identify the situation, obstacles, opportunities, and technologies suitable for Bangladesh. The study's methodology is based on the gathering, synthesis, and evaluation of information from published research papers and policy reports about investments, present workforce quality and management, good governance, and its potential in the area. Additionally, it is important to highlight the most significant policies in social development of EPZ as well as Uttara EPZ in relation to the influence of export processing strategy as well as the parallels and discrepancies between the policies.

Identification of the Problem

Numerous studies have been carried out covering a number of aspects related to export processing strategy in Bangladesh, such as characterization and factor of good governance, incentive packages, and infrastructure facilities. To ascertain the effect of the export processing zone on the national economy, a few studies have been carried out (Nazneen Islam, 2018; Shagufta Shaheen, 2017). However, no studies have been done to thoroughly evaluate the viability of strict strategies in terms of good governance, investment safety and security, easier international access, effective promotion, financial and social infrastructures, for ensuring improved investment

Figure 1: Location of EPZs

EPZs & EZ under BEPZA



Figure 2: Distances of Uttara EPZ from Capital City, Dhaka

Location of Uttara EPZ.



and export activities in Bangladesh from the perspective of the individual EPZ. Few articles have been published about Uttara EPZ. However, no publications exist about the impact of EPZs in socio-economic development based on case studies from the Uttara EPZ. The present study undertakes to fill this gap.

Research Questions

- (i) How is Uttara EPZ playing a significant role to make an impact on the Northern Region of Bangladesh's population's social, cultural, and economic lifestyle?
- (ii) What are the significant social changes taking place in the Northern Region of Bangladesh since the establishment of Uttara EPZ?
- (iii) What are the significant Economic Changes that have taken place in the lifestyle of the Northern Regional people of Bangladesh since the establishment of EPZ?
- (iv) What are the existing challenges of Uttara EPZ for upgrading the socio-economic condition of the Northern Regional people of Bangladesh?

Objectives of the Research

This study mainly focuses on the socio-economic effects of Bangladesh's EPZs, namely the Uttara EPZ. To achieve the main objective, the specific objectives are:

- a. To ascertain social changes of the northern region of Bangladesh since the establishment of Uttara EPZ.
- b. To examine the difficulties Uttara EPZ faces in attempting to improve the socio-economic situation in Bangladesh's northern area.

Methods and Methodology

This study used a mixed-methods approach that takes both quantitative and qualitative analysis into account. Cross-sectional surveys, and quantitative analyses are all used to conduct an in-depth study of the research. The study's setting was the Uttara EPZ in Northern part of Bangladesh, and the research is causal in nature. Random sampling technique was followed in this study to identify the investors, EPZ authorities, workers and locals as per quantitative analysis through structured questionnaires and purposive sampling carried out as qualitative analysis. About 400 samples were included in this investigation. Data were coded, and tabulated in SPSS 26.0. Descriptive statistics were performed to see the percentage distribution of the study population and sample areal level characteristics.

Results

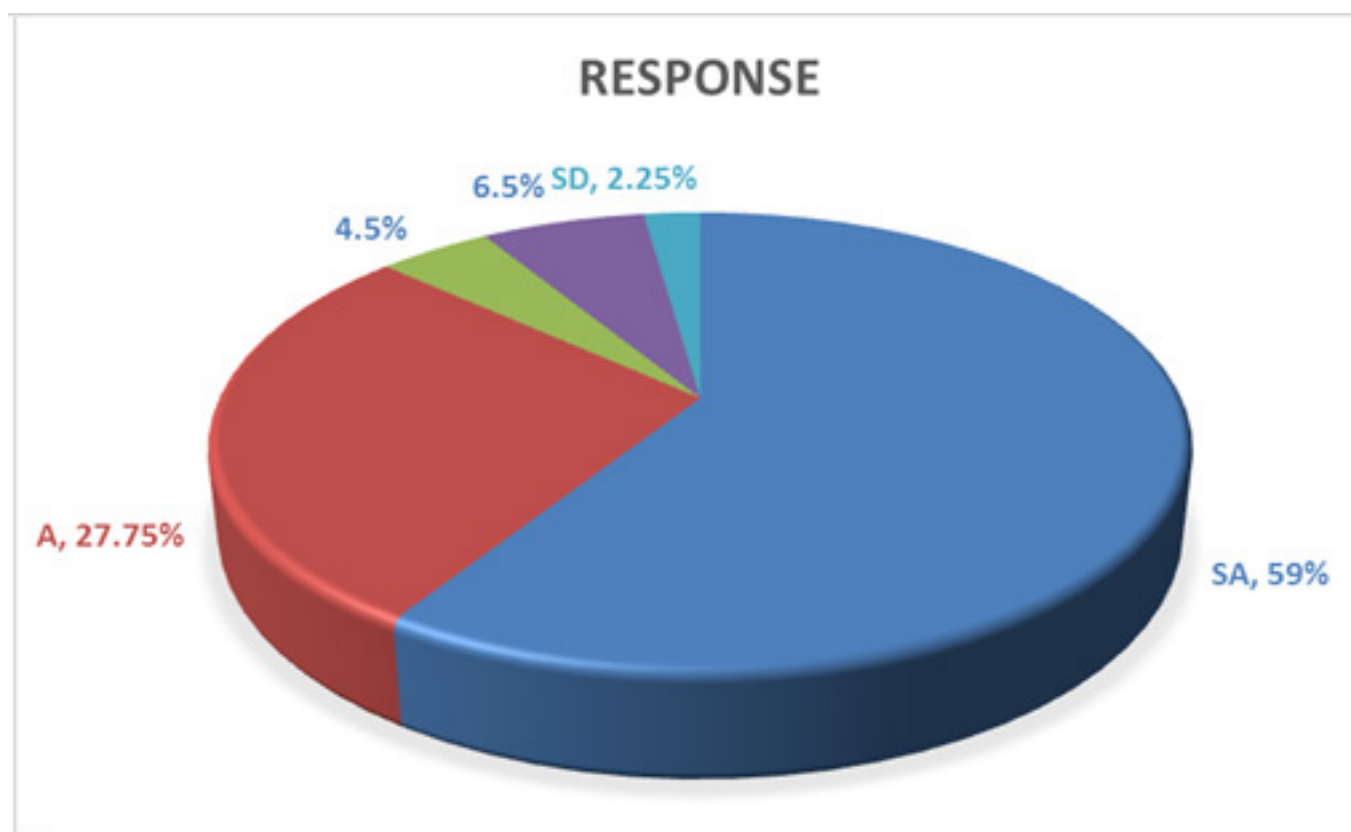
Literacy Rate

Analysis indicates about 59% of respondents strongly agreed that literacy rate has been increased in Nilphamari and adjacent areas after establishing Uttara EPZ, whereas only 2.25% strongly disagreed with that opinion as shown in Figure 3.

Medical Care Facilities

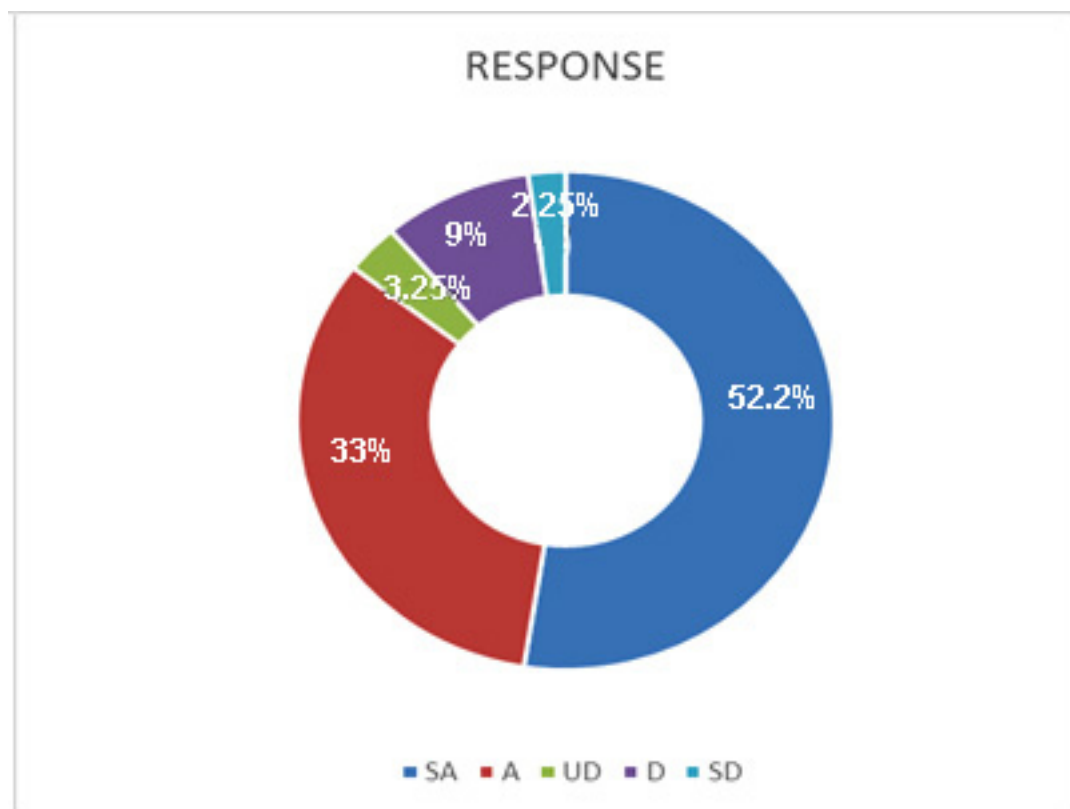
Figure 4 indicates that 52.5% of respondents strongly agreed that people of Nilphamari and adjacent areas are receiving better Medical Care Facilities after establishing Uttara EPZ, whereas only 2.25% strongly disagreed with that opinion.

Figure 3: Literacy Rate Evaluation Before and After the Establishment of Uttara EPZ



Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Figure 4: Medical Care Facilities Before and After the Establishment of Uttara EPZ



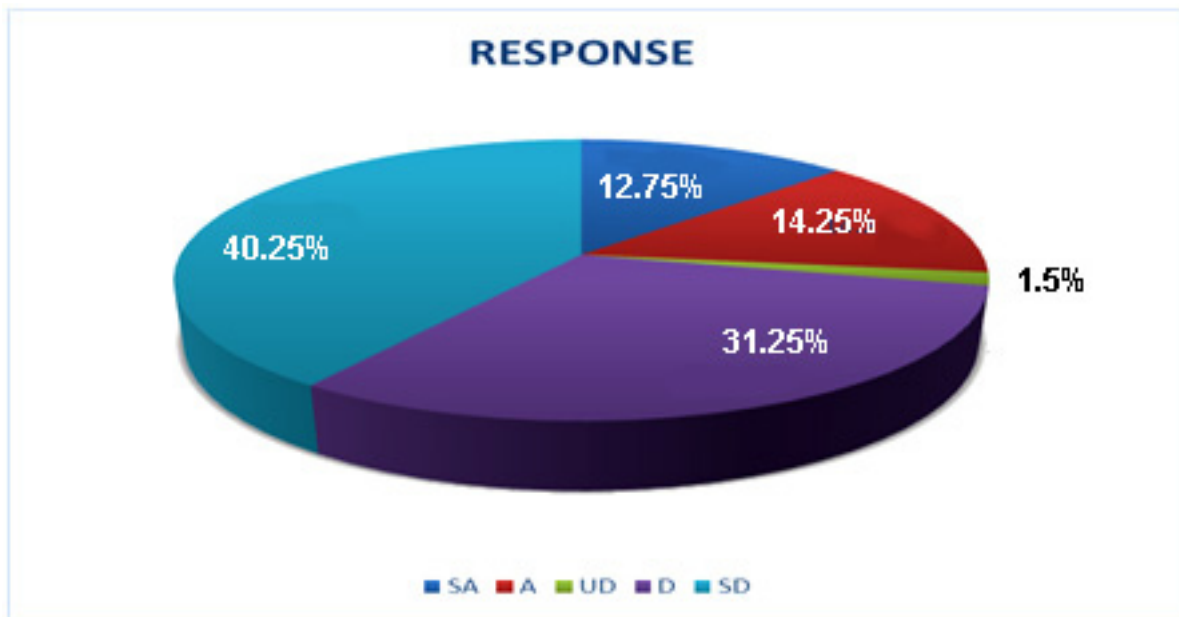
Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

SA= Strongly agree; S=Agree; UD= Undecided; D= Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree;

Womens' empowerment

Figure 5 reveals that 40.25% of respondents strongly agreed that Women have become more empowered than in previous times in Nilphamari and adjacent areas after establishing Uttara EPZ, whereas only 12.75% strongly disagreed with that opinion..

Figure 5: Women's Empowerment Ratio Before and After the Establishment of Uttara EPZ

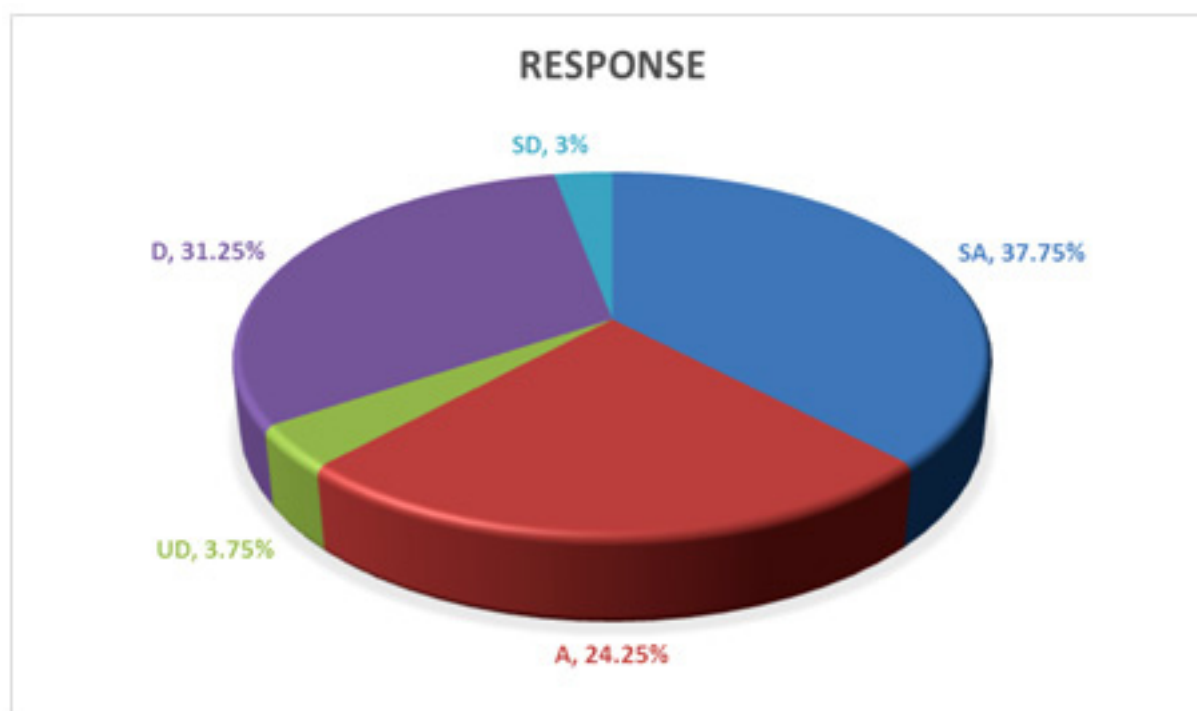


Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Crime Rate

Figure 6 reveals that 37.75% of respondents strongly agreed that the Crime Rate has decreased in Nilphamari and adjacent areas after establishing Uttara EPZ, whereas only 3% strongly disagreed with that opinion.

Figure 6: Crime Rate Comparison Before and After the Establishment of Uttara EPZ



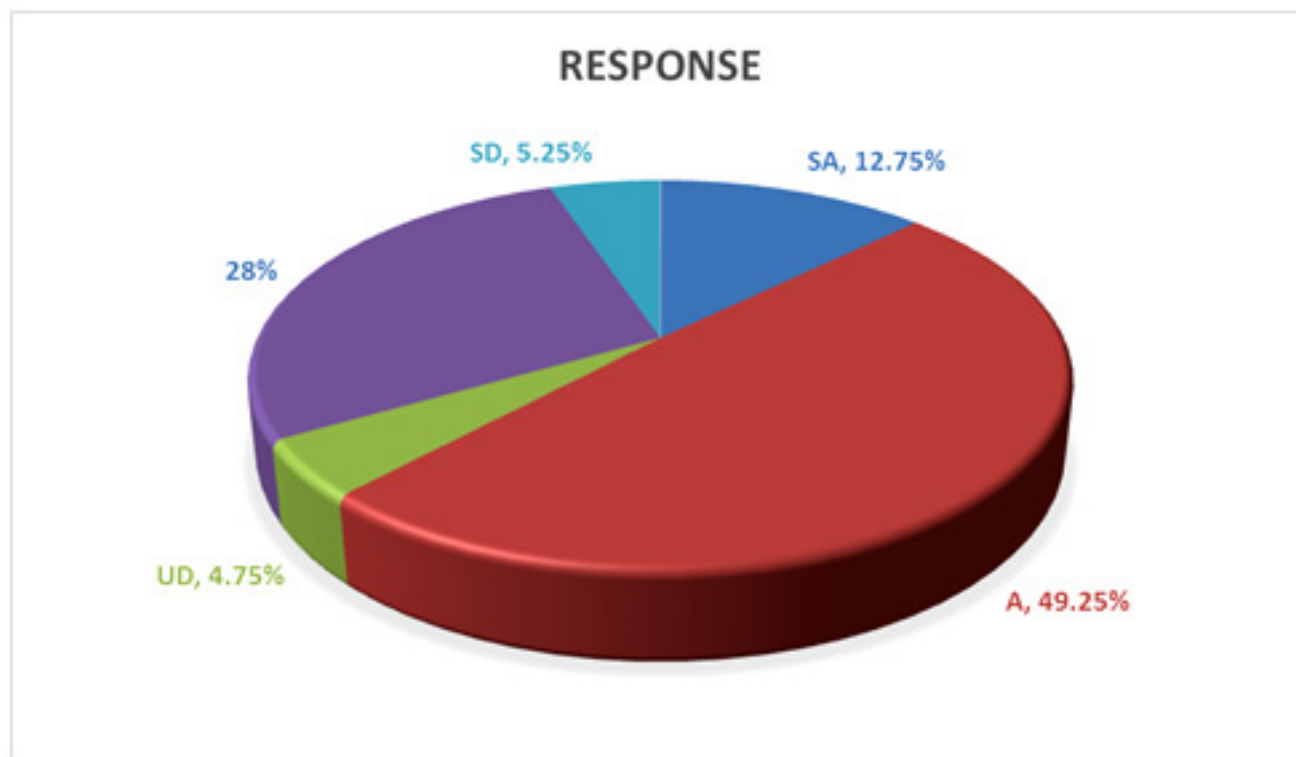
Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

SA= Strongly agree; S=Agree; UD= Undecided; D= Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree;

Violence against Women

According to the study, 49.25% of respondents agreed that Violence against Women has decreased in Nilphamari and adjacent areas after establishing Uttara EPZ, whereas only 3% strongly disagreed with those opinions, shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Violence against Women tabulation before and after the establishment of Uttara EPZ

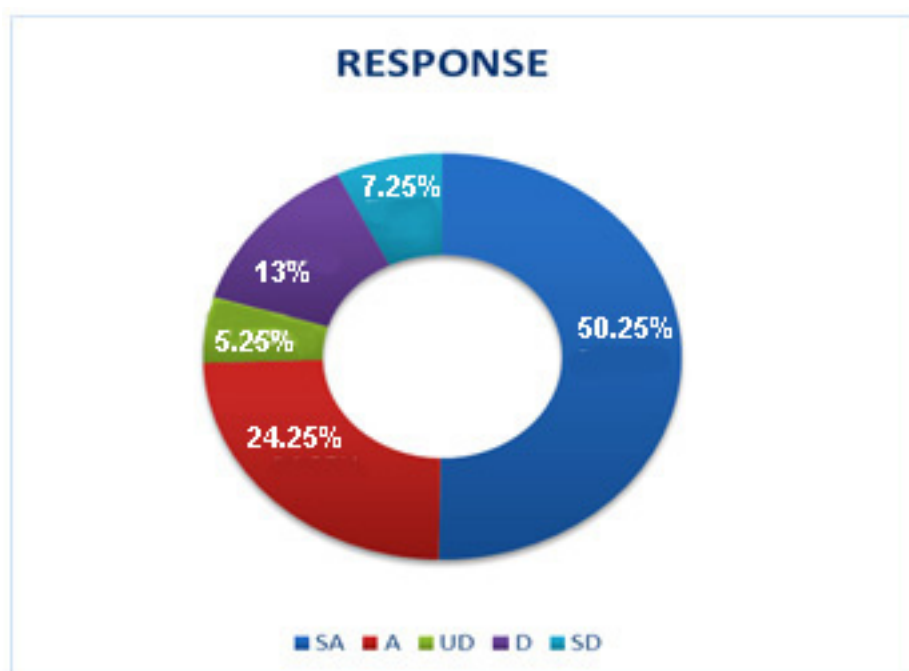


Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Birth Rate:

Figure 8 shows that most (50.25%) of respondents strongly agreed that Birth Rate has been decreased in Nilphamari and adjacent areas after establishing Uttara EPZ, though 7.25% strongly disagreed with that opinion. Few people are undecided, only 5.25%.

Figure 8: Birth Rate Comparison Before and After the Establishment of Uttara EPZ

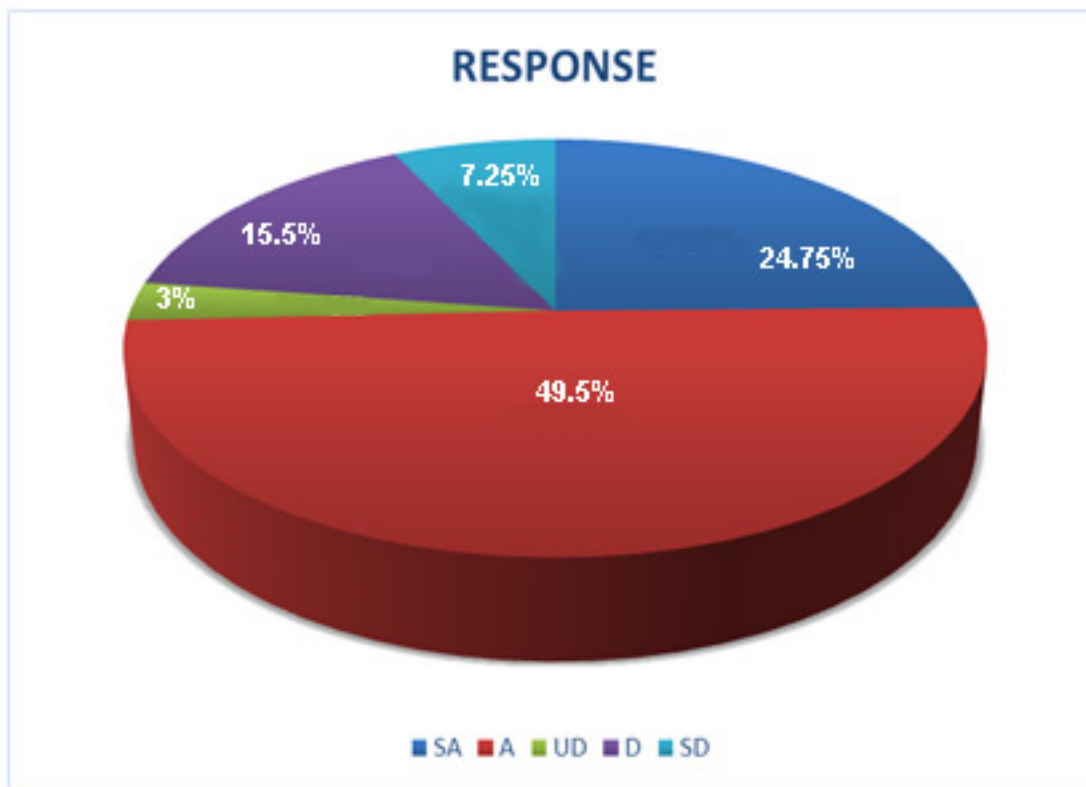


SA= Strongly agree; S=Agree; UD= Undecided; D= Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree;

Migration of People

It is observed from Figure 9 that 49.50% respondents agreed that the migration rate of the people of Nilphamari and adjacent areas has decreased after establishing Uttara EPZ, though 7.25% strongly disagreed with that opinion.

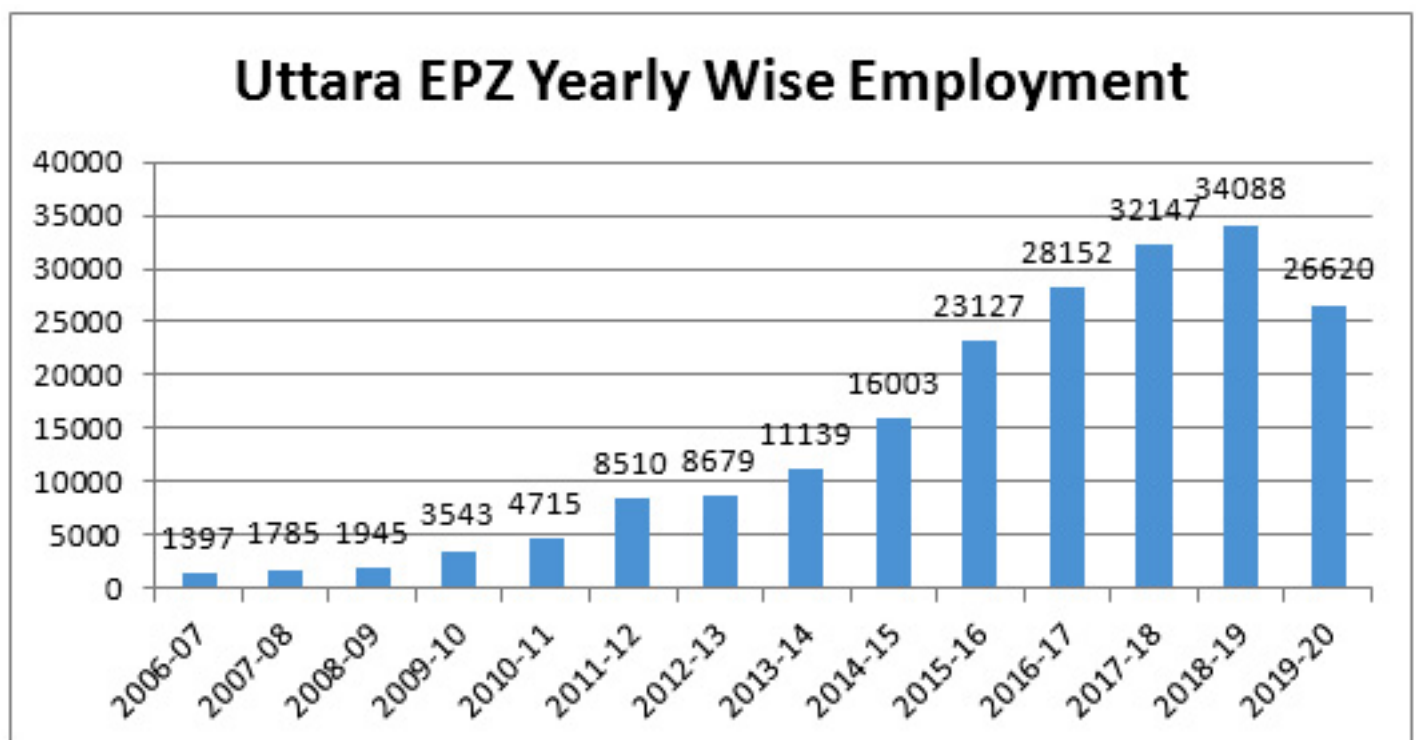
Figure 9: Migration rate of people before and after the establishment of Uttara EPZ



Uttara EPZ Year Wise Employment

SA= Strongly agree; S=Agree; UD= Undecided; D= Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree;

Figure 10: Year Wise Employment of Uttara EPZ (Source: BEPZA, 2022)



Critical Analysis

Most of the employment has been created in the recent years due to Uttara EPZ. Figure 10 in the years 2018-2019, shows the maximum number of jobs has been created which boosts the national economy and social development. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, there was a slow increase in cases of job creation.

Monthly Wage Scale

A table of wage scale is shown below which portrays different sectors of product manufacturing and wages to show the variation of wages of the workers:

Table 1: Distribution of Monthly Wage Scale

Serial	Grade	Minimum Wages
Garments and Other Related Industries		
1.	Helper	US\$ 100.00
2.	Junior operator	US\$ 110.98
3.	Operator	US\$ 116.46
4.	Senior operator	US\$ 121.95
5.	High skilled	US\$ 182.32
Electronics and Electrical Goods and Other Related Industries		
1.	Junior operator	US\$ 113.72
2.	Operator	US\$ 121.04
3.	Senior operator	US\$ 131.10
Textile, Chemical and Other Related Industries		
1.	Unskilled	US\$ 105.72
2.	Semi-skilled	US\$ 115.55
3.	Skills grade-2	US\$ 121.04
4.	High skilled	US\$ 182.32
Terry Towel, Sweater, Wigs and Other Piece Related Industries		
1.	Piece rate workers	US\$ 105.49
2.	Salaried workers	US\$ 105.49

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Benefits

House Rent, Medical Allowance, Conveyance and Night Allowances, Maternity Benefit, Transport and Food Benefit, Festival Bonus, Overtime Benefit, Provident Fund, Earn Leave/Encashment, and early 5 to 10% increment have all been offered. In Table 2, the various types of yearly leave are listed.

Table 2: Distribution of Annual Leave at Uttara EPZ

Serial	Categories of Annual Leave	Period/ Days
1.	Casual leave	10 days
2.	Festival holiday	11 days
3.	Earned leave	18 days
4.	Sick leave	14 days

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Core Strengths of Uttara EPZ

Uttara EPZ has its own core strength which works as the catalyst to function smoothly. A few of the factors of Core Strength are appended below:

1. Workers-Management-Owner Synergy.
2. Collaborative Teamwork.
3. Peaceful Working Environment.
4. Industry Friendly Atmosphere.
5. Congenial Investment Climate.

Workers Welfare

Uttara EPZ provides the following welfare for its workers:

1. Sets a Milestone in Women's Empowerment
2. Ensures Workplace Safety Plus Compliance and Welfare
3. Assured Medical Service and Child Care
4. Wages and other benefits increased thrice in last 10 years
5. 5 to 10% annual increment on basic wage
6. 50 % Tuition Fee Waiver for the Worker's Children
7. 24/ 7 BEPZA Helpline Facilities
8. Successfully implemented 'Bangladesh EPZ Labor Act- 2019' for EPZs workers.

Summary of Uttara EPZ

Table 3: Uttara EPZ (31 December 2021): At a Glance

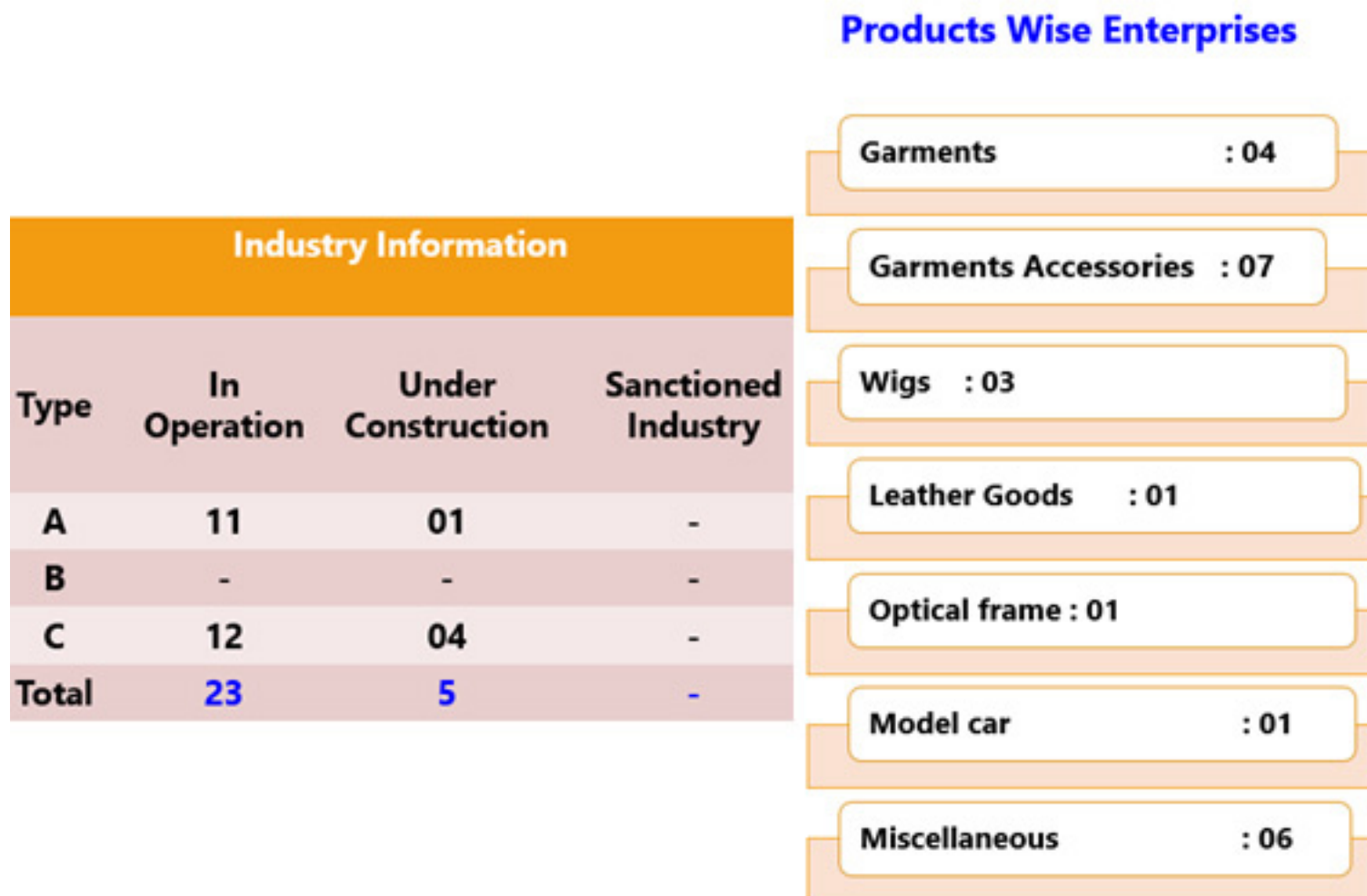
Serial	Description	Information
1.	Establishment Date	1 st July, 2001
2.	First Export made from the Zone	July 15, 2007 (M/s. Quest Accessories Ltd.)
3.	Total Area	213.66 acres
4.	Total Number of Plots	190
5.	Total Vacant plots for allotment	36
6.	Standard Factory Building (SFB)	72878.00Sq Meter
7.	MSSFB Building	04 nos
8.	Prefab Factory Building	01 nos (Allotted)
9.	Total Enterprise	28 nos
10.	Enterprise in Operation	23 nos
11.	Under Implementation/Construction	05 nos
12.	Lease Agreement (LA) Sign	None
13.	Closed/Termination Factory	None
14.	Investment (Cumulative) as on 01.01.2001 to 31.12.2021	USD \$218.85 million
15.	Export (Cumulative) as on 01.01.2001 to 31.12.2021	USD \$1723.79 million
16.	Employment (Cumulative) as on 01.01.2001 to 31.12.2021	32,418 Person (Including 296 Foreigners)

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Categories of Factories at Uttara EPZ

Categories of factories are shown in Figure 11 at Uttara EPZ and industries under implementation are shown in Table 3.

Figure 11: Categories of Factories at Uttara EPZ



Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Table 4: Industry under Implementation

Serial	Industry Under Implementation	Industry Category	In Operation (Type)
1.	M/s. Interfab Casual Wear Limited	Garments	A Type =11 nos C Type= 12 nos Total=23 nos
2.	M/s. EPF carton Limited	Garments Accessories	
3.	M/s. Eque International	Knitting and Textile	
4.	M/s. K.P International	Garments	
5.	M/s. Hyson Export Limited	Garment Accessories	

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Infrastructure of Uttara EPZ

Various infrastructure developed over the course of time in Uttara EPZ are appended in subsequent tables.

Table 5: Uttara EPZ Area Information

Serial	Subject	Information
1.	Location	Nilphamari Sadar, Nilphamari
2.	Date of Inauguration of UEPZ	July 01, 2001
3.	Date of completion	June, 2008
4.	Total Land	213.66 Acres
5.	Railway Land	178.88 Acres
6.	Private Land	34.78 Acres
7.	Total plots	190 Nos.
8.	Total Allotted plots	154 Nos.
9.	Total vacant plots	35 Nos.
10.	Plot reserve for WTP	01 (41 no.)
11.	Total SFB area	72,878.00 Sq.m
12.	Allotted SFB area	72,878.00 Sq.m
13.	Vacant SFB area	0.00 Sq.m

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Table 6: Residential Building

Serial	Subject	Information
1.	Residential building	13 Nos
2.	GM Bungalow (Two storied)	01 No (2120 Sq.ft
3.	A -Type (Four storied)	01 No (1400 Sq.ft per unit)
4.	B-Type (Four storied 02 nos and six storied 01 nos)	03 Nos (1225 Sq.ft per unit)
5.	C-Type (Four storied 01 nos and six storied 02 nos)	03 Nos (1000 Sq.ft per unit)
6.	D-Type (Four storied 02 nos and six storied 01 nos)	03 Nos (825 Sq.ft per unit)
7.	Officer's Dormitory (03 storied 01 nos)	01 No (4500.00 Sq.ft Each Floor)
8.	Staff Dormitory (02 storied)	01 No, (2815 Sq.ft Each Floor)
9.	Central Godown	01 No (1063.66 Sq.m)
10.	Surface Water Reservoir (pond)	01 No (4990 Sq.m)
11.	Residential Area	17.88 Acres
12.	Investor Residential Area	0.97 Acres

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Table 7: Service Oriented Building

Serial	Subject	Information
1.	Service oriented building	12 Nos
2.	Zone Service Complex (Two storied)	Total area= 4000 Sq.m
3.	Customs house and bond	01 No (2730 Sq-ft each floor)
4.	Fire service and civil defense (3-storied)	01 No (3000 Sq-ft each floor)
5.	Police barrack (2-storied)	01 No (2625 Sq-ft each floor)
6.	Ansar barrack (2-storied)	01 No (3917.00 Sq-ft each Floor)
7.	Security barrack (4-storied)	01 No (337.00 Sq.m Each floor)
8.	Investors club (3-storied)	01 No (939 Sq.m Each Floor)
9.	BEPZA Public School and College (2-storied)	01 No, (12500 Sq ft Each Floor)
10.	Commissariat	01 No (71 Sq.m)
11.	Mosque (1-storied)	01 No (2200 Sq.ft)
12.	EPZ Medical Center (2-storied)	01 No
13.	BTCL Building (2-storied)	01 No

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Table 8: Other Infrastructure

Serial	Subject	Information
1.	Customs fence	1.68 km
2.	Boundary wall	9.97 km
3.	Road	11.88 km
4.	Footpath	5.24 km
5.	Drain	9.88 km
6.	Bridge/culvert	6 Nos
7.	Police waiting shed (400 sq. ft)	1 No (Front side)
8.	Admin Area (ZSB, medical, Fire office, etc)	7.11 Acres
9.	School Area	3.08 Acres
10.	Lake Area	6.62 Acres

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Electrical Section at Uttara EPZ: At a Glance

Table 9: Electrical Section of Uttara EPZ

Electricity		
1.	Electricity Tariff	
	(i) Permanent	Tk. 9.41 per KWH
	(ii) Commercial	Tk. 11.33 per KWH
	(iii) Temporary	Tk. 17.60 per KWH
	(iv) PBS off pick time. (11 P.M – 5 P.M)	TK. 7.70 Per KWH
	(v) PBS pick time. (5 P.M – 11 P.M)	TK. 10.69 Per KWH
	(vi) BEPZA demand charge	TK. 66.00
	(vii) PBS demand charge	TK. 60.00
2.	Electricity Supply	
	(i) PBS Sub Station 33/11 KV	(20+20)= 40 MVA =32 MW
	(ii) Sub-Station (Own)	61 Nos (250 KVA)
	(iii) Street Light	567 Nos
	(iv) 11 KV Sanction Load	15 MW
	(v) 11KV Overhead Feeder Line	04 Nos
	(vi) Demand of present load	15 MW
	(vii) 11 KV distribution line	09 KM (Approx.)
	(viii) Street Light Line	12 KM (Approx.)
	(ix) 11 KV Steel Pole/SPC Pole	260 Nos (Approx.)
	(x) Total Electricity Connection	105 Nos (Permanent, Commercial, temporary and others)
	(xi) Average sell (Monthly)	TK. 5,35,89,522.00
	(xii) Average purchase (Monthly)	TK. 4,70,72,786.00
	(xiii) Revenue collection from electricity supply per month	TK. 65,16,736.00
3.	Water Supply	
	(i) Water tariff	TK. 35.01/cubic-meter
	(ii) Total number of water connections	63 nos
	(iii) Average monthly water consumption	80,000 cubic-meter
	(iv) Average revenue collection from water supply per month	30 lac
	(v) Total number of deep tube wells for water supply	04 Nos
	(vi) Total number of Double Headed Pillar Hydrant	66 Nos
	(vii) Diameter of water service line	4" Dia, 6" Dia, 8" Dia,, 12" Dia,
	(viii) Diameter of water connection line	2" Dia, 4" Dia
4.	ETP	
	(i) Central effluent treatment plant	Nil
	(ii) Enterprise own ETP	01

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Categories of Factory in Uttara EPZ

Table 10: Factories Information Existing at Uttara EPZ: At a Glance

Serial	Description	Information/Number
1.	No. of Garments Factory	04
2.	No. of Garments Accessories Factory	11
3.	Wings	03
4.	Others	06
5.	Terminated Industry	00

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Operational Enterprises at Uttara EPZ

Table 11 Operational Enterprises: At a Glance

Serial	Name of the Enterprise	Type of Country	Product
1.	M/s. Dong Jin Industrial (BD) Company Ltd.	A China and Hong Kong	Wig and Hair products
2.	M/s. EPF Printing Ltd.		Trade Advertising & Printing Materials
3.	M/s. Evergreen Products Factory (BD) Ltd.		Wig and Hair products
4.	M/s. Kord (BD) Ltd.		Gift & Carnival items
5.	M/s. Master Purple (BD) Ltd.		Wig and Hair products
6.	M/s. Mazen (BD) Industries Ltd.		Sun Glass, Optical Frame
7.	M/s. Sonic (Bangladesh) Ltd.		Toys & Model car
8.	THT-Space Electrical Company Ltd.		Thermal Printer, Dot printer
9.	M/s. Ventura Leatherware MFY (BD) Ltd		Leather Bags
10.	M/s. Oasis Transformation Ltd.	A United Kingdom	Coffins
11.	M/s. Uttara Sweater Mfg Company Limited	A Hong Kong	Sweater
12.	M/s. Deshbandhu Textile Mills Ltd.	C Bangladesh	Readymade Garments
13.	M/s. Section Seven Int. Ltd.		
14.	M/s. Viyellatex Apparels Ltd.		
15.	M/s. Expo Link Ind. Ltd	C Bangladesh	Garment Accessories
16.	M/s. Fardin Accessories Ltd.		
17.	M/s. Glorious Export (BD) Ltd.		
18.	M/s. Independent Export (BD) Ltd.		
19.	M/s. Nilphamari Packaging Ltd.		
20.	M/s. Padma Spinning & Composite Ltd.		
21.	M/s. Quest Accessories Ltd.		
22.	M/s. Sky Star Industries Ltd.		
23.	M/s. Star Packaging & Accessories Ltd.		

Source: Survey from Uttara EPZ in Northern Bangladesh, 2021

Knowledge Transfer through Training and Learning by Doing

The volume of technology transfer from EPZ companies to domestic businesses served as another metric used to gauge the success of the Uttara EPZ effort. Respondents were asked to submit suggestions for the desired stage of capabilities of their operations and whether or not they offer instruction in order to determine whether or not capabilities upgrading exists. The literature demonstrated how education programs help to show how a formerly unskilled labor force has developed into a semi-professional and professional status through education and mastering by doing. The literature assessment takes into account the anticipated expertise that might be transferred via human capital, most effectively if capabilities acquisition and switch take location.

As hired labor leaves the foreign enterprises inside the Uttara EPZ and joins or establishes local businesses, managerial experience and labor skills will spread to the local population. This is especially true for positions in management, expert tasks, studies, and development (Jenkins et al., 1998; Madani, 1999; Alarakhia, 2012). Respondents were asked to express their experience of the movement of staff between EPZ corporations and subsequently from EPZ corporations to adjacent corporations in order to determine whether or not this had occurred. Information on the level of production in EPZ corporations was used to assess the potential for the dispersion of production (Talbot, 2020).

Evaluation as a whole demonstrates that education has occurred in all EPZ firms. According to the results of the previous review, EPZ employees in particular profit from training that is done in-process. These findings are consistent with earlier research, which is supported by the literature review, which maintains that most EPZ manufacturing processes are low tech and don't need a lot of business expertise. As a result, the mastering system isn't often extended beyond basic instruction and mastery. According to prior findings, EPZ personnel often acquire the necessary knowledge to complete a particular task over the first few months or years of their employment, which lends some support to the gift study.

Skills Transfer through Movement of Workers

Respondents were asked to express their satisfaction with the movement of skilled EPZ workers among EPZ corporations and, most importantly, from EPZ businesses to local corporations because it is an essential condition for the effective dissemination of abilities. The review of the literature revealed that if there is labor movement, the skills gained through on-the-job training and learning-by-doing are said to diffuse or shift to the domestic economy. When talented or highly qualified employees move from an abroad invested company to a domestically managed organization or launch (start) their own businesses, skills are changed through labor movement. EPZ businesses are proficient at moving consumers to residential businesses outside of Uttara EPZ. Given how long the Uttara EPZ has been around, it's possible that labor's range of motion is restricted..

Empowerment of Women through Participation in Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari

For the prosperity and advancement of each gender, men and women, to provide stability for social justice and to gain the described objectives, it is necessary to provide individuality and empowerment of girls (UN Women, 2017). Empowerment inside the context of women's advancement is a manner of defining, and overcoming boundaries in a woman's existence through which she will increase her functionality to fit her existence and environment. Economic empowerment includes girls in decision-making, and distribution of strength (Ingram, 2021). The important detail of monetary empowerment is employment and paid employment in particular (Noureen, 2015). Among the entire girl's empowerment discussions, the most powerful argument is that the contribution of girls in incomes will direct them closer to women's empowerment as it gives them some autonomy. (Guinee, 2014). The improved stage of bargaining strength in the family is considered a distinguished aspect of empowerment as it puts women in a better bargaining position for her own and her family's welfare. (Deere & De Leal, 2014).

Industrialisation

An enclosed industrial park known as the Uttara Export Processing Zones (UEPZ) is where manufactured goods for export are made. Briefly, trade enclaves bring in raw materials, refine them, and then export to both internal and foreign markets.

The need to create jobs, earn foreign currency, encourage exports, help local businesses learn how to sell their products on domestic and international markets, means trade enclaves impart knowledge, know-how, and management skills to local businesses, and promote industrial development in the host nation and these are just a few of the reasons why the Uttara EPZ was established (Elmawazini, 2012).

The Uttara EPZ was created in response to a special set of circumstances, including the abundance of labor resources in emerging nations and the increasing mobility of capital in the global economy. The combination of labor and capital in the Uttara EPZ helps developing nations to absorb foreign direct investment (FDI) and strengthen their ties to the global economy with little negative influence on their own economies because the goods produced there are exported (Kariuki & Smith, 2005). WTO regulations forbid export subsidies, so the Uttara EPZ's tax advantages must gradually disappear. Uttara EPZ is taking advantage of the chance to develop into an industrial park and establish a connection with the regional economy.

Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Uttara EPZ

While many EPZ zones make little or no mention of environmental issues, more than half have environmental policies, and Uttara EPZ follows worldwide environmental management system standards. Policy-related sustainability services can cover a wide range of topics, including rules for land, air, and water pollution, waste, noise, and energy use (Dilly & Pannell, 2009). BEPZA found that just over half of the Uttara EPZs assessed had an environmental policy, which included statements about climate change and pollution control. A

dedicated committee may be formed to further create or control these policies in specific circumstances. It is very uncommon for the Nilphamari zone to have rather well-developed environmental reporting regulations, which compel businesses to declare their anticipated volumes of trash, pollutants, and noise levels which is a predictable aspect of production.

In addition to policy, the Uttara EPZ offers technical assistance, institutional processes, and physical infrastructure to help businesses and manufacturers comply with regulations. The availability of hazardous waste management systems, including techniques for appropriately disposing of garbage, is particularly noteworthy. The BEPZA is connected to the Uttara EPZ, which contains energy sources or more sustainable usage of traditional energy sources throughout residential and business districts. It has enhanced environmental services by providing management help through natural resource reduction and effluent treatment programs (Hancock, Carastathis, Georgiou, & Oliveira, 2014).

Conclusion and Recommendation

In Bangladesh, EPZs are important for luring foreign direct investment and engaging local investment, which together contribute to a positive growth in the country's export volume and its foreign exchange revenues. The seventh of Bangladesh's eight export processing zones, Uttara Export Processing Zone is situated in the Nilphamari district. It is the only export processing zone in Bangladesh's northern region. Located in Sangalshi in Syedpur Upazila of Nilphamari, the Uttara EPZ has been playing a significant socio-economic role (Wijerathna & Liyana Arachchi, 2021). A wide variety of goods are produced in EPZ factories, including well-known brands like Michael Kors handbags, knitwear, clothing accessories, wigs, spectacle frames, sunglasses, toys, and bamboo-cane coffins. The region's residents are still engaged in farming, yet quick changes are having an overall positive socio-economic impact in the Northern Region of Bangladesh. Due to industrial facilities and the area along the highway, this area has experienced an enormous development in the last ten years. Local communities have benefited from enhanced local facilities and services like water supplies, education, and healthcare, as well as expanded road access and communal woods. Due to the expansion of the local market for local goods brought about by industrial activity in the area, people have earning prospects. The respondents claimed that both direct and indirect financial advantages provided by the industries attracted residents. Natural resources, low-cost skilled labor, and logistical benefits will all be available in the Uttara EPZ, attracting investment. Governments can also stimulate investment in the Uttara EPZ by lowering customs tariffs, providing duty-free tax incentives, such as a ten-year tax deduction, and adapting infrastructure to meet the needs of investors (Truby & Truby, 2016). As a result of coordinated and rapid development of infrastructure including roads, power, gas, water supply, telecommunications, fire brigade, and post office, locations where Uttara EPZ have been developed have become unique growth zones in Bangladesh's economy. Around Uttara EPZ zone, the private sector has made support investments in retail centers and markets, transportation agencies, lodging and recreation facilities, and other areas, all of which have increased economic activity.

Surprisingly, after setting up Uttara EPZ, the situation began to alter. The EPZ has converted a once-poverty-stricken region into a thriving industrial hub. People who were formerly poor began to rise out of poverty as a result of job possibilities in the Uttara EPZ. However, UEPZ has also made a significant contribution to Bangladesh's economy in terms of creating employment opportunities, exporting goods and services, and volume of investments made for Bangladesh's economic development.

The study was conducted primarily to provide a critical analysis of the social impact of Uttara EPZ in the Northern part of Bangladesh. Uttara EPZ has long been a popular development tool in developing countries, often used as part of structural reform programs or established by governments looking to boost their economies' exporting potential and capabilities. Product and investment diversification should be necessary, which may increase the national economy's potential and, as a result, the number of jobs available. Steps should be taken to allow the duty-free import of 1-2 Mover to transport goods to Uttara EPZ. Measures should be taken to establish a fully-fledged customs unit in Uttara EPZ.

Limitations

Finally, since this study is cross-sectional in nature, causal association was not possible.

Concluding remarks

In conclusion, this study showed that in the Uttara EPZ region, there is a significant positive association between worker income and income from beggarly work. Thus, the operations of Uttara EPZ guarantee a social impact on the way of life of the inhabitants of Bangladesh's Northern Regional People.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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Civil and Civic responsibilities and the use of new technologies

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Foreword

I provide the following personal story to highlight how even in countries with a well-established justice system and civil laws and legislation, a crime can be committed entailing the use of 'new technology' that can cause life-changing personal injury without any legal penalty to the perpetrator or any recourse to justice or compensation for the victim.

The following account relates to events that have happened to many others globally and in some cases with fatal outcomes. Legal bodies need to provide appropriate restraints to users of new technologies to safeguard the welfare of citizens and develop appropriate laws and local government statutes regarding their use.

"The worst day of my life"

Have you wondered what it is like when you walk at your own pace on the pavement right close to the wall and all of a sudden, an e-bike rider ran into your back at high-speed unexpectedly, unpredictably, and sped off the scene?

I would like to share and shed light authentically and let the world know what is happening on the footpaths when walking peacefully, and to share an awful, shocking, unimaginable trauma I endured and experienced while walking on the footpath in Liverpool, UK. It was a sunny, winter mid-day, in Liverpool, on Great George Street, halfway down towards the intersection of Great George Street with Upper Duke Street, on the week of Christmas, 18 December 2021. I was dressed up in a thick black coat, along with a head hat, and gloves in my hands, along my front bag and back bag. An e-biker rider at an inordinately high speed was mounting the pavement and hit me, and slapped me in my back unexpectedly without warning at all. He hit me at full speed and interrupted my own peace, disturbed my own thoughts and schemes. Just thinking what was on his mind at that time of the midday?

It is a crime against the human race by all means and I will live with this all my life. This criminal offender caused me physical harm, emotional trauma, and constant disability in my left hand, right knee, neck, and my nose and it's like a part of my body was taken away or chopped off unlawfully.

I left my home perfectly healthy and fit and well for a walk and I returned back injured, bruised badly, with cut wounds, multiple marks, and abrasions, massive hematoma of blood suffusion on my right forehead and right cheek, along with multiple fractures in my vital and sensitive body parts that left me suffering and in great agony and pain. It's just incredibly painful, shocking, and emotional to me, and unimaginable terrors and horrors by all means.

This brand of the ebike is called a mountain ebike, an electric-assisted pedal cycle produced by the brand Specialized. It was traveling at a very hefty speed when he ran into my back unexpectedly and struck me from behind, with full force which caused me all that physical damage. For a moment I could not understand or process what happened to me and thought something heavy fell on my head from the sky, with infinite great speediness from a high great height and I recall I wasn't doing anything wrong. I was not crossing a road, and I was only walking on the footpath close to the iron railings. This is a shocking incident where the cyclist involved failed to stop, assist me, and check on my state, and failed to report the unlawful collision into my back, or call the emergency services, instead, he fled and sped off making his way off as if he did nothing to me, and without leaving his details.

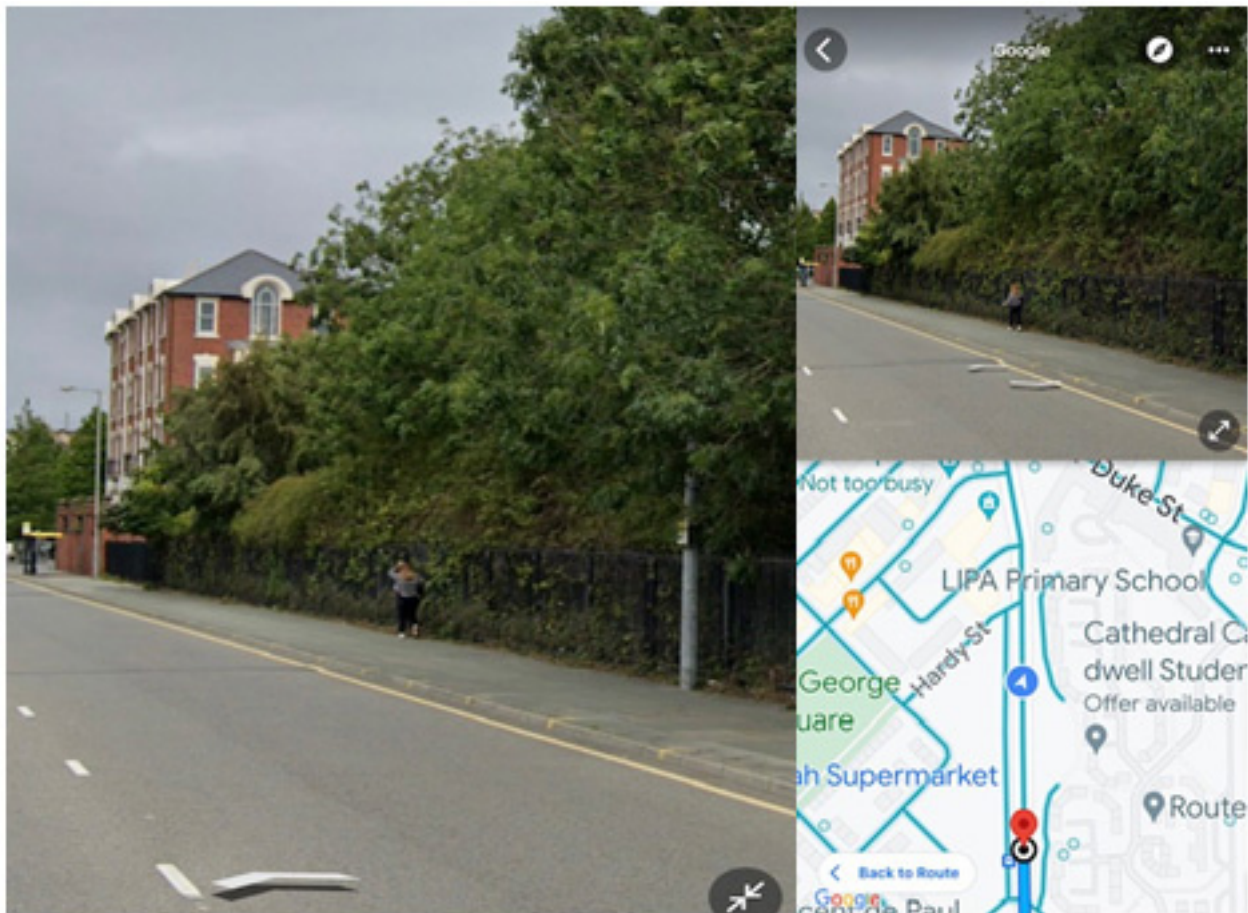


Figure 1 Great George Street, Liverpool- i was walking as this woman exactly, close to the iron railings and he ran into my back at high speed, Source: live Google map, 2022.

I don't understand how the e-cyclist couldn't see me. He had plenty of time to slow down and reach a halt or stop before getting to me from behind so I couldn't even expect or see it to try and get out of danger, but that didn't happen and he ploughed into my back forcefully causing me serious injuries and fractures that will last for a lifetime (Figure-1).

I had immediate instantaneous excessive nose-bleeding which literally covered me in blood from head to toe and my face covering (mask) was totally soaked in blood, and I was plastered in blood. I was sitting in a pool of my blood on the ground literally like a blood bath. I was a real mess. (Figure-2). Women can handle the worst kind of pain as they keep saying. I was alone as I have ever been, grieving and crying in agony and pain. This is not how my life is supposed to turn out. I try hard to ignore the bitter things in my life. I am not sure this is the world I belong in anymore, and I am not sure that I want to wake up though I am not suicidal. To sleep well one night and then to be in total agony all other nights following this travesty. I say it out loud, I don't want this. Sometimes you make choices in life and sometimes choices make you. Does that make sense at all? Feeling unbearably lonely and low is hard. I lost five kilos in only one week as I couldn't eat at all. Does that make sense?

My left hand was instantly deviated and deformed and I knew it was a fracture and it was terribly painful. Also, my reading glasses and the mirror inside my bag had all been smashed due to the forceful hit from behind while walking peacefully on the footpath (Figure 3). I had a bad headache and a badly

stiff painful neck along my scapulae and shoulders, with high shooting blood pressure which made me think of brain concussion and bleeding.

Added to that, all of a sudden, I can't use, curl, bend, or fist my left hand and it's not funny at all. The broken ends of my finger kept touching and causing immense unbearable pain and sadly healed in a Malunited, malrotated state, that doesn't follow the rest of my fingers, and it hinders, overrides, and gets in the way and bangs into anything, and click while trying to force bending, and it's intolerably painful, swollen as a sausage, disabling, and stiff. It also causes referred pain in my index and palm. Guess it's the geometric distortions of the hand tendons consequently. Added to that, I have a bulge and an odd sensation in my left hand and it's affecting me profoundly physically in all areas of life activity, and mentally. It feels as if it's not my hand anymore and aesthetically it's hideous and ugly.

Who would ever think that would happen while walking on the footpath, and from behind, in Great Britain, a supposedly civilised country, and by a stupid, trivial, reckless, careless, selfish ebike rider who was traveling at a very high speed on the footpath? When he crashed into my back, it was very forceful and painful to the level it spun my head, pushed me forward forcefully with great impact to collide with the ground, on the right side of my face, nose, hands, and my knees. I lost consciousness momentarily and collapsed from the impact of hitting the ground with great force, and I can't understand how that could happen on a crystal-clear midday in Liverpool, UK.



Figure 2 My blood at the collision area close to the iron railings, stayed as such in the area for more than 2 weeks ©

I didn't know how this man could do this to me when the footpath is quite long enough to avoid me and bypass me. He didn't apologise or show a sense of guilt at all and just left me and fled the scene without calling the ambulance or the police for me, as if he had done nothing illegitimately.

His ebike was massively big, hard heavy metal, black, ugly, with distinctive thick tyres that I will never forget ever in my life. I even sent a photo of this ebike to the police as I saw many of them running in Liverpool city centre and I can't forget its physical look and how scary they are. The police replied that it's called an 'electric assisted mountain bike' and confirmed that they are very popular. How on earth can such a thing just run like that at such a high speed on the footpath and knock people over from behind and just run away without any punishment?

How can someone run into the back of someone on a long straight pedestrian public footpath with nothing to impede the view? Additionally, the idiotic rider didn't make any sound or any noise or honk his horn, nor did I hear skidding noises at all until I felt a very hard hit when he ploughed into my back with great force and knocked me over on the ground, which is shocking and traumatic to me. This just reflects a very poor attitude of the rider to other footpath users, and he was not driving with reasonable care or skill, he wasn't riding the pavement safely, and was aggressively riding unlawfully on

the pavement. He was traveling at a very high speed, the opposite to the cars traveling on the road.

To add to the traumatic experience, a woman was passing by (a bystander) with a man, and another woman, kept saying he didn't do it on purpose and declined to call the police when I demanded. She had witnessed how he ran into my back forcefully and she should have come forward to testify rather than saying silly nonsense. I find her comment very distressing, disturbing, and unethical and I would really think how would she feel if she was hit unlawfully by an ebike, who was traveling at high speed, and if he had ploughed into her back and endured what I had for no obvious reasons. Would she still say the same stupid nonsense or not? She added, 'go home as the ambulance will take a while to come'. The paramedic didn't attend to me at the assault scene and thus, I found myself trying hard to stand and made my way to the A and E Royal Liverpool hospital limping with great difficulty, holding my fractured hand with the other hand, enduring too much pain all over my body, blood on my face, clothes, front bag, and my face mask, to seek immediate medical care as I knew I had a fracture in my left hand, along with my knee injuries and my nose.

I was left alone on the footpath bleeding, without support. My mask was totally soaked in blood, as well as my trouser and my front bag which was torn from the impact of the forceful hit. That is unacceptable and unnecessary for me to endure when I had done nothing wrong. I am really shattered on all levels, physically, emotionally and psychologically.

I am all alone without family support and my life has been suddenly shattered due to an irrational inconsiderate moron. I had to buffer my trauma all alone, walk in pain and grieve in silence.

Tragedy can happen to the best of us, and we all need to try to stand up for one another. This moron didn't show any sympathy or empathy for the harm and the hurt he caused me, physically and emotionally. Why would he do this to me, I demand answers.

We doctors, are obliged to not cause any harm as well as the DVLA who emphasised their legislation and regulations, so how about those dangerous tools such as ebikes and scooters? Who regulates them? Who distributes them without policy and legislation?

Now I have multiple appointments at different hospitals as I have a fractured nose that is causing me difficulty in breathing and I will have to undergo an operation but the consultant said the waiting list in the NHS is beyond imagination and no one cares about my breathing struggle which I have reported many times. My hand fracture was seen late and as it was the Christmas holiday, I was told see how it goes for now as the fracture has significant angulation, dorsally and medially. Though the angulation was seen on the first X-ray no one ever told me, and I found out five weeks later. If I had been notified, at least I would have demanded to see my X-ray and now I am not able to move my finger or control it. This has incurred a long-term deformity with sausage-like swelling at its base. My finger is dead and it's a really emotional situation

because I am a passionate recreational artist and I need my fine motor movements for that and my every day activities. They said we will open and refracture it again (corrective osteotomy), and put plates at a later stage but that involves the risk of adhesions and other complications that I am not keen to endure again. Even one of the consultants was not sure he could fix it as God Almighty has created it precisely and said it will make it worse and might over correct or under correct and all that has risks already. So based on that answer, all are uncertain and I have had no real assurance. The hospital didn't do its job as it should be done in a timely manner and that's shocking to me. If they saw me in the first two weeks or had informed me, that might rectify the angulation by a closed reduction. But I was told, all consultants were on leave as it's Christmas time when I asked why I was not seen on time. Also, the impact of the fall caused a tear and damage in my knee and it's really painful and I can't move, bear weight, or sleep at night from the horrible popping pain associated. One of them said it needs an operation as well, but each time I see a different doctor with diverse views and all that just sends me into great panic, despair, and anxiety. So basically, I am to be scheduled for 3 major operations all with risks, all not my fault, but a stupid ebike rider.

That being said, a colleague said the NHS is a great curse and I think I agree with what I have been sadly. It's a flawed system as he affirmed.

Additionally, I have a stiff painful neck with headache and knee pain. The GP said it's post-concussion trauma to the area that endured the forceful impact and said to do another X-ray. The physio man said it was a whiplash injury to my neck, and I ended up having endless loads of X-rays and got exposed to much unnecessary radiation.

Being fairly new to the concept of ebikes and my injuries and trauma I can't even picture all this inside my mind. It's a shocking chaotic tragedy and trauma to me. I am not able to do little things as I used to do before with my broken left hand. I am not able to wash my face, take a shower, dress myself, fasten a button, open a jar, or button up my clothes or tie my shoe or tidy my hair, and can't wear my gloves outdoors in the cold, and can't bend or grip things at all. All these actions are difficult and a complete struggle for me. I have to have countless medical appointments and operations for a fault, not mine at all, especially as I was not crossing the road, but simply walking on the pavement like any normal civilian in this country, and I was next to the iron fence/railings, on Great George Street (Figure-1). I can't understand why or how this man hit me and ran away without showing any remorse for the physical and emotional harm he caused. How would anyone cause harm like that to pedestrians from their backs without reasoning or explanation? How can someone cause harm to others and just ran away and live his life as did nothing and enjoy it? What happened to this community? I feel that my basic simple human rights have been taken of me. It means I have to constantly look over my back and my shoulders to avoid any mad e-bike riders who may attack me and terrorize or intimidate me.

What happened to me during the Christmas week is preventable and unnecessary and shouldn't happen to anyone in the first place in a supposedly civilised country like the UK. People were happy and celebrating and I was suffering in horrifying, depressing pain and agony due to someone who acted unlawfully toward me in the daylight. This experience made me feel unsafe and considering never going out for a walk again.



Malrotated finger

I was badly injured, with two big bumps (hematomas) right on my right forehead and right cheek. Two black panda eyes, massively swollen nose, chin abrasion, fractured left hand, cracked patella with a bruise, and knee damage, tear, cut wounds, and a scar (Figure 4-9).

The street is fully loaded with CCTVs and the police didn't do their job as would be expected. This allows more hits and runs without punishment. I was searching online for some stories and found other cases of hit-and-runs by cyclists who knock people over but couldn't find any similar hits from the back, and on the footpath. Who is accountable for this?

I am a caring medical doctor who obtained her GMC registration recently, and I want to work, help, and look after patients and the community and I was doing a clinical placement in Salford and now all I can do is just commit to those multiple clinical appointments in various hospitals because of the extent and seriousness of my injuries and to rectify what can be rectified. But obviously, my body will not go back to how it was, unfortunately, and it is affecting me profoundly.

I am in too much pain physically and emotionally and can't sleep at night flashbacks of this awful experience whenever I shut and close my eyes.



Forehead immediately after being struck



Who is accountable and responsible for such tragic serious injuries due to reckless and careless ebike rider behaviour? He might be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the mid-day or a sadist, who knows? He may strike other pedestrians.

Was this man busy with his mobile or his music ?

How couldn't he avoid me while walking on the pavement right next to the iron fence on that long street?, and just simply hit me from behind with great force and injury and fracture me and rode off?

I feel massively let down as a victim by the justice system's failure to trace the criminal offender for his dangerous cycling riders' offenses that caused me serious injuries and fractures. There is also no justice or compensation for me, an innocent victim of crime.

There are multiple fatalities and fatal collisions between cyclists and pedestrians in the UK and the records show it's on the rise. I read online after what I endured, that a number of pedestrians have been injured or killed by bikes in record numbers. It seems that careless bike riders are cycling without any due care, attention, respect, or reasonable consideration. It's against the law for cyclists to ride the footpaths unless designated as shared paths. They should be aligned with motor vehicle law and legislation.

There are many other stories I found online and I am shocked that the transport system hasn't done anything in this regard. There should be a cycling route in towns and cities physically separated from pedestrians and motor traffic. Now we witness the era of many electric bikes and scooters that travel at very high speeds and jump on the pavement to avoid traffic lights, and they can be dangerous as well. They should all be regulated.

Those ebike manufacturers should think of safety before thinking about profitability and should contribute rules before riding and purchasing those dangerous tools and letting them run on the pavement. I even emailed the distributor about what I endured unlawfully and all I got was an automated email stating 'thanks for ordering ebikes', which implies their only concern is . I saw on their websites they are promoting the very fastest ebike which implies more accidents and fatalities, and all are pretty pricey. So how are those dangerous tools bought and afforded?

How would anyone feel safe anymore walking on the pavement? The civic authorities seem irresponsible in protecting people from minor crimes that cause injury and disability and the lack of any system whereby ordinary citizens can seek damages to cover the cost of their injuries. The law should convict dangerous ebike users. They are like small cars running at high speed. I heard that ebikes in the UK don't have brakes so it's cheaper to buy them, and they only backpedal to bring it to a halt. This high-speed ebike rider halted on my body and caused me serious injuries and fractures.

I can't use my left hand as it was before and obviously, he has left me with a disability and that's not funny at all, especially when it's not my own fault. How can on earth something like that happen lawfully?

I am morally, emotionally, and physically broken and shattered. My life will never be the same as before. He ruined my life and plans. I am all alone and have no family around me to support me. This has affected me greatly as I am in too much pain and agony. I feel depressed and scared for my life at the same time and I keep all the time crying in my loneliness and it's killing me.

Where is the duty of care towards pedestrians by careless ebike riders in the city? He was traveling at high speed and there is no speed limit on the footpath. He should have bypassed me as there was enough room to do so. In the laws, it says they should pass pedestrians at low speed.

What I needed was to get my life back, my normal life, not a dose of paranoia. Bad things can happen at any corner of any street at any time. Criminals are everywhere.

In the back of my head, this always runs as a movie, a horror movie that will stir things up again. The general view was that I was ill and still am as I can never wipe out what happened to me, but the best medicine is just to get on with your life and sort it out yourself. But how can I cope with things to this day? I have vivid recurring dreams involving the serious assault and flashbacks of the incident. I avoid going to that street as I feel distressed and suffocating. I try to get accustomed to it, but I can't help it. Sometimes, I feel I will voice those thoughts out loud, in space, in the universe. And many times, I feel I will sink into depression and misery, but I try to resist, as I know depression does me no good at all. I could shut myself away, and talk to the person in the mirror, think what I wanted, laugh or cry if I wanted, or say and do nothing if I wanted. I still hadn't thought myself how to turn it all off. But the damage was done. For me, crying has always been a very private thing. Desperation and loneliness are my solo thing.

I leave things to fate, to doctors, and to whoever decides as it's hard to decide with total chaos and confusion.

To hit and injure someone and ride off is simply disgraceful and distressing and I believe it's illegal as well. This man didn't show any compassion or apologise for what he did to me. It's a crime, by all means, to affect the lives of law-abiding people like myself.

In the issue where I was hit from behind, there is a big post stating, 'CCTV in this area to monitor crime' and I couldn't get justice for what I endured when I reported to the police and the Liverpool city watch (Figure 10). How a criminal rider can run away with it when he caused me serious and fatal unnecessary injuries and fractures on the week of Christmas when people are happy and enjoying and I was suffering in deep pain and great agony for a fault of not mine at all.



Great George Street is loaded with CCTV but it failed to serve its main purpose ©.

We need safe reliable footpaths for everyone. This accident should have not happened to anyone walking peacefully on the footpath.

Despite contacting the police and the local council about this incident, I have had no success in either tracing the person who assaulted me or finding ways to get some justice. Indeed, Liverpool City Council refused to show me CCTV footage of the cyclist for his data protection and the police closed my case after only three days and didn't investigate in great detail, and they did not do enough. I thought I would be looked after by the service.

I have contacted two leading law firms, both of whom have refused to take my case because of its complexity. Had I been knocked over by a motorcycle rather than an ebike then the Motor Insurer's Bureau would have had to defend a claim and I would in all likelihood have received substantial compensation. It seems unjust and unfair that I am entitled to neither justice nor compensation.

Although cycling is a great way to get around, it is vital that cyclists know the law and keep themselves and others safe. Riding on pavements and jumping red lights are illegal and can result in fatalities, as well as obvious dangers to innocent pedestrians, those riders, and other road users.

I question if I was attacked deliberately. That would be a shame in a civilized nation. How could the rider not avoid me as there was enough room to bypass me (Figure 1). I want to meet someone in my condition, my situation, a trauma survivor to share the feelings and its dreadful impact. How can I get back to normal, to my body and mental state? There is no one around like me to understand how it feels.

Something seriously needs to be done. This could happen potentially to others. There are many pedestrians including children, women, and the elderly who are walking and could suffer the same fortune I had. It cannot be passed off as the wrong person at the wrong time, in the wrong place. I believe he was traveling at 40-60 miles/hour, as I recall the forceful hit and the push it caused me to be thrown forward onto the ground with great force.

Since the assault I endured, I have read of a number of similar victims who have similarly been left with little recourse. It seems some people are just cruel to others and don't exercise care or compassion. Inflicting harm or causing harm and pain on someone incapable of doing the same to you seems extremely intolerably cruel. Where does such ill behaviour come from and what purpose does it serve, I wonder? For most of us hurting anyone will cause us to feel their pain and misery, so how about someone who knocks you over intentionally from behind causing serious harm and unnecessary injuries and fractures, and just flees the scene as if they did nothing?

A friend of mine analysed the horrific assault and suggested that it had been done deliberately as she argued the long path and there was ample room to avoid me and she added that young people are angry about everything and can harm anyone and inflict pain as simple as that. I could not digest that or understand that, but I can see her point through seeing the vandalism to many bus stops and some stores doors but to go to the level to hit an innocent pedestrian and from behind, that's a crime by all means. Life can be cruel, and the truth can be cruel, but we can choose not to be. I am suffering and grieving alone, suffering pain, discomfort, off work, loss of earnings, and emotional and physical scars.

It's always stated that any mobile vehicle including a cyclist should be prepared at all times for people to behave in an unexpected way, so how about my state, when I was merely walking on the pavement, close to the iron fence, in my own peace and not crossing at all, and was hit forcefully from behind. I could not avoid him to save myself. He didn't make any sound until I felt a hard hit and was struck on my back.

I also knew that electric-powered bikes don't require the driver to own a licence and have a legal power-assisted speed of up to 15.5 mph but are often pedalled at much higher speeds that exceed 200 watts (they have a power output in excess of 250 watts) and, in that condition can reach 40-60 mph, which means that they are treated as motor vehicles and must be registered with DVLA, and should be on the road under the same laws and restrictions as cars and third party insurance should be in place and should be subjected to the same law as motorists. They travel in excess of the road limit and the limit for a bike.



The Mountain ebike with front and back thick wheels which run everywhere and anywhere in Liverpool©.

Ebikes have specialised motors that boost their power excessively and thus the rider doesn't have to pedal as vigorously to keep moving. They are modified to go faster and without noise and with a power output of 250 watts and reach 60 mph speed. Thus, they offer soft and faster speeds and less work and effort from the rider to do so. They can accelerate and at a fast speed compared to regular bikes by pedal power, augmented by rechargeable batteries. They don't have speed dials and people drive them recklessly. Thus, they can lead to devastating injuries which can be serious on collisions with pedestrians and they cause serious falls. Many riders don't operate them safely, a BMJ study in 2022 said. They are like low-performing motorbikes. Those vehicles are lethal and dangerous. Few people realise these e-bikes are 'dangerous' vehicles – which can reach speeds of 47 mph to 60 mph – can be operated by reckless teenagers with just a moped licence.

Ebike cyclists should be subjected to the same law as cars as many pedestrians have been hit and some have lost their life due to reckless driving. They should be prosecuted for dangerous driving and causing harm. They should have insurance and an identification plate for recognition when they do harm to others. Ebikes should be licensed, taxed, and insured just like motorbikes and cars.

The cyclist who hit me should be convicted under the offences against the person act 1861, with imprisonment. If they are not held to account by the law then that just encourages more reckless behaviour.

The government, council, and the police should be held legally accountable for letting those lethal and dangerous tools run

without legislation in place. The government and the police seem to be not concerned at all. Punishment should fit the deed.

The rider who fled should be held on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm under section 35 of the 1861 Offences Against Person Act, which covers 'injuring persons by culpable driving'. This is the anti-social use of ebike which is typically not safe for use on the footpath. Moreover, he should be also arrested on suspicion of failing to stop and failing to report the collision.

Rule 62 says that cyclists should respect pedestrians' safety and give ultimate caution to do so.

Also, rule 19 advises pedestrians those drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians. It's always a priority to safeguard pedestrians.

I am writing this to bring attention to these serious issues I endured illegitimately and they should be addressed and tackled seriously. Awareness and enforcement should go hand in hand and the lack of law enforcement and the lack of road policing gives the impression to those unlawful pavement bike riders that it's acceptable behaviour to knock people down and run away without justice or punishment.

This bike (called The Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles – EAPC) was considerably larger than the normal popular ones and with two distinctive large and thick wheels (tyres). Such bikes are very heavy metal and quite large and are usually used for mountain climbing.

Cyclists should abide by rules and speed on the footpath and hit people. They should exercise extreme caution and give enough space to pedestrians. Letting a cyclist off is unreasonable when they cause serious harm to pedestrians on the footpath.

The incredible speed he hit me with is beyond any sanity.

I could do absolutely nothing, for a while as I was in shock.

Those ebikes run everywhere in Liverpool, mostly off-road, and terrorise people and pedestrians without any consideration or acknowledgment of the danger they pose.

We have two hands to do things. Hand function and in particular use of the fingers is vital for most daily tasks and virtually every profession. Our fingers are the tools through which we accomplish nearly all daily activities. They are small bones and lined up precisely to help perform grasping, holding objects, touching, and interacting with the surrounding environment. So, a broken hand bone, even a minor one, will put a whole hand out of alignment and functionality (Figure 13). My finger has a permanent bent deformity with a continuous horrible audible clicking that grows louder when I force it to bend with the rest of the hand, along with a great discomfort and aching pain (Figure 14). And now I find myself unable to do things as I used to. And as I am now overusing my right hand it has started to ache now, especially at the index finger.

Now I can't use my hand as before and it just feels as if you lost a part of your limb in your body and it's really very emotional to me and not funny at all. Even surgical correction won't restore it to how it was, as it will involve prolonged rehabilitation, risks of adhesion and scars, economical loss, social loss, stress of the surgery, and the risk of anaesthesia. This is a big change for my life ahead and I have to live with it.

Boredom and loneliness has begun to get to me with all those moments of pain.

But there was much worse to come, as I thought my hand will be back to normal and I was totally wrong and the hospital couldn't rectify it so I now have permanent injury. I even started blaming myself, for walking on the footpath and not watching over my shoulder?

The government is obviously not taking this matter seriously. It should do its job properly and ensure safety for all. What happened to me is preventable.. It is unacceptable in a supposedly civilised world.

I keep asking myself on the daily basis. Why did the police not do their job or to bring this criminal to justice? Why did the Liverpool city watch not use their CCTVs and why did the MP not bother to investigate?

I was let down by the police, city watch, my local MP, the fracture clinic, and all that is affecting me profoundly. I am consumed by all that and can't think otherwise. No one seems to hear or bother about what I endured unlawfully.

This criminal conduct I suffered unlawfully impacted and affected me mentally, emotionally, psychologically, physically, and financially, and on all levels. I have physical and emotional injuries that will last for a long time and I now have a disability. I feel no safer. It affected the way how I live day to day and impacted the quality of my life and my well-being.

Although I enjoy walking, I now worry about walking and it preys on my mind.

I become easily frustrated, anxious, and not confident enough when I see any ebike and I still see them in my sleep and get frightened. I lock myself inside my home and only go out when it's essential.

This was a very distressing incident for me, and it was a shocking experience that left me with lifelong sequelae.

I feel I am not courageous enough to do things I want to do; I can't go out often as I want and I am scared of crowds and don't feel secure in my own self.

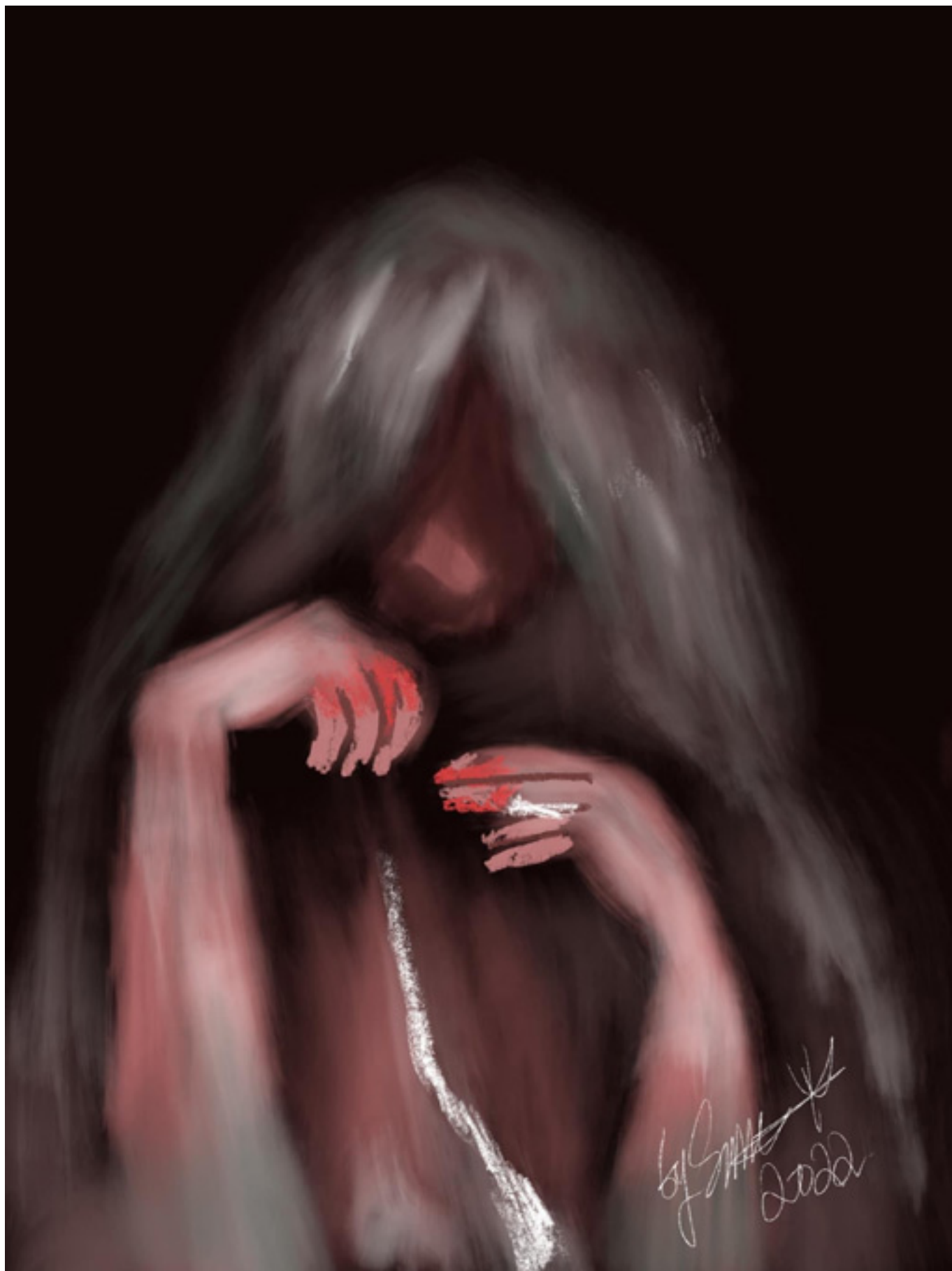
I am pretty much at a loss. They deemed me unfit for work, so I lost the potential. Also, I am not compensated and my injuries were not treated as they should be and as would be expected. The physio lady and a colleague told me I am prone to arthritis due to the injury to my hand and my knees.

My world had shrunk around me and I couldn't save it. My mouth dried up. The rapid hit didn't allow me to process things quickly at that horrific moment in time as it's shocking and appalling by all means for any human brain to navigate through and process.

It's new for me as an awful dream cascade, I am carrying it with me to the grave. Like my soul is dying away from my body, and when the night arrives and pushes its curtain down, I curl alone in pain in my bed. Words were made impossible and meaningless to explain, to declare the magnitude of the pain I am dwelling in.

I stand in contemplation of my surroundings, feeling as if everything I built had broken off and fallen apart. I try to lighten my mood by painting and writing. I am not sure I am liking any of this. I had patterns in mind which were spoiled by this daft person I was under unnecessary sufferance. A truth to be told.

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/doctor-doesnt-feel-safe-walk-22611287>



Grieving and pained - a tale of sorrow.

And the day came out
Shining with its pale sad light
And terrors pass
To sit on the lonely hill of sadness
Through that sadness I pass
Solitudes in silence grieving
All that night in anguish
Deep in stillness of speech and sound
The invisible shadow of darkness and dangerous
Faster, in the wink of an eye
Glimpse and gone forever
Flamed and fled
And why all the grief is mine
What did I do to deserve this
Dwelling in too much pain, anger and agony
Pondering over my future
Unwanted guest, uneasy and never rest
What a dreadful memory through the gloom
Sickness-out of the street
Suddenly came out quick without warning
Impeding evil doom in vain
Mindless to disdain
Disturbed my quietness and calmness
Breached my peace
A sordid flood of hatred
Foolish with dark fatal errors and terrors
His steps like a chain of hells
Wild monster - evil
Wrapt in reflection of disgrace
Hit me from behind on the footpath while walking with a spinning thick wheels of ebike
Blushed me with a pond of blood
Inflicted me a book full of pain
Tears flow unchecked
Unseen by mortal eye
Sending dreadful dreams
I loudly, at length I cried
Tears that drip all over!
I fade into deep painful misery

Veiled me darkened hours
Blasting my sadden mind
Sinking on ocean full of sufferings, sadness and pain
Dimmed my days
Silent go, and harmful come
Haunting me in my dreams every night
Dreams, nightmares, ghosts, flash back and vain
My soul asking for reasons, for answers
No more to view
My fracture finger can't function as it was
Struggling breathing due to blockage of the nose fracture
Damages my knee and caused me agnostic pain
Feels as part of my body was taken away unlawfully
Can't cheer -bestow smile no more
Stealing unlawfully my nature's face
A desolate shade
Odour of near killed and deplore
My days burn slowly in awful pain
Empty air and vacant hopes
I was hoping for brighter days
I had plans but all of the sudden bloomed away by a stupid careless reckless high speed idiotic vile ebike rider
Ploughing and stroking me with brutality from behind while walking lawfully on the pavement
To shatter my plans and dreams away
To cause me unnecessary physical harms and great pain
I couldn't see his evils eyes
I was dreadfully crying of immense pain he inflicted on me unlawfully
Why would I walk with smiles
That each should be a tear down there
Broken soul, broken morality
Emotionally and physically smashed shattered
Causing me too much agony and unnecessary injuries and multiple fractures
Who count accountable for this
Why would I get this and the criminal ran away with it enjoying
I never hurt any one to deserve this
I never knew that walking on the UK's footpath could bring physical harms that much, that bad
He ruined that day and the coming after
Why causing harm, I demand answers?
How unfair life can be?
How unkind, horrible person was he?
Horror horror
I wonder what was he feeling

To hit and run is immoral and cruel
For me here no fancy no more
Laughing his farewell and departed
I stood alone in pain
And lonely I cried
Limping my way for care
Intense harrowing sorrow
Who will take this pain away
Where is judgment and justice
Where is all that
To meet my sorrows for nothing I did wrong
Justice failed to unleash
Inflicted with a scar for life
God what fools those mortals be
Sad sad glow-less moment for me
Darkest day of my life and left wounded
And the tyrant walked as did nothing
Leaving me nests of sadness
Where is hope and faith on justice
Words can't paint my feelings
Trembling through my story
He will get his comeuppance - amen

