

# ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030: THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - A CASE STUDY OF RAJUK, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

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## ABSTRACT

The United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development outlines a comprehensive framework encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at addressing global challenges and fostering sustainable development. As the world approaches the halfway mark towards the attainment of these goals, it is imperative to assess the progress made and identify strategies to accelerate their implementation. This research paper explores the intersection between SDGs and the role of the Capital Development Authority, focusing on the case study of the Capital Development Authority, locally called Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK), in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the research paper is to explore the intersection between the United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, specifically Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) and the role of the Capital Development Authority, using the case study of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It will assess the progress made towards SDG 11, which focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, particularly in the context of housing and urban development in Bangladesh.

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**DESIGN/METHODOLOGY/APPROACH:** This research combines theoretical frameworks and practical insights to explore the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the operations of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The approach involves: (1) Applying theoretical frameworks to examine how SDGs are embedded within RAJUK's strategic and operational mandates; (2) Analysing potential synergies between urban development policies and sustainable objectives, focusing on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); (3) Conducting a comprehensive analysis of policy documents, case studies, and stakeholder perspectives to identify challenges and opportunities, and provide actionable recommendations for accelerating Agenda 2030 at the local level; (4) Investigating the role of educational institutions as catalysts for SDG implementation through engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community capacity-building initiatives; (5) Utilising primary and secondary data sources to inform the findings; and (6) Emphasising the importance of strengthening institutional capacity, fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, and mainstreaming sustainability principles within RAJUK.

**FINDINGS:** The research identifies key challenges and opportunities in integrating SDGs into the mandate of the Capital Development Authority, focusing on Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It highlights potential synergies between urban development policies and sustainable development objectives, particularly in achieving SDG 11. The study underscores the urgency of accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the local level, with specific relevance to RAJUK. Additionally, it emphasises the pivotal role of educational institutions in driving SDG implementation through community engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives. Strengthening institutional capacity, fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, leveraging technology and innovation, and mainstreaming sustainability principles are identified as critical to enhancing the effectiveness of urban development strategies and housing initiatives aligned with SDGs.

**ORIGINALITY/VALUE OF THE PAPER:** The originality and value of the paper lie in its exploration of the intersection between SDGs and the Capital Development Authority, its emphasis on housing and SDG 11, its recognition of the role of educational institutions, its provision of actionable recommendations, and its insights derived from the case study of RAJUK in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:** The practical implications of this research paper lie in its ability to enhance students' interest in entrepreneurship and internships in universities, and to guide policy-makers, practitioners and stakeholders in developing and implementing strategies that contribute to the realisation of Agenda 2030 goals, particularly in the context of urban development and housing in Bangladesh and beyond.

**KEYWORDS:** *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Institutional Capacity; Urban Development Policies; Housing and SDG 11*

## OVERVIEW OF SDG 11

Sustainable Development Goal 11 aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. This goal addresses a range of urban challenges, including housing, transportation, green spaces, cultural heritage, disaster resilience and environmental impact. Key targets of SDG 11 include:

**Safe and Affordable Housing:** Ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrading slums.

**Sustainable Transport Systems:** Providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.

**Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanisation:** Enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and the capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management.

**Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage:** Strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Reducing the number of deaths and the number of people affected, and substantially decreasing the direct economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters.

**Environmental Impact:** Reducing the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including air quality and waste management.

## ROLE OF RAJDHANI UNNAYAN KARTRIPAKKHA (RAJUK)

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, plays a critical role in urban planning and development, directly impacting the achievement of SDG 11. Their responsibilities typically include urban planning, land use management, construction permit and infrastructure development, housing and regulatory enforcement (RAJUK, 2023).

### Key Intersections and Responsibilities of RAJUK

#### 1. Urban Planning and Land Use Management

**Zoning Regulations:** RAJUK enforces zoning laws that regulate land use, ensuring balanced development that integrates residential, commercial and green spaces.

**Master Plans:** Development of comprehensive master plans that incorporate sustainable development principles, focusing on inclusive growth, green spaces and resilient infrastructure, seen in Detailed Area Plan (DAP 2022–2035).

#### 2. Housing Development

**Affordable Housing Projects:** Implementing and regulating affordable housing initiatives to ensure access to safe and affordable housing, particularly for low-income populations, seen in Uttara Apartment Project, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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**Slum Upgrading:** Developing programmes to upgrade slums and informal settlements, providing essential services and improving living conditions.

**3. Infrastructure Development**

**Sustainable Transport Systems:** Planning and developing a transportation infrastructure that promotes public transport, cycling and walking, reducing reliance on private vehicles and mitigating traffic congestion and pollution.

**Utility Services:** Ensuring the provision of essential services such as water, sanitation and electricity in a sustainable and efficient manner.

**4. Environmental Management**

**Green Spaces:** Creating and maintaining parks, urban forests and other green spaces that enhance urban biodiversity and provide recreational areas for residents, seen in the Hatirjheel-Begunbari Lake Development Project.

**Waste Management:** Developing and implementing efficient waste management systems to reduce pollution and promote recycling and waste reduction.

**5. Disaster Resilience**

**Risk Assessment and Management:** Conducting risk assessments and developing strategies to enhance urban resilience against natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and cyclones. This can be seen in the improvement of design and construction quality for the resilience of the private building (DCQR) project in RAJUK.

**Emergency Infrastructure:** Constructing infrastructure that can withstand disasters and provide safety and shelter in emergencies.

**6. Community Engagement and Participation**

**Public Consultations:** Engaging with communities through consultations and participatory planning processes to ensure that development plans reflect the needs and aspirations of all residents. To ensure proper planning and design, RAJUK conducts meetings for stakeholders (Building owner/ Client/Developer).

**Awareness Programmes:** Conducting awareness programmes to educate the public about sustainable practices and the importance of urban sustainability.

## RAJUK AND SDG 11

RAJUK faced the following challenges in implementing plans or providing housing and infrastructure:

**Rapid Urbanisation:** Dhaka's fast-paced urban growth presents significant challenges in providing adequate housing and infrastructure.

**Resource Limitations:** Financial and human resource constraints limit RAJUK's capacity to implement comprehensive sustainable development projects.

**Land Scarcity:** With Dhaka's limited land area and high population density, managing and allocating land effectively is a significant challenge.

**Land Acquisition:** Acquiring land for development projects is often met with resistance from landowners and can lead to lengthy legal battles.

**Co-ordination Issues:** Overlapping responsibilities and a lack of co-ordination among different governmental agencies can hinder the efficient implementation of plans.

**Unplanned Urbanisation:** Unplanned urbanisation often leads to the destruction of green spaces, affecting the city's ecological balance. People have a common mentality of constructing a building by breaking the rules. Ensuring compliance with building codes and land use regulations is difficult, leading to unauthorised construction and land encroachments.

**Regulatory and Governance Issues:** Corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies within RAJUK can impede effective urban planning and development.

**Technological Integration:** Integrating modern technology and data-driven approaches into urban planning and management is still in the nascent stages. Construction permit data, eviction-related data is not stored here.

**Data System:** RAJUK does not have any scientific data systems for existing buildings in Dhaka city. Even the construction permitting data system is poor here.

**Poor Monitoring System:** The monitoring system of RAJUK regarding building construction is not satisfactory. People have a common tendency to get more space inside their building by constructing in setback and void areas, violating RAJUK rules, an approved plan or design and making deviations while constructing their buildings. Other organisations, such as the electric department, water supply department and gas supply authority, are not supposed to provide their services without getting an occupancy certificate from RAJUK, but they do so without an occupancy certificate. As a result, people were tempted to break RAJUK rules.

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR RAJUK

**Integrated Urban Planning:** Developing integrated urban plans that prioritise sustainable development and resilience.

**Strengthening Regulations and Enforcement:** Improve the enforcement of building codes and land use regulations to ensure orderly development.

**Public-Private Partnerships:** Engage in partnerships with private sector entities to leverage resources and expertise for urban development projects.

**Technological Advancements:** Embrace smart city technologies and data analytics to improve urban management and service delivery. Utilising smart city technologies to improve urban management and service delivery, enhancing sustainability and efficiency.

**Community Involvement:** Foster greater community involvement in the planning process to ensure developments meet the needs of residents.

**Capacity Building:** Enhance the capacity of RAJUK staff through training and development programmes to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

**Sustainable Practices:** Promote sustainable urban development practices that protect the environment and ensure long-term liveability.

## CASE STUDIES

### Curitiba, Brazil

Curitiba is renowned for its efficient public transport system and green urban planning. The city's master plan integrates land use with public transport, reducing traffic congestion and pollution. The active participation of citizens in planning processes ensures that development initiatives meet local needs (Ribeiro, 2020).



Figure 1 Curitiba City, Brazil

Source: Internet



## Singapore

In Singapore, the use of smart technologies for urban management, including traffic monitoring, waste management and energy efficiency, exemplifies advanced sustainable urban development. The incorporation of extensive green spaces and vertical gardens also enhances urban liveability and environmental quality (Rodgers, 2024).



Figure 2 Singapore City (Partially)

Source: Internet

## CASE STUDIES IN DHAKA

### Dhaka Elevated Expressway

The Dhaka Elevated Expressway project aims to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in Dhaka. This aligns with SDG 11.2 that focuses on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems. The project is a collaboration between the government and private investors, demonstrating the potential of PPPs in urban infrastructure development. It is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion, thereby decreasing air pollution and improving urban mobility.

#### Challenges:

**Resettlement Issues:** Relocation of residents from project sites has faced resistance and delays.

**Environmental Concerns:** Construction has raised concerns about environmental impact, particularly regarding green spaces and bodies of water.

**Traffic Congestion:** In peak hours, too many ramps create traffic congestion.

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## Recommendations:

**Align with Urban Plans:** Ensure that the expressway aligns with Dhaka's strategies, including land use and transportation master plans.

**Multi-Modal Connectivity:** Integrate the expressway with other modes of transportation, such as bus rapid transit (BRT), metro rail and existing road networks, to enhance connectivity and reduce traffic congestion.



Figure 3 Dhaka Elevated Expressway

Source: Internet

## Hatirjheel-Begunbari Lake Development Project

This project transformed a polluted and flood-prone area into a recreational and transportation hub. This supports SDG 11.7 that emphasises providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces. It revitalised a major part of the city, creating green spaces, walkways and water features. It also improved drainage and water management systems to reduce flooding risks (Afrin *et al.*, 2015).

### Challenges:

**Maintenance:** Ensuring the continuous maintenance and cleanliness of the area has been challenging. Avoiding water pollution in this lake is also a major challenge.

**Social Inclusion:** Initial stages saw inadequate involvement of local communities in planning.





**Figure 4** Hatirjheel-Begunbari Lake Development Project

Source: Rajuk, Dhaka

## CASE STUDIES IN RAJUK

### Uttara Model Town Development Project

The Uttara Model Town project was designed to address the housing needs of Dhaka's growing population. It aimed to create a planned urban area with residential, commercial and recreational facilities. The project was developed in multiple phases, incorporating modern urban planning principles. It included residential units, commercial spaces, educational institutions and recreational parks (Rashid, 2002).

#### Successes:

**Planned Urbanisation:** Successfully developed a structured urban area with adequate infrastructure.

**Housing Provision:** Provided housing to a significant number of middle-income families.

**Parks and Open Spaces:** Allocated substantial areas for parks, playgrounds and open spaces. These areas not only provide recreational opportunities but also improve air quality and urban biodiversity.

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**Challenges:**

**Infrastructure Maintenance:** Ongoing challenges in maintaining infrastructure and public services.

**Traffic Congestion:** Increased population density has led to traffic congestion in and around the area.



**Figure 5** Uttara Model Town Development Project

Source: Rajuk, Dhaka

**Purbachal New Town Project**

The Purbachal New Town project is one of RAJUK's largest undertakings, aiming to develop a new township to decongest Dhaka and provide modern urban facilities. It incorporates extensive green spaces and bodies of water. A detailed master plan also includes residential, commercial and institutional zones.

**Successes:**

**Green Urban Space:** Emphasis on creating a sustainable urban environment with significant green spaces.

**Economic Opportunities:** Attracted significant investment in residential and commercial properties.

**Challenges:**

**Project Delays:** Delays due to land acquisition issues and bureaucratic hurdles.

**Utility Services:** Challenges in providing consistent utility services (water, electricity, gas) to the entire area. Providing adequate social infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and recreational facilities, is essential for a thriving community.

Developing adequate infrastructure such as roads, utilities and public services in a new area is complex and resource-intensive.



**Figure 6** Purbachal New Town Project

Source: Rajuk, Dhaka

## DETAILED AREA PLAN (DAP) IMPLEMENTATION

The Detailed Area Plan (DAP) is a crucial component of Dhaka's metropolitan development plan, focusing on regulating land use and ensuring sustainable urban growth. It establishes zoning regulations to control land use and urban density. It prioritises infrastructure development in under-served areas.

### Successes:

**Urban Regulation:** Improved regulation of land use and construction activities.

**Infrastructure Improvements:** Facilitated infrastructure development in several areas of Dhaka.

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**Challenges:**

**Difficulties in enforcing zoning regulations consistently:** According to DAP, it requires primary and high schools, ponds/lakes, wide roads, open spaces, parks etc. in every ward under RAJUK's territory. RAJUK does not demarcate such zones and it cannot implement or ensure such matters. Another problem is that RAJUK declared some areas as swamp land and open spaces without giving compensation to the owner of the land. Landowners of these lands cannot get construction permits in these areas, although they bought the land in exchange for huge capital or investment. As a result, they break the rules and erect unauthorised buildings. The government or RAJUK should give compensation to those landowners and acquire the mentioned lands. There are some areas where housing has been utilised but is unauthorised; RAJUK does not give permission for this housing as it does not fulfil RAJUK's housing criteria. Therefore, people are constructing buildings for housing without RAJUK's prior permission.

**Stakeholder Co-ordination:** Challenges in co-ordinating between multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, private developers and residents.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING RAJUK'S ROLE IN ACHIEVING SDG 11

**Clear Mandate and Policies:** Defining a clear mandate that explicitly incorporates SDG 11 objectives into RAJUK's operational framework.

**Capacity Building:** Investing in training and development for RAJUK staff to enhance their skills in sustainable urban planning and management.

**Collaborative Governance:** Strengthening co-ordination mechanisms among various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure cohesive efforts towards achieving SDG 11.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing robust systems for monitoring and evaluating progress towards SDG 11 targets, using data-driven approaches to inform decision-making.

**Community Involvement:** Promoting active community participation in urban planning processes to ensure that development initiatives are inclusive and address the needs of all residents.

Educational institutions can play a significant role by including the following matters in their syllabus and implementing their actions to foster sustainable development goals.

**Education and Awareness:** Educational institutions are crucial for raising awareness about sustainable development goals and principles. By integrating sustainability into their curriculum and promoting sustainable practices on campus, educational institutions can empower individuals to become agents of change.

**Research and Innovation:** Educational institutions are hubs of research and innovation. They contribute to sustainable development by conducting research on environmental conservation, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, urban planning and other relevant topics.

**Capacity Building:** Educational institutions offer training programmes, workshops and professional development opportunities to equip students and professionals with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to implement sustainable practices in their respective fields.

**Partnerships and Collaboration:** Educational institutions often collaborate with capital development authorities, government agencies, businesses, non-profit organisations and community groups to advance sustainable development goals. These partnerships facilitate knowledge sharing, resource mobilisation and collective action to address sustainability challenges at the local, regional and global levels.

**Demonstration Projects:** Educational institutions can serve as models for sustainable development through their campus operations and infrastructure. By implementing energy-efficient technologies, waste reduction initiatives, sustainable transportation options, green building practices and other sustainable measures, educational institutions demonstrate practical solutions for promoting sustainability in built environments.

**Policy Advocacy:** Educational institutions can advocate for policies that promote sustainable development at the local, national and international levels.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES IN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

### Authorities offer Several Benefits:

RAJUK has started an internship programme for new university graduates; this may help them in the following ways:

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**Talent Pipeline:** Internship programmes serve as a talent pipeline, allowing capital development authorities to identify and attract promising young professionals who may later become valuable employees.

**Fresh Perspectives:** Interns bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and up-to-date knowledge to capital development authorities. Their diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences can help authorities tackle complex challenges, explore new approaches and adapt to changing trends in urban development, infrastructure planning and sustainability.

**Capacity Building:** Internship programmes provide valuable learning opportunities for interns to gain practical experience, develop new skills, and expand their professional networks. Authorities can contribute to interns' professional development by offering training, mentorship and hands-on experience in various aspects of capital development, such as project management, finance, policy analysis and community engagement.

**Project Support:** Interns can provide valuable support to capital development authorities by assisting with research, data analysis, report writing and administrative tasks. They can contribute to ongoing projects, initiatives and planning processes, helping authorities achieve their goals more effectively and efficiently.

**Community Engagement:** Internship programmes can facilitate community engagement and outreach efforts by involving interns in public events, workshops and stakeholder meetings.

**Brand Building:** Internship programmes can enhance the reputation and visibility of capital development authorities as employers of choice.

Internship Program

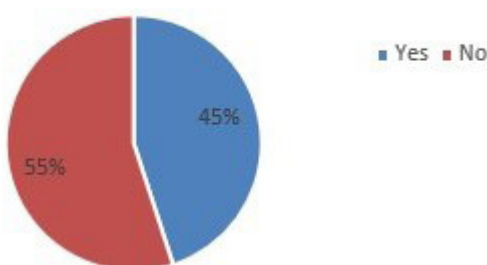


Figure 7 Internship programme

Source: Author Survey, RAJUK Office, Dhaka, 22-05-2024

### Primary Data Review

A survey with undergraduate students regarding internships was conducted for this paper, and a total of 40 undergraduate students gave their views. It was found that 55% of universities have started internship programmes in their university curriculum.

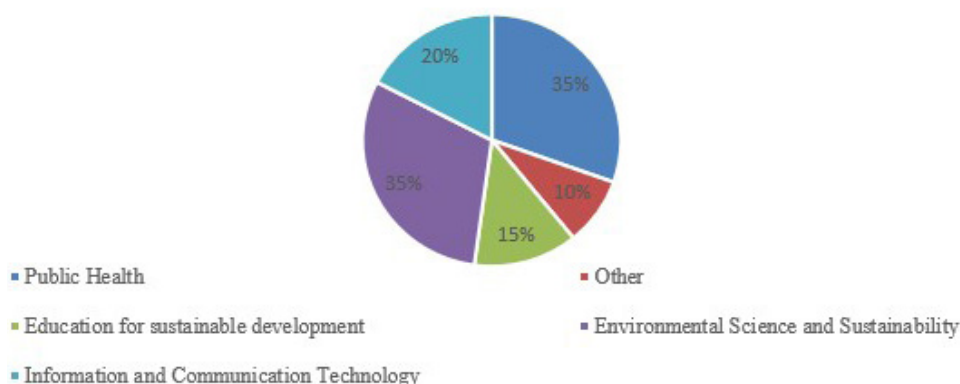
**Author's Recommendation:** A 100% student internship is needed for undergraduate students in the university curriculum. It will help them gather practical knowledge before getting a job and will enhance their capacity.

## SUBJECTS NEED TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

Incorporating a subject focused on sustainable development into the university curriculum is essential to equip students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to contribute to a sustainable future. A survey about subjects that need to be incorporated into the university curriculum was conducted. It was observed that 35% of students want to incorporate **Environmental Science and Sustainability** into their curriculum; this requires them to understand ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, renewable energy and sustainable resource management. A total of 35% of students said **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** needs digital literacy, data analysis and information systems for sustainable development. A total of 20% of students said **Public Health** needs to know about global health, epidemiology and health system management, while 15% of students said **Education** needs sustainable development (ESD), teaching methods for sustainability and curriculum development.

By addressing this point, universities can create a robust and impactful curriculum that aligns with the SDG goals and prepares students to become leaders in sustainability.

**Subject need to be Incorporated in University Curriculum**



**Figure 8** Subjects that should be incorporated into university curricula

Source: Author Survey, RAJUK Office, Dhaka, 22-05-2024

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The curriculum should also incorporate a variety of subjects that address the diverse and interconnected nature of the SDGs. Here are the key subjects that should be included:

### 1. Social Sciences:

- Sociology, anthropology and political science are used to understand social structures, cultural dynamics and governance.
- Gender studies, human rights and social justice to address inequality and promote inclusive societies.

### 2. Economics and Business:

- Sustainable economics, green finance and responsible business practices.
- Social entrepreneurship and innovation to drive sustainable development.

### 3. Engineering and Technology:

- Sustainable engineering, renewable energy technologies and environmental engineering.
- Smart cities, sustainable infrastructure and technological innovations for sustainability.

### 4. Law and Policy:

- Environmental law, international law and public policy.
- Governance, policy analysis and advocacy for sustainable development.

### 5. Ethics and Philosophy:

- Environmental ethics, corporate social responsibility and ethical decision-making.
- Philosophical foundations of sustainability and justice.

### 6. Natural Sciences:

- Biology, chemistry and physics with a focus on sustainable applications and environmental impact.
- Earth sciences, geology and meteorology to understand natural processes and hazards.

### 7. Cultural Studies and Arts:

- Understanding the role of culture in sustainable development.
- Courses on sustainable tourism, heritage conservation and the arts in community engagement.

## BENEFITS OF USING SMALL LOANS AFTER GRADUATION

The author also conducted research on how, if 50 lac taka without interest is provided after graduation, students can use small loans in several strategic ways to advance their careers, enhance their skills or start entrepreneurial ventures.

A total of 45% of students want to start a business such as a bike shop, Argo farm, etc., 20% want to start freelancing and consulting, and 20% want to develop skills, with 10% developing their personal brand.



**Figure 9** Use of small loans after graduation

Source: Author Survey, RAJUK Office, Dhaka, 22-05-2024

It is clear that most of the students lack practical knowledge in their own field of study. As a result, they are unable to think of ways in which they can do well in their own field: all the years they spend studying engineering becomes meaningless. If they had practical experience and entrepreneurial knowledge, they would have known what types of demands and problems exist in their field and would be able to provide services to make the best use of the loan. Institutional knowledge, together with practical knowledge, can give students the best outcome for their lives.

- Small loans can help start a small business, covering initial expenses such as registering the business, purchasing equipment and marketing.
- Loans can fund advanced courses or certifications that enhance professional qualifications.
- Small loans can be used to set up a home office with necessary equipment, such as a computer, software and other office supplies.

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- Funds can also be used to market freelance services or consultancy, helping to attract clients and build a portfolio.
- Creating a professional website to showcase skills, experience and portfolios.
- Conducting feasibility studies or market research to validate business ideas or explore new markets.

## BENEFITS OF INCLUDING SDGs IN UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

Incorporating SDGs into a university's curriculum brings various benefits. These include:

- 1. Relevance to Real-World Issues:** The SDGs address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change and environmental degradation. Including them in the curriculum helps students understand these critical issues and their role in addressing them.
- 2. Interdisciplinary Learning:** SDGs cut across various disciplines such as environmental studies, economics, sociology, etc.
- 3. Skill Development:** By focusing on SDGs, students can develop critical skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, leadership and effective communication; these are essential in addressing sustainable development challenges.
- 4. Global Awareness:** Studying the SDGs helps raise global awareness among students about pressing issues and the interconnectedness of the world.
- 5. Career Opportunities:** Knowledge of the SDGs can enhance students' employability by preparing them to work in socially responsible and sustainable businesses or initiatives.
- 6. Community Engagement:** Including SDGs in the curriculum can encourage students to engage in community projects, volunteer work or research initiatives related to sustainable development, fostering a sense of social responsibility and community engagement.

Incorporating SDGs into the university curriculum not only enhances the quality of education but also equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become active contributors to a more sustainable world.



**Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in universities requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Some key initiatives that universities can take to effectively integrate the SDGs into their systems are given below:

1. **Curricular Integration:** Revise existing courses or develop new ones that explicitly address the SDGs, ensuring that students across disciplines learn about sustainable development concepts and solutions.
2. **Research and Innovation:** Encourage faculty and students to conduct research that aligns with the SDGs, promoting interdisciplinary research projects that tackle sustainability challenges.
3. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Establish partnerships with local communities, industry partners, governmental agencies and NGOs to work on SDG-related projects, fostering a collaborative approach to sustainable development.
4. **Campus Sustainability:** Implement sustainable practices on campus, such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, water conservation and promoting eco-friendly transportation options, to reduce the university's environmental footprint.
5. **Awareness and Advocacy:** Organise awareness campaigns, workshops, seminars and conferences on SDGs to educate the university community about the importance of sustainable development and empower them to take action.
6. **Student Engagement:** Involve students in sustainability initiatives through student clubs, projects, internships and volunteering opportunities related to the SDGs, fostering a culture of active engagement and participation.
7. **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establish mechanisms to track progress towards SDG implementation within the university, set targets and regularly report on achievements and challenges to ensure accountability and transparency.

## RESEARCH LIMITATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

**Generalisability:** Different capital development authorities and educational institutions may face unique challenges and opportunities in implementing Agenda 2030, which may not be fully captured by this study.

**Data Availability and Quality:** The effectiveness of the recommendations provided in this paper may depend on the availability and quality of data related to RAJUK's operations,

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policies and stakeholder perspectives. Limitations in data availability or quality may impact on the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the analysis and subsequent recommendations.

**Contextual Factors:** This research paper may not fully capture the nuances of these contextual factors; this could affect the applicability and effectiveness of the recommendations in different settings.

**Time Constraints:** The research paper focuses on the current state of Agenda 2030 implementation at RAJUK and its intersection with educational institutions in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This paper could not address all matters due to time constraints. However, given the dynamic nature of development processes, the findings and recommendations may be subject to change over time. Future research could explore the long-term impacts and sustainability of the proposed strategies.

**Scope of Analysis:** While this paper offers actionable recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of RAJUK's efforts, it may not address all possible challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of Agenda 2030. Future research could explore additional dimensions of sustainability, governance and stakeholder engagement to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Entrepreneurship:** Entrepreneurship should be incorporated into university curricula to encourage students to think outside the box and develop innovative solutions to problems.

- Entrepreneurial activities can help students learn to approach challenges creatively and develop unique products, services or processes.
- Entrepreneurs create new businesses, which in turn create jobs and contribute to economic growth.
- Starting and managing a business helps students build confidence in their abilities.
- Entrepreneurship courses often include practical components, such as starting a business, which provides hands-on experience.
- Students can connect with industry professionals, potential investors and mentors, expanding their professional networks.
- Owning a business empowers individuals and gives them control over their professional lives.
- Entrepreneurs can drive sustainable practices and innovations that contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In a rapidly changing job market, entrepreneurial skills are valuable for adapting to new opportunities and challenges.

**Internship Programme:** The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK), the urban development authority in Dhaka, Bangladesh, offers various benefits through its internship programme. These benefits are designed to provide interns with valuable professional experience, skills development and networking opportunities.

- Interns gain practical experience by working on real projects related to urban planning, development and management. This helps them understand the complexities and challenges of urban development.
- Internships at RAJUK help interns develop important professional skills, such as project management, research, data analysis and technical skills related to urban planning software and tools.
- Working at RAJUK provides interns with opportunities to network with professionals, government officials and other stakeholders in the urban development sector. This can be beneficial for future career prospects.
- Interns have the opportunity to contribute to significant urban development projects that can have a lasting impact on the community and the city's infrastructure.
- Having an internship experience with a reputable organisation such as RAJUK can significantly enhance an intern's resume, making them more attractive to future employers.

**Improved Co-ordination:** Foster better co-ordination among different government agencies and stakeholders to streamline efforts.

**Data Systems:** Develop robust data collection and monitoring systems to track progress and inform decision-making.

**Community Involvement:** Engage local communities in planning and implementation processes to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

**Building Code Enforcement:** Continuous monitoring of construction activities ensures compliance with building codes and regulations. It helps identify unauthorised construction and ensures adherence to safety standards.

**Land Use Regulation:** Real-time data on land use changes and developments helps enforce zoning regulations and prevent illegal land encroachment.

**Citizen Engagement:** Providing real-time data to the public through online platforms or mobile apps can increase transparency and engage citizens in urban governance. It allows residents to report issues and track their resolution.

**Data Collection and Storage:** Implement robust data collection and storage systems to handle large volumes of real-time data.

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





**Advanced Analytics:** Use advanced analytics and machine learning algorithms to derive actionable insights from the data.

By addressing these challenges and leveraging the opportunities, RAJUK can effectively integrate the SDGs into its operations, contributing to the sustainable development of Dhaka.

## FINAL REMARKS

In conclusion, in this paper, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, including educational institutions and capital development authorities such as RAJUK in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This case study highlights their critical role in accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society: educational institutions and RAJUK play pivotal roles in this journey. By fostering innovation, building capacity and promoting sustainable practices, they can create a synergistic impact that drives forward the SDGs. Through collaborative efforts, continuous learning and a commitment to sustainable development, Dhaka can progress towards becoming a resilient, inclusive and sustainable city, setting an example for other urban areas in Bangladesh and beyond.

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