



Narratives on Digital Bangladesh: Shared Meanings, Shared Concerns

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Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister of
Bangladesh.

Hasina in an interview with Veteran Journalist
David Frost.

**Modern
Progressive**





Youth Votes for Digital Bangladesh !!!!!!!



Daylight Savings
Time – No

Digital Time -
Yes



Digital Bangladesh is
about . . .

Corruption

Knowledge

Wired
Networks

Modernity

Technology

Martyrs of
Revolution

Poverty



ডিজিটাল
বাংলাদেশ



2021

Study Objectives

Digital Bangladesh

Present Narratives

Ensuing Dialogues

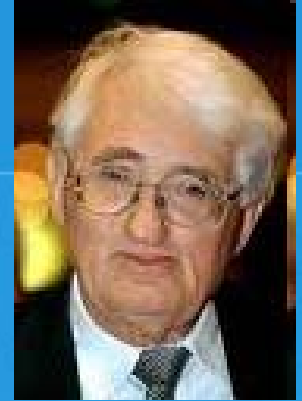
Shared Meanings and Concerns Taking Shape

Problem Statement

What are the understandings of Digital Bangladesh by the various sectors of society – government, business, media, academe, IT and civil society? What are the narratives and ensuing dialogues about Digital Bangladesh in the public sphere ?

Dialogues in Public Sphere

Jürgen Habermas,
German Sociologist



- The public sphere is the arena within which debate occurs.
- It is the generation of ideas, shared knowledge and the construction of opinion that occurs when people assemble and discuss.

Dialogues in Public Sphere

- The dialogues are essential building blocks of community since participants achieve a connection with each other.
- The dialogues facilitate deliberative democracy - a process whereby citizens voluntarily and freely participate in discussions on public issues.
- Bangladeshis are co-creating their future whenever they speak about the vision and roadmap of Digital Bangladesh.

Study Method

Interview: 11 opinion leaders from government, business, academe, IT and civil society.

Document Examination: opinion columns, roundtable discussion reports and interviews from media sources.

Data Gathering Period: July to September 2009

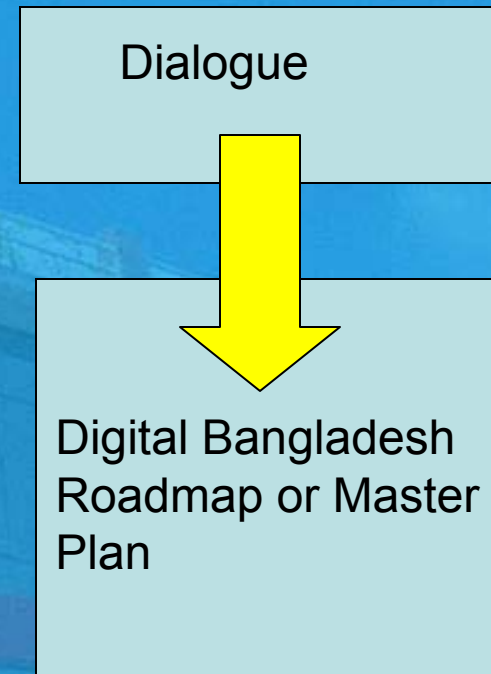
Study Findings Showing the Problem

“Digital Bangladesh”

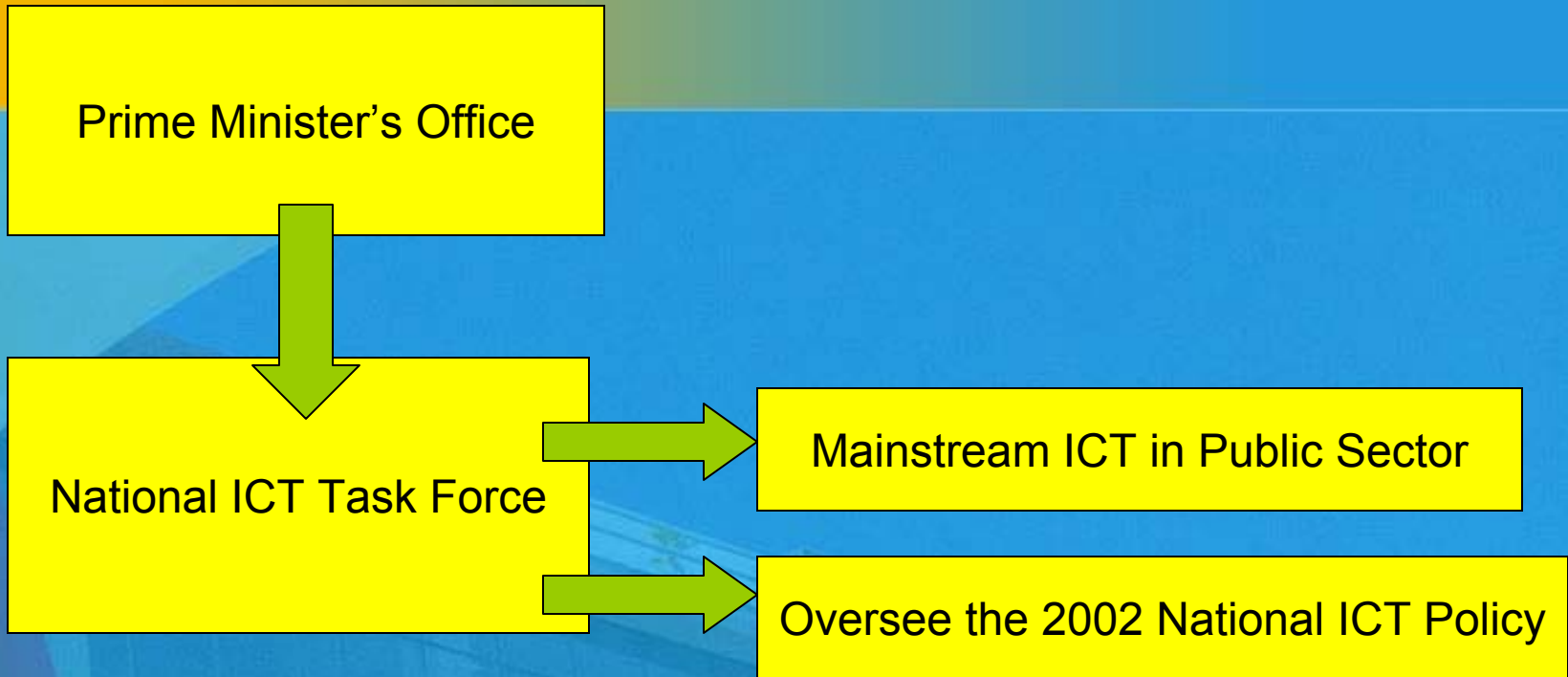
- No shared meaning.
- No accepted roadmap.
- But, various stakeholders are continuously engaging in dialogues about it and they want it to happen on the prescribed deadline.

Main Recommendation

Government utilize a dialogue approach in translating the vision of Digital Bangladesh into a reality.



**Who is the initiator
of the dialogue?**



Computer Software Company Spinnovation Owner TIM Nurul Kabir



The “lack of progress cannot be explained by a lack of focus or political priority” but “much of the strategic work by the government takes a broad and ambitious approach to the scope of ICT policy change. This makes the government to try to do everything at once and therefore, under-deliver. . . .”

National ICT Task Force

Secretariat on
Digital Bangladesh

Digital Government
Digital Education
Digital Business
Digital Citizens

National ICT Task Force

Secretariat on
Digital Bangladesh

Representatives
from Stakeholder
Groups

Facilitate dialogue process
Ensure ownership of dialogue results

Digital Government
Digital Education
Digital Business
Digital Citizens

DIALOGUE APPROACH

INITIATOR/ SECRETARIAT
Digital Bangladesh
Secretariat under the
National Task Force on ICT

**Who are the
participants of the
dialogue?**



দেশ বাঁচাও
মানুষ বাঁচাও



SAVE THE COUNTRY
SAVE THE PEOPLE

দেশ বাঁচাও মানুষ বাঁচাও

নবম জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচন ২০০৮

নির্বাচনী ইশতেহার



শুধু উন্নতি করাটাই থাকাই শ্রেষ্ঠতা নয়,

বরং প্রতিবার পতনের পর আবার উঠে দাঁড়াতে পারাটাই শ্রেষ্ঠতা।

আমরা দেশ ও দেশবাসীর জন্যে কাজ করে যাব।

সন্ত্রাসের ভয়াল জনপদে পরিণত বাংলাদেশকে সন্ত্রাস মুক্ত করে ২০০১-এর নির্বাচনী প্রতিজ্ঞা পালনকারী ও দেশনেত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়ার নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশ জাতীয়তাবাদী দল (বিএনপি) এর প্রতি আপনার সমর্থন বজায় রাখুন।

সন্ত্রাস দমনে সফল কার্যক্রম অপারেশন কুীনহাট ও সফল প্রতিষ্ঠান র‍্যাপিড একশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র‍্যাব) এর রূপকার বিএনপিকে অভিনন্দন।

Digital
Bangladesh???

PARTICIPANTS

Government,

Business/IT Sector

Academe/Civil Society

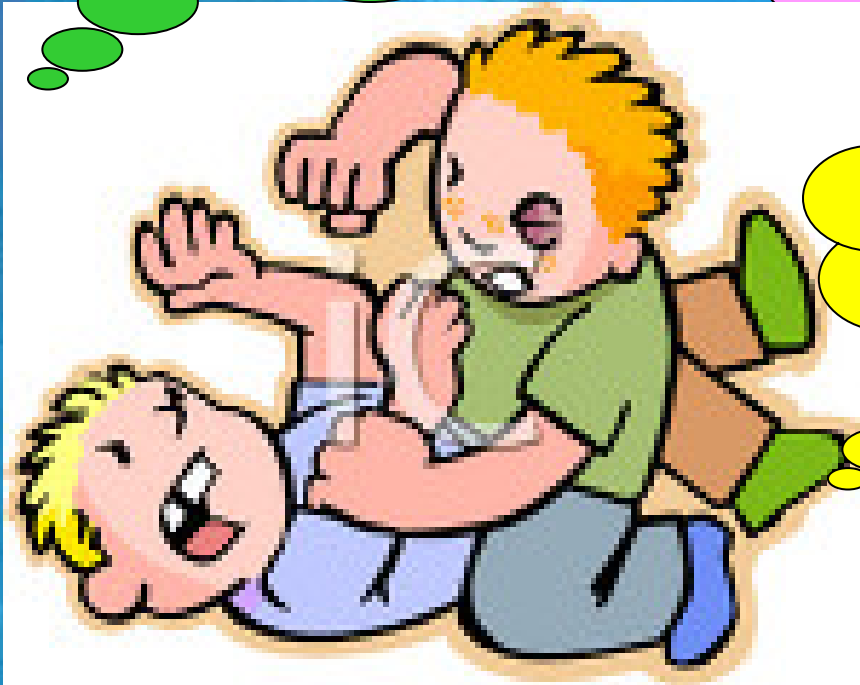
Media & Other Groups

**What is the process
of the dialogue?**

ICT
Development

Citizen Empowerment

Taxes and Budget
Allocations





**Roundtable
organized by
Bangladesh ICT
Journalist Forum to
discuss a proposal
to lift taxes from
digital camera, web
camera and mobile
phone held on
June 17, 2009 .**



PROCESS

Intra-sector Dialogues

Inter-sector Dialogues

**What is the content
of the dialogue?**

Meanings Shared

- Beneficiaries/Stakeholders (Bangladeshis and foreigners alike)
- Scope (Knowledge-based Society)
- Pillars/Components (e-government, e-commerce, education, digital divide, health, agriculture, IT infrastructure, media, etc.)
- Feasibility (YES)

Meanings Not Shared

➤ Definition

- Technology only
- Development and technology
- Knowledge
- Poverty
- Corruption

➤ Challenges

(so many challenges)

➤ Goals

- Human rights
- Social equity
- Law and order
- Transparency
- Economic success
- Poverty-free
- Quality education

➤ Roadmap

(no clear roadmap)

CONTENT ON DIGITAL BANGLADESH

Definition

Goals/Scope

Benefits/Stakeholders

Pillars/Components

Challenges/Roadmap

Enabling Policies

DIALOGUE APPROACH



OUTPUT

Master Plan on ICT and Development that
is . . .

Market Driven

Stakeholder Owned

Enabling Policy Focused

**Computer Software Company Spinnovation
Owner TIM Nurul Kabir**



“The final weakness (of the government) is implementation approach, which has been focused on government delivery rather than facilitation and enabling of private and voluntary sector solutions.”

Kazi Anis Ahmed

**Director and Chief Strategy
Officer, Gemcon Group**



The success of Digital Bangladesh “depends on the enabling policies made by the government. The market should lead once policies are made.”

Shahid Uddin Akbar

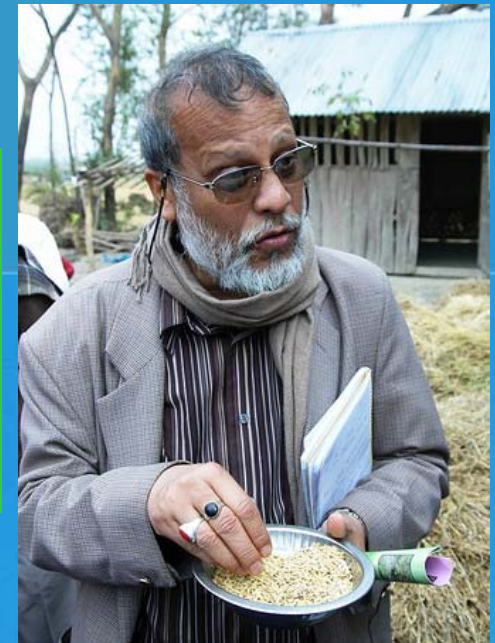
**Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh
Institute of ICT for Development**



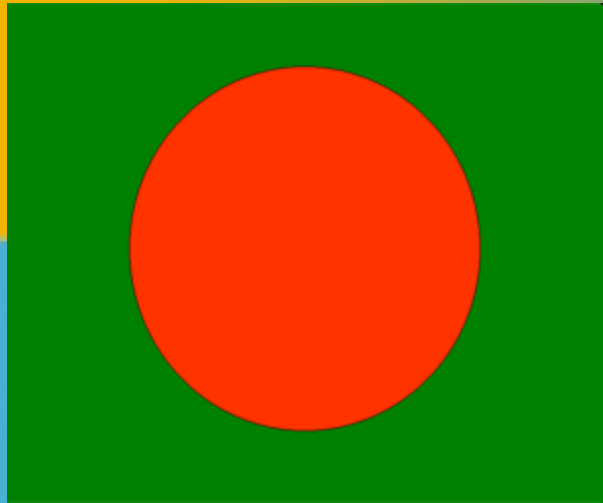
“A market driven approach should be key and the most important priority to consider and deal with in the digital Bangladesh campaign.”

Zainul Abedin

**Representative of Bangladesh,
International Rice Research
Institute (IRRI)**



Government “should always discuss with beneficiaries and stakeholders. Government must establish partnerships with them. Everyone should share in the responsibility and the ethics.”



Thanks for your attention.