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Bangladesh, Conflict

### **Bangladesh: A Country in Chaos**

The country of Bangladesh consists of political conflicts and environmental destruction. The government of Bangladesh has generally been a constitutional or presidential democracy. The population of the Southern Asian country is 163 million. The major exports that keep the gross domestic product of 303 billion for this country are garments, tobacco, and jute. A great majority of the land is cultivatable, 8.8 million ha, excluding .2 million ha that is not currently cultivated by individual citizens. Each family typically farm less than 1 ha, and this is used for sustenance farming (FAO). Many corporations have continued to aid in the process of fixing Bangladesh's environmental and governmental issues. UNICEF has helped the children with shelter and educational programs, the UN has also tried to help with the women, children, and refugees (Working). The conflict happening in Bangladesh inhibits the country to progress with a cleaner environment and a steady government.

Typical family life in Bangladesh consists of four people in the family: a mother and father, and two children. Outside of the immediate family there are aunts and uncles, grandparents, cousins, and grandchildren. These families grow food that supplies them with a meager living. Other forms of income include financial jobs that tend to pay enough for people to live. Many people work on farms that produce tobacco and jute. These products are shipped to eastern European countries like Germany, the UK, France and Italy (Bangladesh). Although the country gains a lot of money from these exports, much of the population still lives in poverty.

The government of Bangladesh has been a major problem area for almost a hundred years. The government of Bangladesh has been overthrown by many coups. Consistently switching through powerful leaders. An article written about Bangladesh and their unruly government states that, "Impunity for abuses by security forces, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, remained

pervasive. The government continued to violate international standards on freedom of speech in its crackdown on government critics” (Bangladesh). The government continues to control citizens by taking away their freedom of speech by ultimately silencing them.

These overthrowing and change of government and its leadership has affected the people of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh government is unstable and is a hotbed for fraud and corruption. Many citizens believe that the 2018 election was fraudulent and when they called for some sort of action from the government, “Bangladesh’s ruling Awami League government ignored calls during the year for an independent investigation into serious allegations” (Bangladesh). The government has ignored the citizens protests for fair elections. The government has also shown its uncontrollable power through silencing those who try to speak out against the government’s corruption. “Impunity for abuses by security forces, including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, remained pervasive. The government continued to violate international standards on freedom of speech in its crackdown on government critics” (Bangladesh). Without a proper functioning government, the people suffer through bad government action and unjust happenings to the citizens of Bangladesh.

The second most major issue in Bangladesh is the waste that is not properly taken care of that hurts the environment and inhibits the population from average health and protected sanitation. Many environmental issues inhabit Bangladesh like air pollution, deforestation, and overpopulation, but the issues most affecting the people of Bangladesh is water pollution. A study done on the contaminated water concludes with this, “Death due to water-borne diseases is widespread in Bangladesh, particularly among children” (Water). Contaminated water is a major issue in Bangladesh; due to the contaminated water, many people die. The same report found that many controlled and uncontrolled dumping of natural substances, chemicals, and leaking from landfill sites is the culprit to contaminating the water (Water). Many studies from corporations and the government cannot agree on the safeness of the water. This is the first step to improving the problems in Bangladesh.

There are many solutions to Bangladesh’s government corruption and the environmental turmoil. One solution to both is foreign aid. Bangladeshi citizens have tried multiple times to overthrow the

corrupt government. Other countries near Bangladesh like India or Myanmar could help the citizens with a coup against the political officials. This is a tricky solution, many countries that help others want things in return like money, land or may not give control over to the citizens once the government is overthrown.

Civil unrest is generally the next step in trying to take back an unruly government. Continuing to overthrow the government is an option, but has not worked so far. Not paying taxes or speaking out against the government will get people to notice the issues and more will try acting. Legislative policies that inhibit the governments behavior may correct the issues in Bangladesh. More transparency between the government and its people will stop the spread of election frauds. Not allowing the government to take away the peoples' voice is the only way to ensure that the people will keep it. Using foreign governments or corporations like India and UNICEF may help in the correction of government.

Once the government of Bangladesh has improved through the sated above actions, the people and its government can act on the rising environmental issues like water pollution.

Fixing water pollution takes legislative action, volunteering, and careful watching. The first way to fix the water pollution in Bangladesh is to clear the sewage and waste that is found laying in the water. The decomposition of these items poisons the water and once this is done the water will have to be cleaned through chemicals. Cleaning the water and returning it to its rightful pH, nitrogen, phosphorous, and oxygen, levels will take time.

After cleaning the water of its chemical and physical dilemmas, legal action will proceed. Writing policies that make it illegal for corporations to fill the waters with chemicals and trash need to find action being taken against them. Stopping leaching requires farmers to use new practice, these should be taken up through government teaching and enforcing. People of Bangladesh will also need to learn of these violations and find sanitizing stations that keep them clean and safe. These citizens will no longer be able to through trash into the water or use it to bathe.

The last step towards getting rid of the water pollution issue in Bangladesh is to keep track of its condition. This means enforcement of newly created laws that keep people and corporations from polluting the water. This also means regular government testing of water and especially water near towns

and companies. Keeping people educated is the last measure to ensure clean water for the country of Bangladesh.

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