

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT: AN OPTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF DHAKA MEGACITY

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ABSTRACT

Since 1950s the pace of urbanization has produced a significant number of megacities in both developing and developed regions of the world. Developing countries are the chief host of newly formed megacities in the globe. Dhaka, with around 20 million people and a lot of problems regarding sustainability, is one of the fastest growing megacities in the developing part of Asia. The objectives of this paper are; (a) to delineate the present loopholes in the governance process of Dhaka megacity, and (b) to propose an option for resolving the governance problems for achieving a sustainable development of the city. Dhaka megacity is being governed by city corporation (recently split into two) vested with a huge range of responsibilities and ultimately the city fails to deliver the services to the citizen according to their expectations. Parallel organizations i.e. DWASA, CDA, DESCO, DPDC etc. which provide utilities and infrastructural development to the citizens, have issues while coordinating with Dhaka City Corporations (DCC North and South). That shows the severe differentiation among different agencies responsible for Dhaka city's management and governance. This creates confusion among the institutions and severe governance problem leading to unsustainable development of the megacity. It is necessary for Dhaka to eliminate the current system of governance by inviting well recognized system like metropolitan government in which management is more consolidated, easy, less confusing and targeted towards sustainable development. This paper finally identifies that in order to pave the way for sustainable development of the megacity it is needed to install the system of Metropolitan Government with no or severe delay.

Keywords: Governance, Megacity, Metropolitan Government, Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

As one of the world's fastest growing mega cities and one of the poorest, Dhaka is facing severe challenges sooner than most others. Its population, now estimated about 15 million, is expected to hit 20 million by 2015 (Roy, 2005). Slums absorb 40 to 50 per cent of all Dhaka city dwellers and those continue to absorb new migrants, who arrive every year. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is a great example of urbanization without any significant development. The city needs new perspectives to face the difficult challenges in years to come especially in service delivery, poverty reduction, informality, transportation, housing, environmental degradation and disaster management (Chowdhury, 2006). These are the areas which need a significant attention by the governing bodies/agencies of Dhaka before the situation becomes worst of this megacity. With a projection of huge population swell in Dhaka by 2015 the issue of preserving the city as a fine habitat for future generation is one of the biggest challenges for the government of Bangladesh in years ahead. Preserving the resources and facilities for future generation while serving the present one with efficiency covers the notion of sustainable development first coined by Brundtland report back in 1987 (Verena, 2011; Cherchye and Kuosmanen, 2006). The present state of governance system of Dhaka megacity is highly criticized by people, scholars, practitioners and civil society as the responsible agencies namely the Dhaka City Corporation (recently split into two), Capital development Authority (CDA), Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (DESCO), Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd

(DPDC), Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) and Titas Gas have failed to deliver the services to the citizens in manner which would ensure the right of enjoying healthy and habitable Dhaka to future generation as well (Hossain, 2008; ESCAP, 2003). Having multifaceted problems with the existing governance system Dhaka megacity is searching for alternatives which will diminish the issue of malintegration between the agencies. That means the megacity requires a system in which governance will be carried out by a single entity (Siddiqui, 2000). Bearing that need in mind this paper tries to outline the present state of governance of the megacity to show the rationale of installing an alternative system of governance in megacity Dhaka. This article focuses on metropolitan government, a theory from old school of urban governance, as the alternative way of managing the megacity for achieving the ultimate goal of sustainable development. This piece of work starts discussion by putting a conceptual framework. Then it delineates current situation of Dhaka megacity's governance and rationale for setting up metropolitan government in respective sections. Finally this study, before concluding, portrays how metropolitan government would operate to become an engine of the megacity's sustainable development.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Metropolitan Government

Metropolitan government is a kind of governance arrangement of a metropolitan area as a whole, as opposed to the scrappy rule (Hamilton, 1999). It means a set of public organizations/agencies (combination of different agencies and departments etc.) to act in a particular area or locality under a concentrated hierarchy and be controlled by a legal body namely city corporation/municipal corporation (Barlow, 1991). Roberts and Sykes (2000); Reh fuss (1968) are the proponents who clearly said that fragmented governance in an urban area clearly invites many urban problems where inhabitants get confused about the service delivery organizations. Roberts and Sykes (2000) thus recognized an integrated and consolidated government in urban areas to curb the urban problems which will automatically address the often changing physical, social, economic and environmental conditions of an urban area. Rusk (2003) signifies the responsibility of metropolitan government as a single entity of pertaining all metropolitan affairs and policy decisions affecting the life of people living within the metropolitan/urban area. Service delivery to ensure the development of an urban area is strongly supported by Dehoog (1997). He sees metropolitan government is a consolidated governing body responsible for urban basic services. Metropolitan government denotes the integrated governance of an urban area. Integration, in broad sense, refers to bringing the technical/engineering, spatio-environmental, financial and institutional affairs under a single institutional jurisdiction with intentions of providing clear benefits (Singh and Steinberg, 1996). Vogel (1997) proposes an umbrella entity for overseeing the integrated service delivery. Public administration and planning theory suggest that consolidated government provides the capacity and authority to address economic growth problems at a regional level and also enhances the professionalism of the development process (Rigos 1995). Norris (2001) points out that fragmentation of agencies does not help to improve the situation of metropolitan area governance because individual agencies often run after their personal benefits and profits. He further goes on to say that consolidated and integrated governance ensure single point service delivery which ultimately saves money and time of end users. In other words, the very concept of metropolitan government emphasizes on achieving efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness and equity concerns of key urban services delivery and management to restructure the urban economy augment the livability and strengthen the functionality by integrating all functions under one organization.

Sustainable Development

As defined most famously by the Brundtland report in 1987, sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (WCED, 1987). In very first impression sustainable development asserts about the conservation of environment and reducing the rate of rapid climate change. It implies that the present generation has to conserve nature and environment for the future generation so that they can enjoy the same facility as the present ones. Our Common Future went on to say that anthropogenic impact on the environment is not such type for which the present generation can actually brag about. Furthermore, sustainable development also denotes the importance of ethics in using resources. That means sustainable development is the process of development which ensures that the poor people meet the basic needs. That process tends to include the practice of distributing resources among all the people. Equal opportunity both for present and future generation is also elucidated by sustainable development principles. In broader sense the Brundtland Commission Report concludes that a sustainable development requires a political system that can secure its citizens a real influence on decisions (Næss, 2001). In this particular study economic development, environmental protection, and social development are recognized as the three major pillars of sustainable development.

Sustainable development in the Megacity context

Megacities, especially in the developing world, provide extensive opportunities for employment and investment which significantly lack elsewhere. The agglomeration economies bears the potential for an efficient and sustainable management of resources because of the low per capita costs for provision of services e.g. piped water, electricity, disposal of garbage (Satterthwaite 1999). Despite providing lucrative opportunities megacities do have negative externalities of various business operations that happen within the jurisdiction (Heinrichs; Nuissl and Stelzer, 2007). Those negative externalities breed the megacity problems which hamper the sustainability of megacities. Megacities are often challenged in four ways, i.e. climate and energy, water and food, social equality and biodiversity, while striving to achieve sustainable development (IESP, 2012). It stress on maintenance of social justice and augmentation of economic development without hampering the environment and natural energy resources. Along with these four challenges megacities in developing regions stay well behind the megacities in developed world in terms of democracy and participative governance practice to manage the megacities affairs (see Hardoy et al., 2001; Carley et al., 2001; Cohen et al., 1996). In other way a city can be defined as becoming more sustainable if it is reducing its resource inputs (land, energy, water, and materials) and waste outputs (air, liquid, and solid waste) while simultaneously improving its liveability (health, employment, income, housing, leisure activities, public spaces, and community) (Newman and Kenworthy, 2003). Williams (1997) further notes that major challenges for megacities in the South includes lack of resources, planning capacity, absence of democracy and participative governance and malinstitutionalization hampering delivery of services e.g. water, sanitation, education, environment, electricity, entertainment, communication, business. Wheeler (2000) specifically sees the importance of planning to initiate the necessary steps towards sustainable development of a metropolitan area. He further goes on to say that planning has to be done within the light of regionalism by a single urban governing body to reduce any confusion and competition among several agencies with similar kind of responsibility. Wheeler's (2000) point of view clearly favors the establishment a single governing body for big cities. On the whole good governance, societal justice and

equality, economic development by conserving the natural and manmade resources are the main aspects of consideration for achieving the goal of sustainable development in megacities (Myllylä and Kuvaja, 2005).

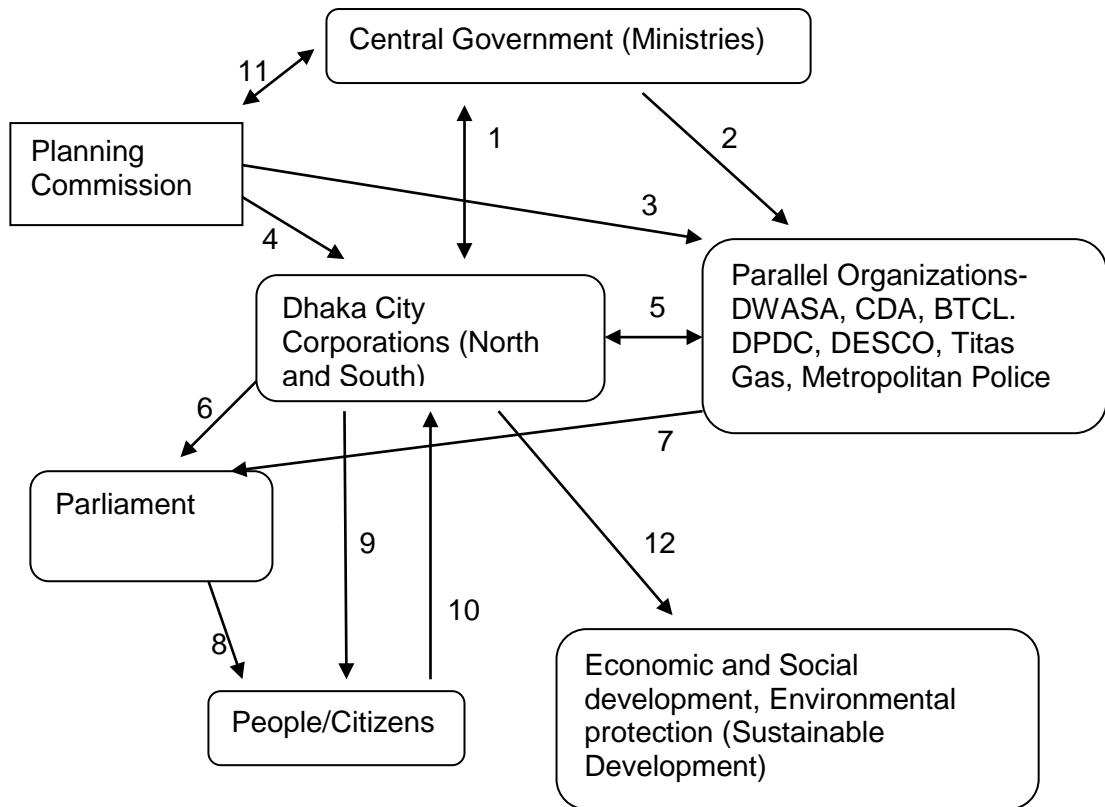
PRESENT STATE OF DHAKA MEGACITY'S GOVERNANCE: BARRIER TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is located almost in the middle of the country. The city turned as one of the most attractive destinations for migration in Indian subcontinent since the British started ruling the region back in 18th century. Due to the presence of waterways in all four sides of the city people migrate to this city very fast and cheaply. This made the city one of the fastest growing megacities in the world (Siddiqui et al., 2004). To govern the city many institutions have been established since 19th Century. Apart from the recent split of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) (North and South, see figure 1) the establishment of DCC back in 1980s is considered as the last effort to institutionalize the governance of this megacity. Dhaka City Corporation was established as the Dacca Municipality on August 1, 1864. Prior to that, a Committee for the improvement of Dacca (Former spelling of Dhaka) managed the city. The act of 1884 added the provision of elected representatives in municipalities called commissioners. In 1978, it gained corporation status. In 1982, two adjoining municipalities, Mirpur and Gulshan, were merged with Dhaka Municipality. In 1983, it was renamed as Dhaka Municipal Corporation which was again renamed as Dhaka City Corporation in 1990 (Siddiqui, 2005). Dhaka South City Corporation consists of 56 wards and Dhaka North City Corporation consists of 36 wards. From each ward one ward councilor is to be elected through direct elections and 30% of total seats is reserved for women ward councilor.

Figure 1: Splitting the DCC Jurisdiction



Figure 2: Present system of Dhaka Megacity's Governance



Legend-

1. Interaction between DCCs and central government through which central government give grants to DCCs and give directions about urban affairs
2. Top-down directions from central government
3. Top-down directions from planning commission in the name annual development programs
4. Top-down directions from planning commission in the name annual development programs
5. Two way communication and coordination mechanism to deliver services
6. DCCs are accountable to parliament
7. Parallel organizations are accountable to Parliament
8. Parliament let people know about the affairs of agencies
9. DCCs are accountable to people through the ward councilors
10. Feedback from people
11. Consultation between planning commission and central government to formulate ADP
12. DCCs policies and functions to ensure sustainable development

Source: own work

DCC is responsible for providing some of the basic amenities to its citizen. Conservancy service and certification service are the two of the major tasks perform by DCC. Besides, DCC also runs primary health care facility, primary education program, provides certificate for various purposes to the citizens, collects taxes from the citizen and provides

street lighting in Dhaka. However, there is growing consensus within the academia and media that DCC has failed to achieve desired standard in its performance (Imam, 1998; Haq, Ahsan et al., 2002; Chepesiuk, 2003; Hossain, Wagatsuma et al., 2004; Islam and Shafi, 2004; Luck, 2008). This lack of performance in governing the city is cited very often and many consider this as one of the major governance problems which hampers the city's journey towards sustainability. Dhaka Megacity (or Dhaka Capital Region) demands a very different governance structure. Governing the megacity region is complex and difficult because of multiplicity of agencies involved in planning and implementation of different services to the people of the megacity region (Islam, 2012). In discussing about the present governance scenario of Dhaka megacity Panday (2006) identifies that the existence of parallel institutions like Capital development Authority (CDA), Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (DESCO), Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC), Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) and Titas Gas creates a severe dilemma in making decisions for the sake of the development of the megacity. He further explores that the lack of coordination and overlapping role among those organizations are also two most important aspects of present condition of Dhaka megacity's governance. The lack of coordination is witnessed both in internal and external affairs of DCC (Siddiqui et al., 2004). Siddiqui et al. (2004) specifically argue that lack of coordination is acutely seen in conserving the environment and disposing the garbage. Which means Dhaka megacity is becoming a dirty city where people have a high risk of getting ill due to presence of hazardous particles and materials in the environment. Environmental degradation is certainly a strong barrier to sustainable development cited by Brundtland Commission in 1987. In discussing about the parallel organizations it is necessary to look at the functions these have in their hands. CDA is solely responsible for infrastructural planning of the megacity. But there is a department in DCC which has responsibility to look after the infrastructural planning of the megacity as well (Begum, 2007). It clearly denotes that people do not know whether they have to go for the services related to planning. Electricity supply companies do not even bother to consult with DCC as there is a department in DCC designated to look after the energy matters of the citizen. These are the instances which are quite regular and familiar to the people.

In very recent times the government has split the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) into two (North and South) which has given birth of many criticism as the citizen of the city quite confused to get service due to the presence of parallel organizations. There is no democratic practice in managing those two city corporations' affairs at the same time central government has made two senior bureaucrats as the chief of those two city corporations respectively. This is certainly not the move to ensure democracy as the democratic practice and participative governance is strongly put forward by authors like Hardoy et al. (2001); Carley et al. (2001); Cohen et al. (1996) and Williams (1997) to ensure sustainable development of megacity. Bhuiyan (2009) focused on the conservancy service of DCC to explore the major problems in delivering services and governance. He pointed out lack of manpower, bad coordination between inter/intra-departments, material/physical resources, central-local relation, corruption and people's awareness as the major attributes of present state of Dhaka megacity's governance.

Major preconditions for sustainability of a megacity strictly include the delivery of basic services with efficiency to the people. But unfortunately the two DCCs and other organizations have been severely failed to deliver the services. The provision of basic utilities and services such as water supply, sewage network, power/electricity supply, telecommunication, urban roads and highways are short in supply and irregular (Moinuddin, 2010). The distribution of these services/utilities is unequal and end-users aren't being ensured with 24 hour service automatically. Frequent failure in service delivery at customers end is quite a common scenario in Dhaka city. Chowdhury (2007) sees the service delivery by Dhaka City Corporation as an inefficient one because the system of service delivery fails

to include the demands or needs of the people live in slums or the people living below poverty line. Without having democratic governance system established it is quite tough to involve the people living in slums (40-50 per cent in Dhaka). In analyzing the state of governance of Dhaka megacity one would find an agency that makes it next to impossible for an average law abiding citizen without any political, financial or criminal clout to obtain a simple trade license (Wahid, 2010). One will find an agency that does not play well with other agencies of the government. For instance, the Purbachal New Town Project required the filling of a portion of the Shitalakhya River, which was a clear and blatant violation of environmental laws (Roy, 2009). Islam (2012) points out that the present state of Dhaka megacity's governance shows the key organization i.e. DCC along with other parallel organizations are beset with several internal and external problems which lead to lack of people's participation, absence of democratic process to elect the head of the organizations, lack of transparency of actions, overlapping in decision making and implementation, lack of accountability mechanism, absence of proper planning agenda and resource for economic and social development. Current condition of governance of Dhaka megacity is not a suitable one to pave the way towards achieving the goals and objectives of sustainable development because poor people have been excluded from the stream of decision making and service and the environment has been dented badly. Preconditions for sustainable development of megacity cannot be found in Dhaka because of the system of governance it has. Without those preconditions and a perfect launching pad sustainable development will always remain outside the screen of decision making and policy implementation. Thus it can easily be stated that existing status of Dhaka megacity's governance is not the facilitator of sustainable development rather it is acting as barrier to the well desired mode of development first ushered by Brundtland Commission in 1987.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF DHAKA MEGACITY: RATIONALE FOR METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

In reference with the Dhaka megacity's governance problems it is recognized that there exist a soaring impediment to sustainable development of the megacity. The struggle for sustainable development of Dhaka megacity is a heightened trend noted almost by everyone in recent times. Perceiving the importance of sustainable development it is now quite a demand to remove those impediments for opening the door to that type of development. Decreasing trend, in terms of health, culture and economy, is being observed in the torrent of livelihood standard of people living in Dhaka. This is certainly not the notion of sustainable development. It is now time to move on with some ideas to establish a system which can ultimately remove the barriers to sustainable development (found in previous section). In the age of rapid climate change, sustainable development of the megacity with more than 15 million people is a daunting task stays ahead of Bangladesh's policy makers (Roy, 2005). If the policy makers do not take steps to achieve sustainable development of Dhaka megacity then within very short time the area would become an uninhabitable one as the present scenario clearly states the irrational use of resources by people leaving the environment in tatters (see box 1). To deal with such number of population within the framework of sustainability it is inevitable to form a system of governance in which people do not get confused by service delivery and planning process. They need to be provided with an umbrella body from where they can get all the services in a quicker form and also face the legal check in exploiting resources. Legal checking on citizens deeds related to environmental sustainability is quite impossible in Dhaka because there are a lot of organizations dealing with same sort of responsibilities (Sultana, 2012). Alternative type of governance is in demand list of people as they are not quite happy with decision of splitting the DCC. Fragmentation of service and planning organizations has been the case which actually sent sustainable development into a firmly locked cabinet. Splitting of DCC would further bring sufferings to the people as they think. Maintenance of resources and

environment would also be hampered as there is still an enormous problem of coordination among agencies. Splitting would give further fuel into the problem. "The south DCC will be deprived from resources. On the other hand, the north DCC, where powerful and rich people of the city live, would get more financial allocation," says Salahuddin Aminuzzaman, professor of public administration at Dhaka University, in an opinion piece (Cited in Carr, 2011). The comment by Professor Aminuzzaman is very much relevant to the theme of social equality and justice which is one of the prime preconditions of sustainable development. It implies that fragmentation would not allow the policy makers to deal with sustainability as easily as they presume. Hence, sustainable development is the excuse to actions of consolidating the governance system in Dhaka.

Box 1: Key Environmental Issues in Dhaka Megacity

Over 3 million people live in slums and squatters of Dhaka city with very little utility service. Only 55% of the poor households currently receive tap water (Siddiqui and others, 2004). Another report states that less than 40% of the slum dwellers have access to safe drinking water. Densely populated slums with only 40% coverage of hygienic sanitation. People, living in slums, burn 500 ton biomass fuel per day. Unfit vehicle on the roads is another problem in Dhaka. These vehicles emitting dangerous particle namely lead. The lead level in the country's urban children was 5.8 to 21.6 g/dl, and the urban slum children's lead level ranged from 9.6 to 38.9 g/dl -- three times more than the acceptable level.

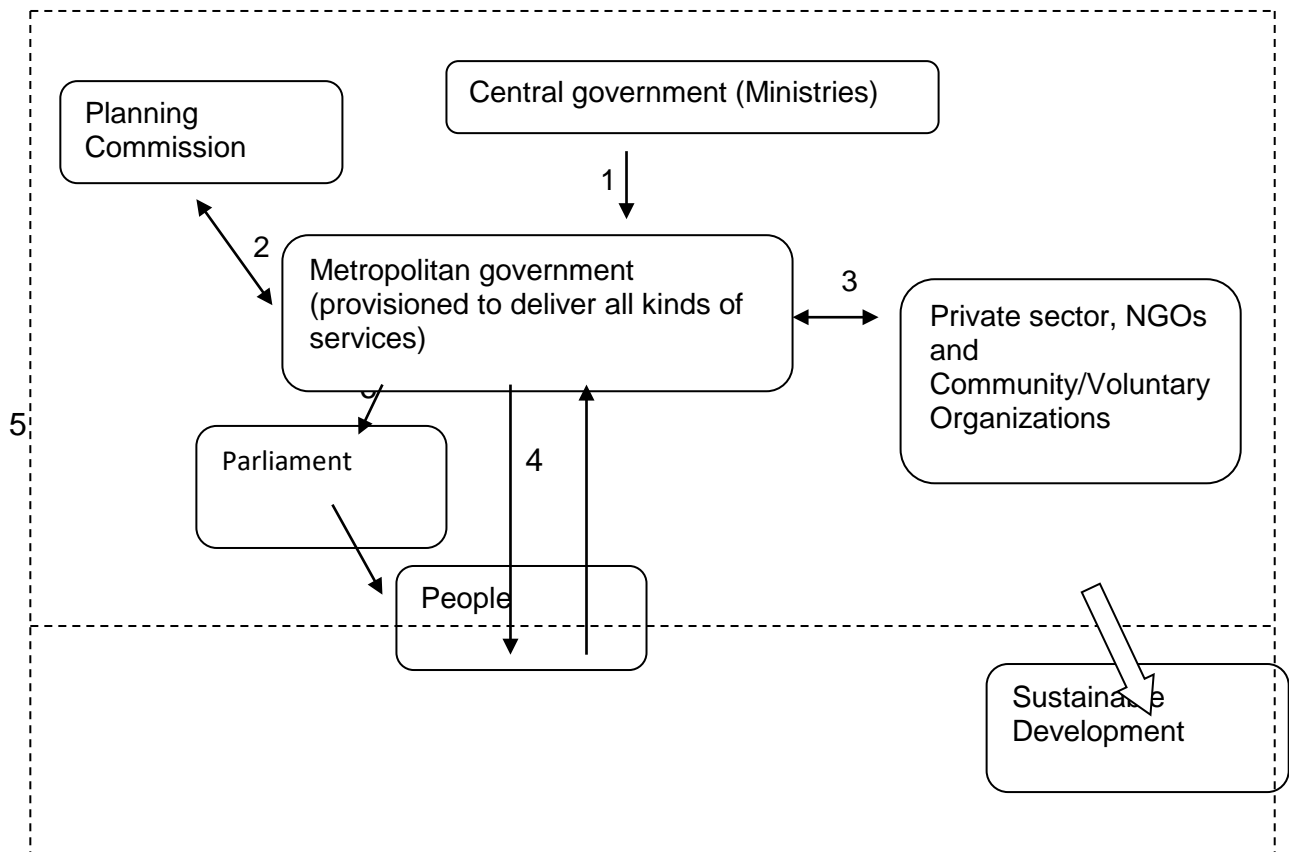
Sultana (2012) argues that natural resource has to be maintained and governed very carefully to increase the pace of sustainable development in megacity like Dhaka. She points out that in order to govern natural resources there should be single point of contact for citizens, private sector, civil society and international donor agencies. Hardoy et al., 2001; Carley et al., 2001; Cohen et al., 1996 have enlightened the need for participative governance and democratic procedure to manage the urban governance organizations as the two most important preconditions of sustainable development of megacities. In line with their notions it can be argued that Dhaka megacity needs a single governing body made through the process of representative democracy. Too many organizations do not help people to take part in the decision making process. Single organization always helps people to take part in the process of decision making because it saves time and money of them. In present time the growing megacities are facing four challenges (climate and energy, water and food, social equality and biodiversity) which are not alien for Dhaka as well (IESP, 2012). Dhaka, as one of the fastest growing and continuously crawling for sustainability megacities does not have a system of governance (Imam, 1998; Haq, Ahsan et al., 2002; Chepesiuk, 2003; Hossain, Wagatsuma et al., 2004; Islam and Shafi, 2004; Luck, 2008; Panday, 2006; Chowdhury, 2007) which can ensure; well managed energy use to keep the climate healthy for people, regular clean water and food supply for everyone, socially just politico-administrative practice and finally an effective environmental conservation to maintain the biodiversity. The need for sustainable development of Dhaka megacity, where serious governance problems exist including malintegration, lack of coordination, overlapping of roles, autocratic decision making, bureaucratic interference through top-down policy implementation, definitely the major rationale to set up a consolidated form of government. Study by Rusk (2003) signifies the responsibility of metropolitan government as a single entity of pertaining all metropolitan affairs and policy decisions affecting the life of people living within the metropolitan/urban area. To fetch sustainable development for Dhaka, bearing the fact of present governance problems, metropolitan government needs to be established without any delay.

By addressing the issues related to governance crisis in Dhaka Siddiqui et al. (2004) tried to find out what the respondents think about the need for a metropolitan government, as an alternative to present governance system, to make the city's development a sustainable one. Out of 100 Siddiqui et al. (2004) got 30 respondents answering in favor of establishing metropolitan government to consolidate the governance system. Importantly it is noticed in that same survey by Siddiqui et al. (2004) got 22 respondents do not know about the solution of governance problems. That means a significant number of people demand metropolitan government as it would eliminate the problem of coordination, overlapping and dilemma in decision making. To foster the sustainable development the planning and service delivery needs to be done by single entity or an umbrella body which is more or less witnessed in Tokyo.

HOW METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WORK TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MEGACITY DHAKA?

The identification and exploration of the need for a metropolitan government to simplify the governance system in Dhaka megacity can give birth to a question which would ask about the way how metropolitan government can ensure sustainable development of the megacity. This section proposes the modus operandi of metropolitan government that would work out to ensure sustainable development of the megacity. From figure 2 the principle of governance of Dhaka megacity can be understood. It is quite complex and multi dimensional. Metropolitan Government is a simple structure to deal with. To make it handy for achieving the sustainable development a structure is proposed (depicted in figure 3) here.

Figure 3: Modus Operandi of Metropolitan Government for Dhaka Megacity



Legend-

1. Grant from Central government
2. Consolation with planning commission to harmonize local level plan with national ones
3. Private sector, NGOs and CVOs to get contracts/partnerships from MG to deliver services and plan for development or implement development policies. Those organizations also hold accountable by MG
4. Services delivered to citizens/people
5. Feedback from citizens, citizens hold MG accountable through ward councilors
6. MG is accountable to Parliament
7. Parliament informs the people about the functioning and governance loopholes of MG

From the above diagram it can be observed that the proposed mechanism ensures sustainable development as the mechanism confirms democratic practice and participative governance along with service delivery and development activities. By comparing figure 2 with figure 3 it can be delineated that the channel of functioning becomes lesser in metropolitan government system than the existing system where too many parallel organizations work and central government interferes. In this propose mechanism the metropolitan government works as a consolidated organization to deliver the service and lookafter the development priorities of the megacity. The metropolitan government can contract out the service delivery or policy implementation. Partnerships can also be made between third sector and metropolitan government to ensure the service would consult with planning commission rather having top-down directions regarding planning and formulation of policies. Metropolitan government would be accountable to parliament and people. Through contracting out the service delivery option to third sector or taking the sector as partners into the service delivery would ensure more participation of people as stakeholder. One of the most key preconditions of sustainable development concept is the conservation of

environment and natural resources. In this proposed structure metropolitan government would have no other government organizations (parallel) to deal with rather it would just let the private companies to compete with each other in conserving the environment to get the full contract. This implies it would improve the environmental conservation as there is a provision of completion. Due to the absence of top-down directions and parallel organizations the contracting out process would be very simple and less time consuming. Through contracting out the metropolitan government would be able to keep the price down for the service delivered to people which is one of the prime focuses in recent times for inhabitants of Dhaka megacity. Single point of contact or governance entity would be able to raise its finance as people would not get confused about various types of taxation imposed by different agencies as seen in existing system. Thus, the proposed structure of metropolitan government is definitely an option for sustainable development of Dhaka megacity as it meets the all preconditions of sustainable development i.e. proper service delivery, equal treatment for all, democratic process, environmental conservation and rational use of resources.

CONCLUSION

Since 1990s the world has seen a steep growth in number of megacities. Dhaka is one of them which now faces serious dilemma on various issues concentrated solely on sustainable development. At the same time the megacity is plagued with governance problems which demand an urgent address to refresh the system that can guarantee the sustainability of the megacity. Questions are being made by many scholars, urban researchers and citizens whether the megacity will remain as a habitable one or not in near future. In order to whither this sort of doubt it is necessary to simplify the governance system and give the opportunity to people to take part in the process of decision making which will produce the policies spirited with the people's demands and desires as none wants the demise of this historical megacity ever. For resolving the present seriously problematic governance system the metropolitan government, the old phrase in urban governance literature, needs to be introduced which would actually simplify the entire system and also would provide the basic needs to the citizens. Metropolitan government is proposed by this piece of academic endeavor in order to achieve sustainable development of Dhaka megacity as this system of governance is quite capable of meeting the major preconditions of sustainable development in an efficient manner (Myllyla" and Kuvaja, 2005).

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