
THE POLITICAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES IN BANGLADESH: A STUDY OF TWO VILLAGES

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Abstract: *Political stability is a prerequisite for a country's development and economic growth. Because foreign investment depends on political stability, if foreign investment increases, the country concerned will naturally develop. Political instability has harmed the country's overall development, imports and exports, and retailers. But a country's or a village's development depends on political stability and other factors that hurt development. This paper has investigated the root factors of underdevelopment even in stable political environments in two selected villages, namely Barabangina and Talukpara of Cumilla district. A mixed method, especially in-depth interviews, FGD, case studies, and surveys, was used to collect data. This study proposed that to develop the selected village, it is necessary to increase the rate of higher education along with the goodwill of the political leaders otherwise, the overall development of the village will not be possible. So, it is hoped that this research will play a significant role.*

Keywords: *Political Stability, Development, Economic Growth, Political Instability, Bangladesh.*

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1. Introduction

Since political stability differs from culture to culture and occasionally even within the same one, researchers cannot come to a consensus on a fundamental definition. The general definition of political stability is based on the stability of the political regime and the government on the one hand and the stability of internal legal systems and external stability (the lack of external threats to the country's stability) on the other (Masry, 2015). There is a strong correlation between political stability, economic progress, and overall development. On the one hand, the uncertainty brought on by a shaky political climate can impede investment and economic expansion. Furthermore, weak economic performance can result in political instability and the fall of governments. All nations should strive to maintain a stable political environment to thrive economically, and we occasionally experienced political turmoil in Bangladesh (Chawdhury, 2016). Bangladesh is a developing nation with lots of room to grow economically. Significant factors include political instability, political crime, law and order issues, human rights violations, and poor governance, which impede economic progress in various ways (Rahman & Rashid, 2018). It rises to the top each time there is a change in the government. The opposing party frequently seeks to seize control of the nation, while the party in power frequently works to keep the government in place. Because of this, the political climate at the moment is unstable. Human welfare is desirable, but the entire system will collapse if it morphs into greed. Both parties participate in meetings, conferences, and other events. However, these actions are ruining our way of life and our economy (Chawdhury, 2016). Economic growth will be found where there is stability when the relationship between political stability and the economy is examined. All economists agree that states with strong economies and stable political systems grow more quickly than those with unstable economies. Political instability is described as the inability of a democratic process to develop an efficient and effective political system that upholds the rule of law. Political instability is taking center stage as the main factor influencing growth in developing economies (Acar, 2019).

Notwithstanding, Bangladesh is a political unrest country. Even then, it is considered the world's fastest economic growing country. According to the World Bank's political stability ranking, 2017, many nations with weak political stability ratings are among the fast-growing economies on the

globe, such as China (115), India (160), and Bangladesh (174) (Johannes & Klaus, 2020). Nevertheless, political stability can be attained by repression or having a party not subject to reelection. In this instance, political stability is like a blade with two edges. Even though political stability is hoped to foster peace, it might quickly become a haven for impunity and cronyism. This conundrum affects many nations, especially those with weak political institutions (Hussain, 2014). Most researchers conclude that two characteristics of political instability are detrimental to economic progress. It first interferes with market activity and labor relations, directly harming production. Second, the investment will be lower during unsteady political conditions (Radu, 2015). This research paper focuses on the relationship between political stability, infrastructure development, and economic growth in these two villages and why the villages have yet to develop despite political stability. Additionally, this study discusses the political conditions, the backgrounds of those participating in politics, the power and status of these villages, the stability of political relationships, the development of the village's leaders, and the contentment of the residents. Finally, this paper includes the Role of Union Parishad and the goodwill of political leaders for development and economic growth, as well as proposes some recommendations for ensuring social facilities and development in these two villages.

The primary objective of this study is to investigate how political stability hurts the infrastructure development and economic growth of these two selected villages. The specific objectives of this study are:

- To identify the key factors hindering development and economic growth despite political stability.
- To explore the role of local government and community engagement in improving development in the selected communities.
- To provide recommendations to accelerate development in the two selected villages by addressing the identified hindrances.

2. Literature Review

By and large, political instability is considered the main barrier to economic growth and development in developing countries like Bangladesh, and the political situation of Bangladesh needs to be more

stable. Surprisingly, the political scenario of Barahangina and Talukpara villages is stable, and residents are also satisfied with it, but still, more development is needed. So, political instability is not responsible alone for hindering economic growth and development. The following studies have shown that several factors besides political stability can hinder development and economic growth. Studies have shown that political stability is positively associated with investment, entrepreneurship, and innovation and can harm economic growth (Aisen & Veiga, 2013; Easterly & Levine, 1997).

One of the critical factors that contribute to political stability is the presence of effective and transparent governance. This includes a well-functioning legal and judicial system, which protects citizens and ensures that the rule of law is upheld (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012). Independent and free media is also essential, allowing citizens to voice their opinions and hold government officials accountable (Chang & Chu, 2006). According to Van de Walle (1998), achieving high economic growth improves people's quality of life, which in turn helps political and democratic reform. This is why achieving economic development is seen as a critical determinant of political stability. There is a connection between political stability and economic growth, and the two must be managed together (Zablotsky, 1996).

Political stability is a favorable indicator to stabilize economic change, and adherence to democratic principles is the primary driver of economic development (Masry, 2015). The changes that have taken place in Egypt over the past three years, since the revolution of 25 January 2011, confirm the influence that political reality has on economic position. Since the start of the Egyptian Revolution on January 25, many economists have pointed out that political instability and deteriorating security conditions are the country's main problems. These issues have caused a halt in economic activity, and the appearance of barriers to real economic improvement as Egypt's economy becomes more dependent on foreign trade, investment, and tourism (Masry, 2015). According to Cervantes and Villasenor (2015), political stability affects economic growth through investment, savings, disruptions of the labor market, levels of productivity/output of private agents, and government monetary and fiscal policies. Gakpa (2019) defines political instability as the combination of factors, including the absence of a stable administration, internal and external conflicts, and the

military's involvement in politics. Many political disturbances, especially the number of military coups, are said to have a significant and lousy impact on development by Barro (1991).

Moreover, several factors found in many studies hinder development and economic growth. According to Mauro (1995), corruption can misallocate resources, hindering economic growth. Corruption can also discourage foreign investment and reduce economic activity, as businesses may want to refrain from investing in a country with a reputation for corruption. Poor infrastructure, including inadequate transportation systems, power grids, and communication networks, can make it difficult for businesses to operate efficiently, hindering economic growth (Aschauer, 1989). A skilled and educated workforce can help economic growth, as it limits the ability of businesses to innovate and produce goods and services (Lucas, 1988). International trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, can hinder economic growth by reducing the opportunities for businesses to export their goods and services to foreign markets. This can limit the potential for economic growth, as businesses may only be able to expand within their domestic markets (Krugman, 1987). Income inequality can hinder economic growth by reducing the purchasing power of the middle and lower classes. This can limit consumer spending and demand for goods and services, ultimately hindering economic growth (Persson & Tabellini, 1994). Environmental degradation can impede economic growth by reducing the availability of natural resources and damaging ecosystems. This can limit economic activity and reduce growth potential (Dasgupta, 2001). Natural disasters and climate change can disrupt economic activity and cause significant damage to infrastructure, reducing economic growth (IPCC, 2014).

A stable political landscape and the good intentions of political leaders can facilitate a country's or a local village's sustainable development. Several things prevent growth. Developmental obstacles can be divided into two categories: those attributable to internal issues in the various countries and those in their external environments (Raj, 1979). The predicament of many people is undoubtedly explained by initial low production levels, poverty of natural resources (such as the scarcity of land for agriculture), and high rates of population growth. But in other cases, these obstacles have been effectively overcome, partly through institutional innovation or adaptation and partly through workarounds that depend on the surrounding

environment. Interactions between internal and external factors significantly impact both the development processes and the outcomes.

We will consider the development-related challenges previously encountered and now known regarding this interaction (Raj, 1979). According to (Donga et al., 2016), the five main factors preventing development in the Thulamela municipality are more funding, market access, out-of-date machinery and technology, shoddy infrastructure, and a lack of training. According to a South African survey, agriculture is most villages' primary income source. And because the agricultural sector is poor and receives little investment and exports, these villages need more development (Bakari & Ahmadi, 2018). South Africa's villages have struggled to flourish due to the coronavirus. Their labor market has been particularly impacted. In several industries, productivity has decreased while unemployment has increased. No development was, therefore, feasible there (Fengler et. al, 2021).

The obstacles preventing development in various locations, even when there is political stability, have been the subject of numerous studies. These studies have uncovered several vital barriers, such as poor infrastructure, restricted financial access, a shortage of competent labor, corruption, weak institutions, and violence. Additionally, they contend that government intervention and targeted policies, such as increasing credit availability, enhancing infrastructure, and encouraging good governance, can aid in removing these barriers and fostering economic growth. However, while several studies have focused on variables that limit development, the study needs to be more comprehensive on factors that can impede growth despite a stable political environment. This study aims to address these research gaps and investigate further barriers to the economic development and growth of the Barahangina and Talukpara villages.

3. Methodology and Materials of the Study

Generally, research methodology is a method of collecting relevant information and data for achieving the research purpose. Creswell (2003) identifies three distinct research strategies: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed, and the mixed approach used in this study. This study purposively selected Barahangina and Talukpara villages in Barura Upazila Parishad of Cumilla district as a research area, and the geographical location of the research area is shown in Figure 1 by the following map.

Figure 1. Map of the Study Area



Source: (Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), n.d.)

Moreover, the study purposively selected 50 respondents from two villages from different social levels, and the respondents were divided into older people as judges for social problems, political leaders as role models in rural development, and ordinary people as farmers, laborers, and employees. Six case studies and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted to collect qualitative data from the three groups. Using the Nvivo-14 software, the interview transcripts were coded thematically, categorized, and organized. Data were gathered and processed with code numbers in a separate file, and then triangulated in accordance with their nature, type, and characteristics. Additionally, information is presented in a range of ways, including pie charts, bar charts, and columns. Table 1 lists the study's sample design.

Table 1: Criteria of Respondents

<i>Research Area</i>	Criteria of Respondents			Gender		Sub-Total	Grand Total
	Older People	Political Leaders	Common People (less than 50 age)	Male	Female		50
<i>Barabangina village</i>	5	7	13	15	10	25	
<i>Talukpara village</i>	5	8	12	15	10	25	

Subsequently, three central themes, opportunity scarcity, coordination gap with the national level, and political leaders' goodwill deficit, were derived from the qualitative data analysis using NVivo-14 software (See Table 2). The opportunity scarcity theme produced the highest reference code value from the NVivo-14 data with there being four sub-themes in this, while the coordination gap with national level and political leaders' goodwill deficit themes had the second-highest reference code value with there being three and two sub-themes respectively in this.

Table 1: Defined themes that were divided from the thematic analysis⁶

Central Theme	Sub-theme	Reference Code from Nvivo-14	Descriptive Coding	Descriptive Coding
Opportunity Scarcity	Education Disparities	12	<i>Limited educational options in some rural and small-town locations resulted in a lack of interest in education. The lack of sufficient land prevents the villagers from being entrepreneurial, which hinders the village's growth. Our community has been struggling with massive emigration, which has resulted in the loss of competent workers and unrealized potential. Farmers' ability to increase agricultural yields was hampered by the unavailability and high cost of these inputs.</i>	
	Land Deficiency and Dispute	8		
	Migration and Employment Impacts	9		
	Poor Agricultural Production	12		
Coordination Gap with National Level	Economic Disparities	5	<i>The lack of cooperation made the economic gaps between urban and rural areas worse. Infrastructure projects were delayed and left unfinished as a result of the local and national levels' lack of coordination.</i>	
	Inadequate Infrastructure	4		
	Inefficient Resource Allocation	5		

⁶ The central and sub-themes are developed by the authors based on the findings of Mauro (1995), (Aschauer, 1989), (Lucas, 1988), (Krugman, 1987), (Persson & Tabellini, 1994), (Dasgupta, 2001), (Raj, 1979), (Donga et al., 2016), (Bakari & Ahmadi, 2018), and (Fengler et al., 2021).

Central Theme	Sub-theme	Reference Code from Nvivo-14	Descriptive Coding	Descriptive Coding
			<i>Misallocation of resources led to inefficiency in many industries and further hampered the region's development.</i>	
Political Leaders' Goodwill Deficit	Corruption and Nepotism	6	<i>Some political leaders use corruption and nepotism to further their own interests.</i>	
	Partisan Politics	6	<i>Urban centers frequently saw a concentration of resources and capital, which fuelled their fast growth.</i>	

4. Results

4.1. Case Study Analysis

4.1.1. Coordination Gap with National Level

It is difficult for local authorities in Talukpara and Barahangina villages to get the required resources, such as finance or technical expertise, to assist development projects without collaboration with national-level authorities.

4.1.1.1. Economic Disparities

The economic environment has suffered due to the failure to create efficient structures for cooperation between urban and rural communities.

'The lack of cooperation worsened the economic gaps between urban and rural areas.' (Case Study #1)

Additionally, low-income families who cannot afford the costs of enrolling their children in alternative schools are affected. Such a situation adds to the difficulties these families experience by placing a hefty strain on them.

'This is extremely difficult for low-income families who cannot afford the costs of sending their children to a different school.' (Case Study #3)

Although remittances helped some families with their financial burdens, they unintentionally encouraged a reliance on foreign income sources, which could have reduced the incentives for local investments and development initiatives. This reliance on outside funding may limit the community's ability to promote local sustainable development.

'While remittances helped some families financially, they also made people dependent on other people's income, which can cause them to make less investment in local development.'

(Case Study #4)

The difficulties caused by migration and unrealized potential in these areas have various adverse effects. These include a shrinking pool of skilled labor, obstacles to innovation and economic growth, increased reliance on remittances, and a potential setback for initiatives to develop locally self-sustaining economic pathways.

'The difficulties associated with migration and unrealized potential in our village had several effects, including a loss of skilled human capital, an impact on the area's capacity for innovation and economic growth, a reliance on remittances, and a potential underminer of efforts to create sustainable economic sources within the area.' *(Case Study #4)*

Furthermore, the lack of opportunities and land has far-reaching impacts, particularly impeding economic growth due to the limited land available for construction projects. The difficulties experienced by the community are exacerbated by the situation, which also encourages social tensions resulting from conflicts over land.

'Lack of land and opportunity has several effects, including slowed economic development due to the limited amount of land available for development initiatives, and social tensions brought on by land disputes and conflicts.' *(Case Study #5)*

4.1.1.2. Inadequate Infrastructure

The two villages have several developmental challenges, most notably inadequate infrastructure. The difficulties have been made more difficult by the lack of cooperation between local and national levels, which has postponed infrastructure projects and left them unfinished.

'Our community has several development obstacles, including insufficient infrastructure. Infrastructure projects were delayed and left unfinished due

to the local and national levels' lack of coordination.' (Case Study #1)

Moreover, the need for essential infrastructure in the village, such as paved roads, power, and clean water, creates difficult obstacles for locals to achieve basic requirements like healthcare and education.

'It is difficult for inhabitants to meet necessities like healthcare and education due to the lack of vital infrastructure in the hamlet, such as paved roads, power, and clean water.' (Case Study #2)

Students' access to education is also significantly hampered by the distance between the village and the closest institution.

'The distance between the community and the closest institution is a significant challenge for pupils. Students must go quite a distance to pursue further education because no colleges or universities are nearby.' (Case Study #3)

4.1.1.3. Inefficient Resource Allocation

The ineffective coordination led to an inefficient distribution of resources. The funding of crucial projects could have been more frequent, and precious resources were wasted due to critical initiatives being overshadowed by less crucial ones.

'Ineffective coordination led to an ineffective distribution of resources. While less critical initiatives were given priority, essential ones did not receive enough money, wasting precious resources.'(Case Study #1)

The participants were asked about the misallocation of resources and its impact. The inefficient use of resources has spread throughout several industries, posing additional obstacles to the region's overall development.

'Misallocation of resources led to inefficiency in many industries and further hampered the region's development.'(Case Study #1)

The widespread consequences of cronyism and rampant bribery also undermine openness and accountability in resource management by frequently misusing public resources for personal gain.

'Graft and cronyism are rampant, and public resources are regularly misused for private gain.'(Case Study #2)

A clear urban-rural difference worsens because larger cities have easier access to infrastructure, services, and job possibilities.

'There is a clear urban-rural divide, with larger centers having easier access to infrastructure, services, and job prospects.'(Case Study #5)

4.1.2. Opportunity Scarcity

4.1.2.1. Education Disparities

The need for higher education opportunities in the area places a heavy load on students and interferes with their efforts to further their education. Additionally, students need more higher education opportunities in the area. The study found significant differences in access to high-quality education within the Barahangina village.

'The absence of higher education in our community causes students to struggle greatly. There are huge differences in the availability of high-quality education in our Barahangina village. I emphasized the impact of social attitudes toward education in our area.'(Case Study #3)

Most students stop their education after class 10, choosing to look for work prospects abroad rather than continue to higher education, which has had a noticeable impact.

'Most students leave study after class 10 to work abroad rather than pursue further education.'(Case Study #3)

Families unwilling to send their kids overseas for school are also affected, which further restricts their ability to take advantage of chances for further education. This reluctance is brought on by a perceived lack of necessary skills, which fuels opposition to formal schooling. This opposition and a low literacy rate hurt the neighborhood's overall development and growth.

'Many families are reluctant to send their children to study abroad, further restricts access to higher education. A perceived skills gap contributed to schooling resistance. The villages have a low literacy rate, which impacts the community's general development.'(Case Study #3)

Additionally, the effects spread to areas where cultural norms and preconceived notions about the value of education reinforce local resistance to schooling. These cultural influences impact people's readiness to participate in formal education, contributing to resistance in some fields.

'Education reluctance in some communities was exacerbated by cultural norms and beliefs about the importance of education, which had an impact on people's willingness to participate in formal learning.'(Case Study #3)

4.1.2.2. Land Deficiency and Dispute

The villages' population is growing gradually and is outpacing the infrastructure. This increase stresses the ecosystem, causing conditions to worsen and become generally unhealthy. The lack of suitable land prevents locals from engaging in business ventures, which limits the village's potential for expansion.

'Our village is small, but there are more people here. The village's population is growing daily since there are more individuals than residents. The ecology in the community is getting worse and is generally unhealthy. The lack of sufficient land prevents the villagers from being entrepreneurial, which hinders the village's growth.'(Case Study #5)

Due to ambiguous land tenure policies and competing property interests, the region frequently experiences land disputes and conflicts. These conflicts prevented the land from being used productively for development, which resulted in inefficient land use and undermined potential opportunities for economic expansion.

'There were frequent land disputes and conflicts in our area due to murky land tenure arrangements and conflicting property rights. Conflicts prevented land use for development, resulting in wasteful land use and reducing prospects for economic progress.'(Case Study #5)

4.1.2.3. Migration and Employment Impacts

The community continues to face the difficulty of significant emigration, which causes the loss of trained labor and unrealized potential. As highly

qualified individuals leave the neighborhood searching for better opportunities abroad or in more populous cities, contributing to the problem known as brain drain, this migration has brought about hardships.

'Our community has been struggling with massive emigration, which has resulted in the loss of competent workers and unrealized potential. Our community faced difficulties as a result of immigration. Highly skilled individuals left our hamlet in quest of greater possibilities abroad or big centers, causing a brain drain.'(Case Study #4)

The absence of proactive policies and initiatives to promote employment prospects also contributes to the community's high rates of unemployment and poverty, which are made worse by them. These difficulties can be directly linked to political leaders' lack of goodwill and dedication.

'High unemployment and poverty rates, as well as the absence of encouraging policies and attempts to create work prospects, are direct results of political leaders' lack of goodwill.'(Case Study #2)

Additionally, there is a general belief among some people that formal education only partially corresponds with the practical abilities necessary for gainful employment in the actual world. This view has essential effects on schooling and preparation for the workforce.

'Some people believed that formal education did not correspond with the real-world abilities needed for employment.'(Case Study #3)

A further factor driving up the demand for land and resources in those areas is the tendency of rising migration to metropolitan centers. Increased demands on urban infrastructure and resources result from this population surge.

'More people migrate to metropolitan areas, which increased the demand for land and resources there.'(Case Study #5)

4.1.2.4. Poor Agricultural Production

The respondents emphasized that agriculture is their community's primary source of revenue. The village's production has been falling despite the

clear potential for agriculture. The lack of adequate irrigation infrastructure impedes efficient farming methods, a primary element causing this problem.

'Rajesh, a farmer and inhabitant of Talukpara village, stated that agriculture is our community's primary income source. But the village's production has been declining despite its potential for agriculture, and a major problem is the lack of adequate irrigation systems.' (Case Study #6)

Additionally, the influence can be observed in the decreased output brought on by a need for knowledge of contemporary farming techniques, such as effective crop rotation, pest control, and effective fertilizer use. Farmers' inability to integrate new technology hindered their potential to increase yields and embrace sustainable agricultural practices, halting development.

'A lack of knowledge about modern farming techniques such as effective crop rotation, pest control, and the best use of fertilizers hampered productivity. Their incapacity constrained the capacity of farmers to increase yields and use sustainable agricultural practices to absorb new techniques.' (Case Study #6)

The circumstances also affect farmers since they cannot obtain fair product pricing due to poor market links and limited market access. Investments in agricultural operations are discouraged due to the inconsistent price structure, which further negatively impacts their income and profitability.

'Farmers' ability to get fair pricing for their produce was constrained by limited market access and a lack of efficient market linkages. The income and profitability of their operations were further harmed by price swings, discouraging investment in agricultural ventures.' (Case Study #6)

4.1.3. Political Leaders' Goodwill Deficit

4.1.3.1. Corruption and Nepotism

As a result of sluggish communication and decision-making, essential projects like building roads, schools, and healthcare facilities went unfinished. Since there is a gap between elected officials and the people

they represent, popular support and confidence have decreased, making the community's problems worse.

'Critical initiatives, including roads, schools, and healthcare facilities, were not completely realized due to a lack of timely communication and decision-making. Moreover, the disconnection between elected officials and the people they represent has weakened public support and eroded public trust.'(Case Study #1 & 2)

Additionally, the effects are visible in how confident political leaders use corruption and nepotism to further their agendas, frequently at the expense of the general welfare. This practice erodes public confidence and questions the government's legitimacy.

'Some political leaders' use of corruption and nepotism to further their interests at the expense of the public's welfare undermines the government's legitimacy.'(Case Study #2)

The effect can also be seen in some political leaders' short-sighted policies, which put the implementation of short-term gains and popularity over long-term development objectives. This way of thinking can obstruct complete growth and lasting progress.

'The short-term thinking of some political leaders, who prioritize popularity and short-term advantages above long-term development plans.'(Case Study #2)

4.1.3.2. Partisan Politics

Partisan politics hinders cooperation between competing political groupings and frequently eclipses local and regional concerns. Partisan politics is a significant contributor to the absence of constructive purpose. This dynamic may hamper effective governance and growth.

'Partisan politics are a major contributor to the lack of goodwill since they prevent cooperation between opposing political groupings and frequently overshadow regional concerns.'(Case Study #2)

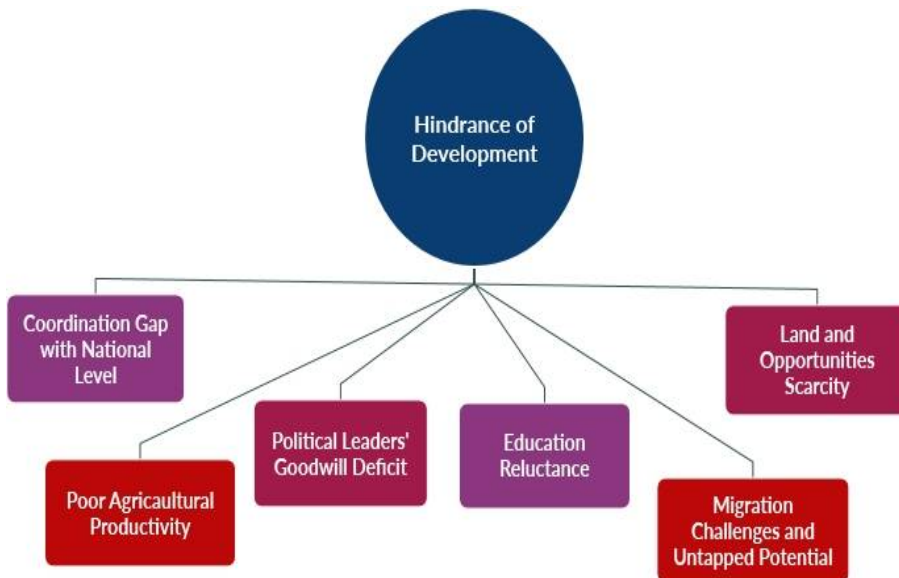
Moreover, urban centers where resources and capital are concentrated are feeling the effects, which has helped to fuel their explosive expansion and

development. Regional imbalances and inequality may increase as a result of this centralization.

'Urban centers frequently saw a concentration of resources and capital, which fuelled their fast growth.' (Case Study #1)

4.2. Survey Analysis

Figure 2: Factors that hinder the development of a stable political environment

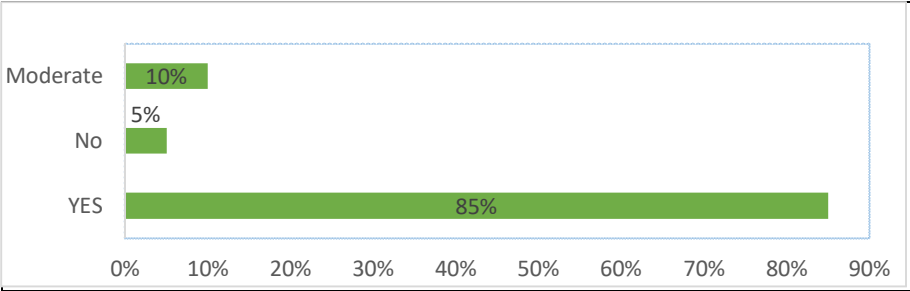


Source: The figure is developed by the authors based on findings of Mauro (1995), (Aschauer, 1989), (Lucas, 1988), (Krugman, 1987), (Persson & Tabellini, 1994), (Dasgupta, 2001), (Raj, 1979), (Donga et al., 2016), (Bakari & Ahmadi, 2018), and (Fengler et. al, 2021).

4.2.1 Coordination Gap with National Level

Figure 3 shows limited coordination at the national level. In this regard, 85% of the respondents said that their villages needed the support and resources they required from higher authorities, hindering their villages from flourishing.

Figure 3: Coordination Gap with National Level

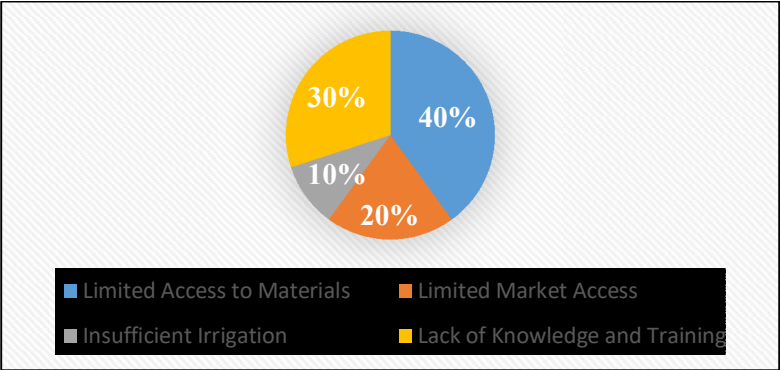


However, 5% of respondents claimed that their local governments had close relationships with national-level authorities and were either politicians or supporters of the ruling government. In certain situations, villages get aid due to their political connections. Lastly, the remaining respondents (10%) were moderately concerned about this issue.

4.2.2 Poor Agricultural Productivity

In terms of poor agricultural productivity in Barahangina and Talukpara villages, Figure 4 shows that about 40% of respondents stated that access to agrarian materials is limited, and farmers confront several difficulties, including difficulty getting high-quality seeds, fertilizer, and other agricultural materials that are necessary to boost crop yields.

Figure 4: Poor Agricultural Productivity

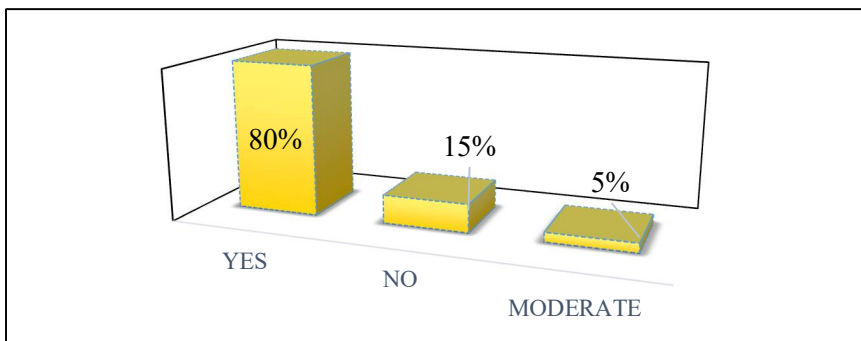


Moreover, considering the poor agricultural productivity in these villages, about 30% of respondents stated that farmers of these two villages lack training and knowledge of contemporary farming methods, which hinders their ability to increase crop yields and use sustainable farming techniques. About 20% of respondents stated that farmers experience limited market access, which makes it challenging for them to sell their crops and get an equitable price for their labor, and the middlemen who buy commodities at cheap rates and sell them to end customers at higher costs could engage in unfair pricing practices toward farmers. Finally, about 10% of respondents stated that lack of irrigation limit agricultural yields and impairs farmland productivity in these villages.

4.2.3 Political Leaders' Goodwill Deficit

Political leaders' unwillingness is a barrier to development in the Barahangina and Talukpara villages, as shown in Figure 5. In this context, about 80% of the respondents think that their village's political leaders don't care about the growth of their community. As a result, villagers cannot receive the necessary support and development projects from national authorities. However, 15% of respondents—politicians and followers of political leaders—said their political leaders are responsible to the villagers and carry out initiatives to develop the villages. In comparison, 5% of respondents were moderate in this regard.

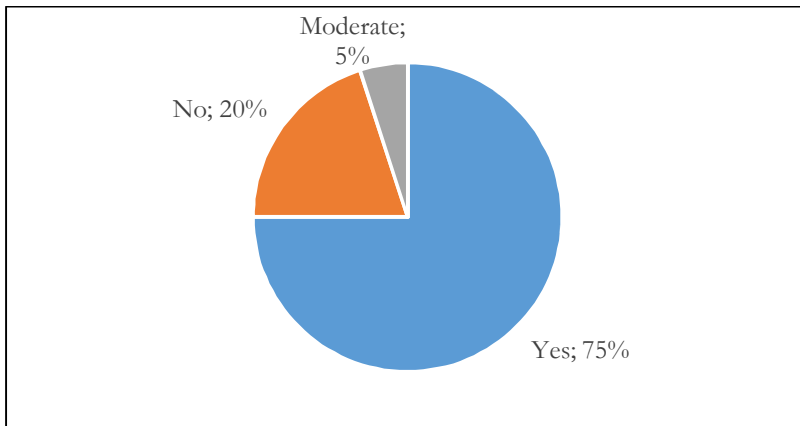
Figure 5: Political Leaders' Goodwill Deficit



4.2.4 Education Reluctance

The residents of Barahangina and Talukpara villages are not interested in pursuing the education found in the study. In this regard, Figure 6 shows that about 75% of people didn't have an interest in pursuing education, while 20% have, and the rest were moderate.

Figure 6: The reluctance to education



Moreover, reluctance towards education in certain villages has led to three primary challenges. The lack of skilled workers, particularly in fields like healthcare, engineering, and technology, was mentioned by almost 70% of respondents as being caused by the peasants' disinterest in education. Approximately 25% of respondents stated that villages miss out on important information on healthcare, finances, legal rights, and other crucial subjects due to a lack of interest in education. By limiting possibilities, impeding skill development, and lowering competitiveness, about 5% of respondents emphasized that a lack of interest in education in these villages prevents social mobility.

4.2.5 Migration Challenges and Untapped Potential

Figure 7: Migration Challenges and Untapped Potential

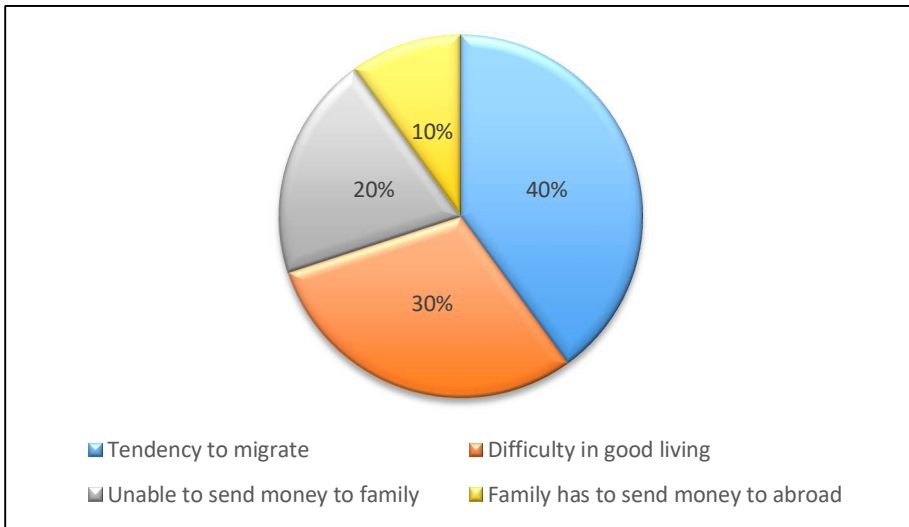


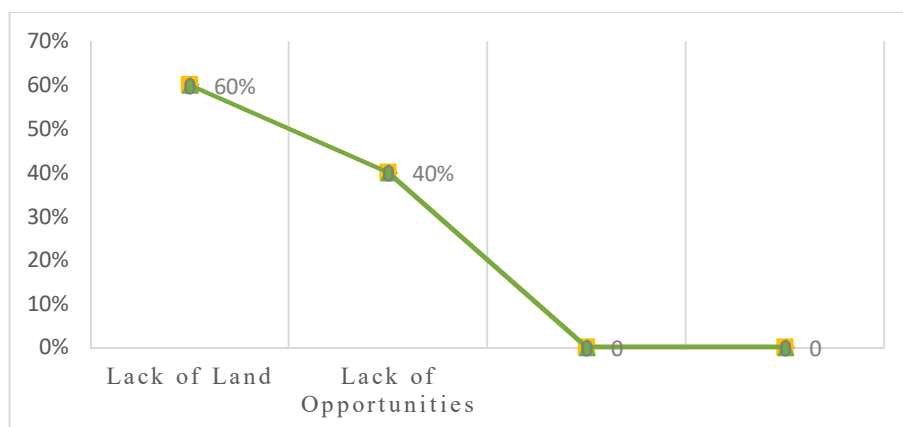
Figure 7 shows that there is a tendency for young people in these villages to migrate overseas stated by 40% of the respondents. There are two reasons for the migration abroad: they desire to or don't want to pursue higher education. However, about 30% and 20% of the respondents respectively mentioned that despite their efforts to improve their families' financial situation, these migrants frequently find it challenging to make a good living and cannot send money to their families because of not getting a job. As a result, family members frequently give them money, as stated by 10% of respondents, which strains the family's finances. The families' financial instability limits their capacity to invest in their village's expansion and development, influencing its overall growth.

4.2.6 Land and Opportunities Scarcity

Figure 8 shows the lack of land and opportunities in Barahangina and Talukpara villages that hinder the development of these villages. In this

regard, 60% of respondents said their towns are very congested with overpopulation, and the population rate is increasing yearly. As a result, people were compelled to destroy crops and land to make their houses significantly decreased land, which directly hampered the adequate agricultural productivity and enterprising for the villagers due to lack of land.

Figure 8: Land and Opportunities Scarcity



Besides, 40% of respondents said that the villagers, especially young people, are unaware of education. They tend to migrate abroad to earn without pursuing education, which results in most of the people of these two villages needing to be more literate. They are being deprived of various opportunities due to the need for proper educational qualifications.

4.3. FGD Findings

In the study, data was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) that were conducted in both villages. Participants in the focus groups consisted of various occupations, including teachers, students, politicians, vendors, and farmers. The length of each FGD was 60 minutes.

The participants in the FGDs highlighted four things that are impeding their villages' growth. In the initial stages, there needs to be more coordination between the national and rural levels. This meant that

national development initiatives needed to reach rural communities properly. The participants also acknowledged the need for more political leaders' support for developing their areas. In their opinion, the community's well-being came second to personal gain for political leaders. Thirdly, there was a propensity for people to leave their home countries searching for work. This resulted in a brain drain in the villages, with many skilled people departing and never returning, negatively impacting the villages' growth. The panelists also brought up students' resistance to studying. This was viewed as a significant barrier to the villages' growth because education is crucial to the advancement of any society.

5. Discussion

The study highlights the impact of economic inequalities, inadequate infrastructure, ineffective resource distribution, and limited opportunities on the growth and well-being of communities in Talukpara and Barahangina villages. These issues stem from various sources, including a lack of cooperation between national and rural authorities, limited access to higher education, cultural norms, and migration. These factors contribute to a cycle of dropouts, limited access to higher education, and increased competition for resources and jobs. Addressing these issues is crucial for promoting sustainable development and addressing the challenges faced by these communities.

Although remittances from migrants offer financial assistance, they also encourage reliance on foreign money, impeding local economic initiatives. Poor infrastructure, including a lack of clean water, electricity, and roads, restricts access to essential services and slows economic expansion. Conflicts are exacerbated, and land disputes and improper land management hamper development prospects. The environment is harmed by deforestation and inadequate garbage management. Agriculture productivity needs to be improved by better irrigation infrastructure and a need for more awareness about contemporary farming methods.

Resources must be used more efficiently, and corruption hurts business and impedes development. Corruption, nepotism, and partisan politics undermine effective governance and development activities. Thinking only about the present and putting one's interests first has checked long-

term development. Public support is lost when people don't trust the leadership. Resources and capital are concentrated in urban areas, which promotes quick growth and development. This centralization has made regional inequality and inequities worse.

The analysis illuminates the intricate problems these communities must contend with by offering thorough case studies and insights into each consequence. To overcome these problems and promote holistic growth, it emphasizes the necessity for collaborative efforts, sustainable development techniques, and efficient governance.

5.1. Recommendations

The villages of Barahangina and Talukpara have specific development issues. Before development can start, the environment must be favorable. However, the atmosphere in these villages could be more conducive to development. The respondents suggest several measures to help the area overcome obstacles and achieve equitable and sustainable growth. These include improving communication, setting up a committee to plan regional development, and implementing an open resource allocation system.

Moreover, political leaders must prioritize the welfare of their people and invest in the village's prosperity if they want to improve the quality of life and economic development. In Talukpara and Barahangina villages, it is emphasized that transparent and competent governance is the primary force behind progress. Leaders' collaboration and community empowerment are emphasized as paths to significant advancement.

The respondents further emphasize the importance of promoting a learning culture, enhancing educational outcomes, and giving the workforce the skills they need for long-term growth. By making investments in educational infrastructure and resources, this can be accomplished. The village administration is encouraged to adopt regulations and incentives that preserve skilled workers and draw in talent from other places to support local economic growth. This strategy can unlock potential and allay fears about migration. It is recommended to diversify the economy to lessen reliance on remittances and to ensure steady sources of income and jobs.

Furthermore, Government-led land reforms are recommended to solve problems relating to the land. These changes are intended to clarify who

owns the land, establish property rights, lessen land conflicts, and promote beneficial land usage. It is emphasized that local populations should participate in decisions about using and developing land.

Additionally, to effectively address these difficulties, collaboration is necessary. This entails enhancing irrigation infrastructure, offering farmers technical training and extension services, encouraging soil conservation practices, enabling access to inputs and loans, and creating effective market links. This comprehensive strategy can potentially increase Talukpara and Barahangina village's agricultural productivity, resulting in better livelihoods and long-term agrarian growth.

6. Conclusion

Political stability also affects overall development, while political instability has ramifications for economic growth and infrastructure development (Radu, 2015). However, more qualitative and quantitative research is needed to thoroughly understand the detrimental effects of political stability on the plot (Blum and Gründler, 2020). The study discovered that in the villages of Barahangina and Talukpara, some factors of underdevelopment in stable political environments. The result of the study demonstrates that neither political stability nor political instability, by themselves, can promote or impede growth. Other factors that are hindering development in these two villages include a lack of coordination with the national level, the unwillingness of political leaders, the young generation's reluctance to study and tendency to immigrate abroad, as well as a lack of ability to benefit from opportunities abroad, and unavailable land and opportunities. By concentrating on two particular villages, the study examined the underlying causes of underdevelopment in surroundings with stable political systems. The study has found numerous vital variables that lead to underdevelopment in these areas by analyzing several socioeconomic indicators and people's opinions. The study's overall conclusions significantly impact development practitioners and politicians operating in comparable environments. It emphasizes the necessity of a comprehensive strategy for development that accounts for the many social, economic, and political aspects that cause underdevelopment. It might be possible to foster long-term sustainable

and inclusive growth in these areas by addressing these underlying causes of underdevelopment.

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