

Youth Leadership in Diplomacy for Bangladesh: Toward A Sustainable Global Future

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ABSTRACT

The twenty-first-century geopolitical environment is also more marked by the activism of the youth in the Global South as the formulation of national and international policies becomes a matter of centre-stage actors and not peripheral ones. This revolution has reached a historical peak in Bangladesh after the July Revolution of 2024, which was an epochal "Monsoon Revolution" by students that essentially ousted an authoritarian regime that had become entrenched in Bangladesh over many years and revitalised the legacy of resistance. In this research paper, the posture of youth leadership in diplomacy in Bangladesh is discussed based on the fact that the institutionalisation of the youth demographic serving 33% of the population is a critical concern in attaining a sustainable global future. The mixed-method approach which combines quantitative data collected through surveys on 2,545 individuals and takes the form of qualitative thematic analysis of new policy changes offers an insight into the process of replacing informal activism with formal diplomatic representation. The results indicate that there is a big reluctance gap with 95% of the youth feeling that traditional politics is risky; and 94% willing to take the lead in climate and social action, were they offered institutional backing. The report evaluates the current frameworks, including the UN Youth Delegate Program, the UNESCO Youth Voice Mechanism, and the BIMSTEC Young Leaders Summit, as a means of finding ways of integrating further. The discussion provides a conclusion that Bangladesh can reinvent itself as a regional beacon of justice and democratic developments by utilising the three Zeros framework proposed by Dr. Muhammad Yunus as follows: zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net carbon. This paper gives policy suggestions to the policy makers on how to go beyond mere symbolic inclusion into meaningful youth-led diplomacy.

Keywords: Youth Leadership, Global Diplomacy, BIMSTEC, Generation Z, July Revolution, Global South, Sustainable Development.

INTRODUCTION

The foreign policy of Bangladesh, which has long been based on the principles of friendship to all and malice to none, is now being radically re-imagined by the most vibrant and numerous demographic group in the country its young people. The fact that people aged between 18 years and 35 years make up about 1/3 of the population- about 47.6 million people- means that the country has a demographic dividend that is one of its most important resources as far as domestic stability is concerned as well as the international reputation. Mid-2024 happened to be rather a booster, turning a student-led meritocratic movement in government recruitment into a larger so-called people movement that aimed to transform the systems and institutions of the country. This change has far-reaching consequences in the field of diplomacy because the leadership of the so-called Generation Z wants to impose the values of liberalism, pluralism, and justice in the world arena. The trick is in how to institutionalise this youthful energy in the formal diplomatic processes, which are climate governance, regional collaboration in BIMSTEC, and the UN system, as Bangladesh passes through the post-revolutionary phase. This is not just a domestic reform but a strategic necessity of a sustainable global future whereby the way of thinking of perceiving the youth as benefactors must change and consider them as development partners.

Research Problem and Rationale

Bangladesh has now found itself at a crossroads in terms of its democratic and foreign policy. The July Revolution has revealed that the young people of the country are no longer satisfied to assume the role of spectators of their own destiny as a nation; instead, they can see themselves as the creators of a common future of the world. By surpassing performative youth-washing and trying to incorporate the young people into formal diplomatic entities on a merit basis, Bangladesh can tap into its demographic bonus to tackle the existential crisis of climate change and economic inequality threats. Dr. The three zeroes vision by Muhammad Yunus provides a strategic roadmap, but its implementation depends on whether the institution of the Generation Z, which is filled with courage and innovation, is inclined in the long-term frameworks of the state. Finally, youth leadership in diplomacy is not just a chance to Bangladesh but it is the only path to sustainable future in the world.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent scholarly and policy writings highlight the fact that the youth in the Global South are becoming more practical in their roles in international governance, i.e., multi-aligned. Research regarding inclusive governance emphasises that youth participation has increased significantly due to movements, such as Fridays for Future, but formal platforms tend to be youth-washed or tokenistic, in which young people are present, but they do not influence policy outcomes. The literature in Bangladesh shows there is a great disparity between higher education training and market requirements, with 65% of the young people saying that market demands specific professional skills rather than formal education. In addition, student politics, though very powerful, is considered risky by 95% of the youth based on the past traditions of violence and corruption. New developmental studies also note the advent of digital and so-called esports diplomacy and a new avenue of youth-led soft power that sends cultural symbols across borders at a faster rate than ever. Comparative studies of young policies in such countries as Indonesia, Rwanda, and India indicate that it is not the inclusion of youth in the policy, but youth integration that will guarantee that young representatives can influence the policy, which requires transparency in the selection process and diplomatic mentorship. This literature highlights that young people are not only the future but the present, the so-called force, whose ideals should be incorporated into the choices to make the world a peaceful and secure place.

The new literature in the international relations has shifted its perspective significantly away at defining youth as a risk to stability to defining youth as agents of change. This is especially true of the Global South, where, in relation to the practice of youth diplomacy, there is a growing premediation of the so-called decolonial praxis, thus challenging the old Eurocentric paradigms that have traditionally marginalized the non-Western intellectual input. This conceptual revolution can be epitomized through United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 that proposes five pillars of youth engagement namely, Participation, Prevention, Protection, Partnerships, and Disengagement/Reintegration.

In Bangladesh, literature reveals a clear gap between official policy promises, such as the focus on the responsibility and future-oriented nature of the young people in the National Youth Policy 2017, and the reality of the existence of young people on the ground. Empirical studies indicate that 29.8 % of young people are currently in the category of not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category. Besides, studies that delve into the political perception of the youth, it is observed that there is an overwhelming feeling of disenchantment with traditional political establishments, and that an astonishing 95 % of the young people surveyed find politics risky and unhealthy because of the historical track record of confrontational politics.

The growth of IR academia in Bangladesh that was first established by the University of Dhaka, in 1947, has produced a generation of youth academically qualified; however, the professional absorption of this generation is not very well facilitated through institutional outlets. Modern research on so-called Generation Z indicates that digital natives are not following the conventional routes, but choosing to use connectography to influence foreign policy preferences, making it more pragmatic in the economy than long-term historical hostility. This literature highlights the need to have an inclusive form of governance that would balance between the grassroots activism and the formal systems of diplomacy.

METHODOLOGY

The research work assumes a mixed-method approach combining a vast amount of quantitative information, collected by conducting a comprehensive national survey, with a stringent qualitative thematic analysis of policy frameworks and official diplomatic documentation. The leading quantitative data are the results of the Youth Matters Survey 2025 (N=2,545) carried out in the form of an in-person interview in eight administrative units in Bangladesh and which used a stratified random sampling approach to provide a representative coverage of the urban-rural and gender distributions. The report by Next Generation Bangladesh is used to provide some additional information: 3,081 people have been surveyed to create a comprehensive picture of how young people view their future and what they perceive as obstacles.

On the qualitative level, the study systematically examines official governmental reports, specifically, the National Youth Policy 2017, the UNDP Youth Engagement Strategy 2025-2030, and BIMSTEC and the UNGA summit resolutions. By balancing these survey-based results with the narrative explanations of the 2024 revolution, the methodology will reflect the dynamic nature of youth perception of the world of governance and their willingness to be globalized leaders.

Data Analysis

This analysis of the data collected in excess of 5,600 young people based on the Youth Matters Survey and Next Generation reports sheds light on a complex burlesque where patriotic passion is modulated by widespread systemic mistrust and organization-level barriers.

Table 1: Youth Demographic and Economic Landscape in Bangladesh (2017-2025)

Indicator Domain	Specific Metric	Value/Status
Demographics	Total Youth Population (15-29)	28% of total
Labor Market	National Unemployment Rate	4.2%
Labor Market	Youth Unemployment Rate	10.6%
Labor Market	Graduate Unemployment Rate	27.8% (2022)
Education	Youth in NEET Status	29.8%
Education	Tertiary Enrollment Rate	20.57% (2018)
Policy	National Youth Policy	Adopted (2017)

The table clarifying that the youth population of Bangladesh is large enough to harness, Table 1 sheds light on the structural barriers to doing so. Youth is 28% of the population, but the incorporation in the labour market is still weak, as observed in the youth unemployment rate of 10.6% and the graduate unemployment rate of 27.8%. The NEET rates of 29.8%, with only 20.57% tertiary enrollment rate, indicate high shortcomings in the education-to-employment transition. Even though there are policy frameworks that exist, their efficient application requires further reinforcement.

Figure 1: The Demographic Transition Model for Bangladesh

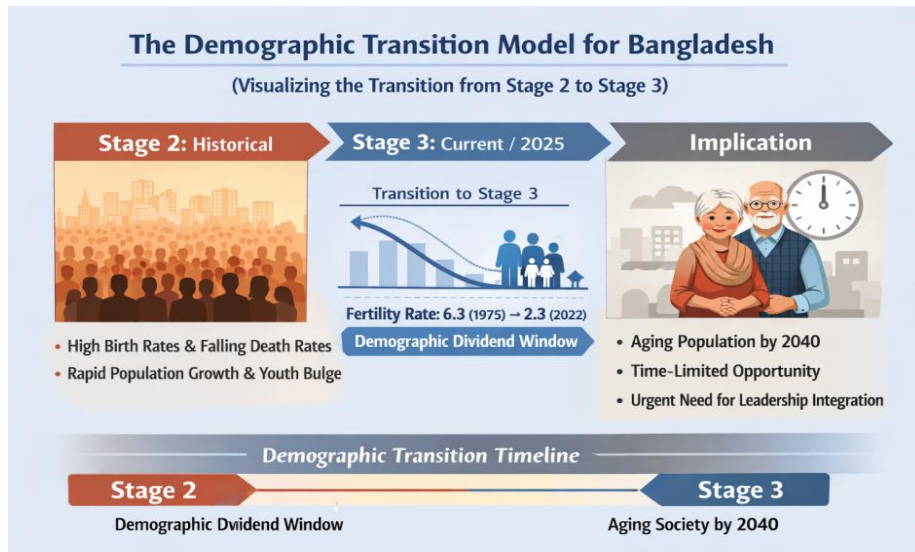


Figure 1 shows that Bangladesh went through Stage 2, which was characterised by population growth, and Stage 3, which was characterised by a fall in fertility rates. The resulting youth bulge creates significant economic prospects through the demographic dividend, but this is only a matter of time. Without a calculated investment in human capital and systematic inclusion of youth leadership, the stress of an ageing population can grow significantly by 2040.

Table 2: Barriers to Youth Participation in Formal Policy and Diplomacy

Barrier Category	Primary Challenge	Statistical/Qualitative Evidence
Administrative	National ID and Registration	Uncertainty among 85% of youth
Economic	Financial loss and precarity	36% report financial hardship as a barrier
Socio-cultural	Gender norms and restrictions	50% of females face social discouragement
Security	Fear of retaliation/violence	95% view politics as risky/unhealthy
Language	Formal vs. Indigenous dialect	Hinders understanding of rights

Table 2 clarifies the structural and intersectional barriers that limit the youth's participation. Salient deterrents are administrative uncertainty (85%), economic precarity (36%) and omnipresent security fears (95%). Socio-cultural norms and disparities are gendered, with females (50% of them) having their rights systematically violated, and language barriers undermining rights awareness. Together, these processes make exclusion institutional and reduce the effectiveness of inclusive democratic and civic processes of integration.

Table 3: Expansion of International Relations (IR) Programs in Bangladesh

University	Established	Program Levels	Status
University of Dhaka (DU)	1947	BS, MS, PMIR, PGDIR, PhD	First in South Asia
Jahangirnagar University (JU)	1999	BS, MS	Second largest department
University of Chittagong (CU)	2004	BS, MS	Regional expansion

University of Rajshahi (RU)	2014	BS, MS	Focus on Northern region
Bangladesh University of Professionals	2014	BS, MS	Military and Civil training
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)	2015	Major, Foundation	Youth leadership focus 20

The Table shows that, according to the latest version of the Commonwealth Youth Development Index (YDI) 2023, South Asia has demonstrated the greatest global improvement in educational outcomes, with an improvement of 14.26%- the result of which is mainly caused by the significant improvement of Bangladesh in the region. However, the index highlights an ongoing gender inequality of perceived safety and security since the empirical evidence indicates that the perception of safety is disproportionately higher in male youth than in female youth.

Figure 2: Commonwealth YDI Performance Domains for Bangladesh (2023)

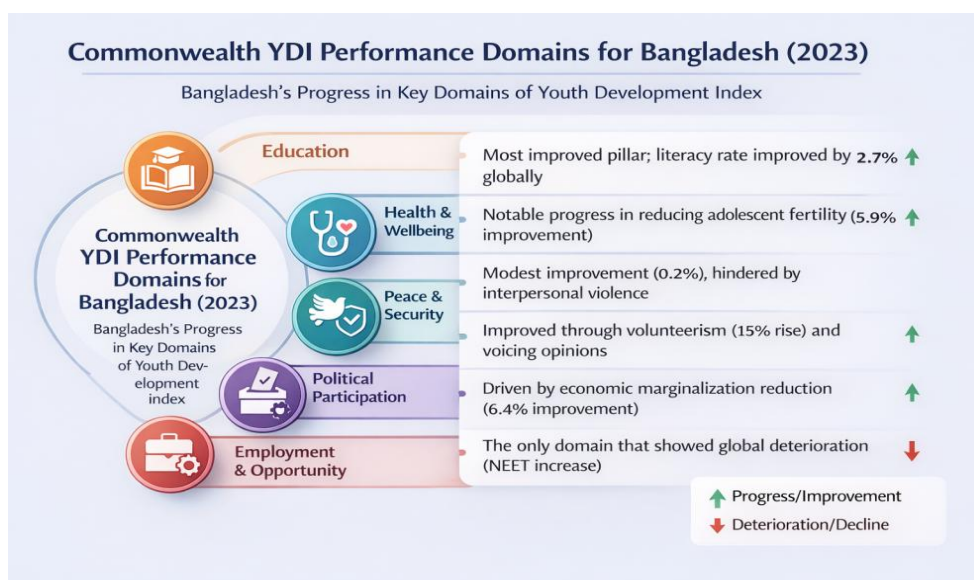


Figure 2 highlights the path of youth development in the country of Bangladesh with respect to six different areas of the Youth Development Index. It is clear that significant improvements have been made in the education, health, and political participation areas, which can be explained by significant improvements in literacy rates, a significant decrease in fertility rates, and increased civic activity. In turn, employment and opportunities remain urgent issues, as the number of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) continues to increase, and the labour market is characterised by a sharp imbalance.

Table 4: Key Youth-Led Climate Diplomacy Initiatives (2021-2025)

Event/Platform	Youth Role	Key Contribution/Outcome
COP28 (Dubai)	12 Youth Delegates	Inclusion of children in outcome document
COP29 (Baku)	20 Youth Delegates	Advocacy for NDC 3.0 and finance
Youth COP 2025	100 Climate Activists	Release of 26-point Youth Charter
BIMSTEC Summit	Youth Delegates	Digital public infrastructure dialogue
COP30 (Brazil)	Policy Dialogues	Preparing for "Just Transition" advocacy

Table 4 illustrates the growing intensity of diplomatic participation of Bangladeshi youth in global climate action in local forums. This involvement in COP events helps to ease climate finance mechanisms, strengthen advocacy for Nationally Determined Contributions, and enter the discussion of the just transition. Multilateral organisations such as COP and BIMSTEC are gradually recognising the role that the youth are playing in governance on sustainability.

Figure 3: The Geopolitical Recalibration Framework of Generation Z

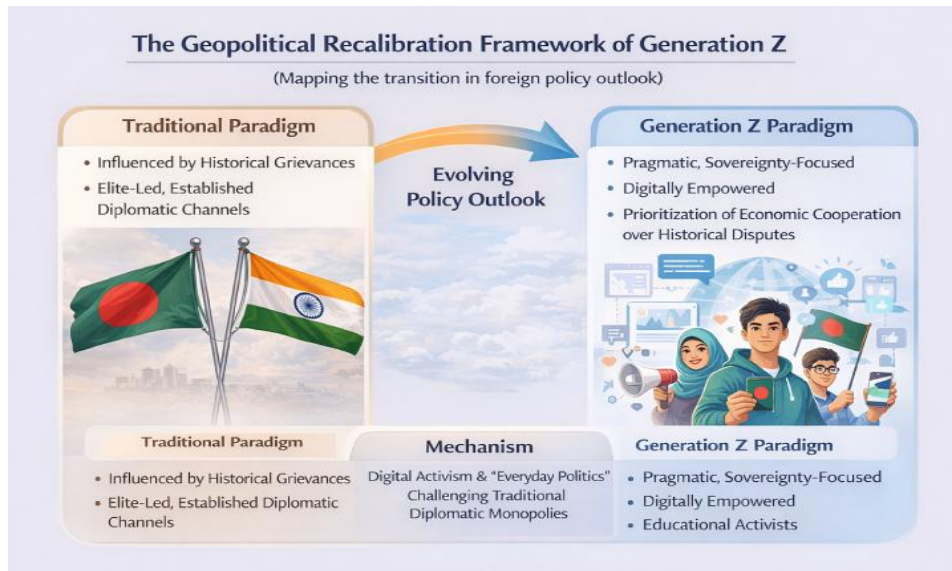


Figure 3 illustrates the analytical framework that outlines the changing perception of the foreign policy of Bangladesh by the group of Generation Z. Traditional diplomatic concepts have been replaced by practical, digitally mediated interaction, which preempts sovereignty and economic co-operation. In addition, a digital form of activism and everyday politics is becoming more of a challenge to elite-dominated forms of diplomacy, thus becoming the manifestation of a youth-led geopolitical awareness and the current global integration process.

Table 5: Comparative Analysis of Soft Power Indicators (Vision 2041)

Soft Power Element	Traditional Approach	Smart Bangladesh Approach
Diplomacy	Elite-centered, state-to-state	Citizen-centric, multi-stakeholder
Culture	Historical preservation	Local-global reconfiguration
Innovation	Passive adaptation	Youth-led megaprojects (Smart Economy)
Governance	Centralized	Democratization and Decentralization

Table 5 that follows outlines the contrast of traditional and modern soft-power paradigms, which work in Bangladesh. The change marks an exit of an elite-oriented diplomacy and hierarchical centralised model of governance, and a participatory system that is inclusive of citizens, re-creation of cultural narratives and the encouragement of youth-based innovation. The so-called Smart Bangladesh project predicts the digital governance, globalising, and the path to transformational economic change aided by technology.

The Arc of Youth Activism: From 1952 to the July Revolution

The history of Bangladesh is deeply connected with the agency of the youthful population of Bangladesh, particularly with the student organisations. Youthful leaders have operated as the pioneers of national change for over seventy years, often intervening when the bureaucratic institutions have collapsed to protect

democratic mandates (Bhattacharya, 2022). The 1952 Language Movement, which was led by the students defending the mother tongue, created a psychological, as well as a political substratum, which immediately transferred the role of the foot soldiers to the Liberation War in 1971 when the same cohort took the responsibility anew (Roy & Mohan, 2020). The ongoing dissatisfaction with the administration was caused by the lack of transparency in administrative practices, as further oscillations, especially the 1990 uprising that overthrew military rule, and the 2018 Quota Reform Movement, highlighted (Islam, 2019).

The qualitative change in terms of youth leadership relationships is a significant instance of the July Revolution of 2024. In sharp contrast to the previous power struggles that were characterised by established political parties, the movement was driven by the student activists who instigated a national outcry of equality, human dignity, and social justice that reverberated throughout the whole country (Nandi, 2025). It was known as the Monsoon Revolution, and its goals were not limited to the domestic regime change; it was a proclamation to the world community, showing a general rejection of authoritarianism and a claim of a legitimate role in international committees to make decisions (Chowdhury, 2025).

It is this inherited heritage which provides the moral capital that Bangladesh youth currently leverage in the international arenas. In an interview with the United Nations General Assembly by the Chief Adviser of the interim government, Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, he interpreted the July uprising to include an epochal change that offers an unprecedented chance to recalibrate global systems (UN, 2025). As a result, young people are being seen not only as domestic individuals but as world citizens with the ability to mobilise different groups of people to the principles of freedom and equality.

The Strategic Posture of "New Bangladesh" in Global Diplomacy

Following the 2024 transition, the Bangladesh diplomatic policy has developed to a view that can be termed as Reformist Diplomacy. This orientation is characterized by commitment to liberalism, pluralistic rule, and the active involvement of the youth citizens in setting the national development agendas, which include the Sustainable Development Goals. The guiding philosophy of the interim administration is based on the principle of a whole-of-society and strives to inculcate in the minds of the youth the values of non-violence, diversity and integrity.

The "Three Zeros" Framework as a Diplomatic Tool

At the core of this changing diplomatic story is the vision developed by Dr. Yunus of a so-called Social Business Revolution based on 3 core goals, i.e. poverty eradication, unemployment elimination, and zero net carbon emissions. The framework is not simply a policy agenda but an experimental laboratory of social innovation in the country, a strategic brand identity of Bangladesh. By promoting an economic model founded on social entrepreneurship as opposed to the unchecked consumption, Bangladesh challenges the current logic that prioritizes profit making that has led to the climate crisis thus providing a substitute that incorporates socioeconomic progress and environmentalism.

This type of the economic paradigm appeals to youth leadership greatly because it re-invents their role as a job creator rather than job seekers. Therefore, it is being encouraged that educational establishments readjust their curriculums to the development of youth to enable them play a role in building a future that will be zero waste and zero carbon. This reposition is a counter to the inherited broken economy system. The message has been already circulated during COP30 side events where the youth activists of Bangladesh demanded more global funding to expand their localized climate mitigation efforts.

Climate Diplomacy: Survival as Leadership

Climate diplomacy was not chosen in Bangladesh but a structural necessity to the existence of the nation. As sea levels are expected to increase and cyclones are growing, the nation faces the threat of increasing levels of resource insecurity that threatens the livelihood of millions. By taking active roles in the processes of global climate governance, Bangladesh does not need financial aid but strong bonds to improve resilience.

The driving force of this effort is the youth. They have already launched significant victories already- most notably, the bringing in of intergenerational equity into the Glasgow Climate Pact. Nonetheless, it has been proven as an empirical fact that symbolic representation is not sufficient. The young leaders are insisting on substantive institutional changes to ensure they are represented in decision making organs like the committees that control the Loss and Damage Fund. Youth Engagement Strategy (20252030) developed by the UNDP focuses on the institutionalization of these visions, so that the role played by youth in climate governance would transform into the localized action to the global action.

Economic Diplomacy and the Startup Ecosystem

Digital Bangladesh vision has developed into a Knowledge-based Economy, and tech-based startups have become the main drivers of growth. Over 1,200 active startups in the past decade have acquired an approximate USD 800million in foreign capital due to Bangladesh thus increasing the profile of the country in the global venture-capital market.

Key roles have been taken by the iDEA Project and Startup Bangladesh Limited which have been providing grants and mentorship to more than 400 startups. These projects have created nearly 1.5 million jobs, which explains why economic projects led by youth can be used to solve the most pressing problem in the country, which is unemployment among young people. Diplomatically, it serves as an ecosystem booster of economic regionalization putting Bangladesh as a hub in the Bay of Bengal economy.

Youth-Led Economic Transformation and G20 Alignment

Bangladesh is still utilizing international forums like the G20 Entrepreneurship Learning Series to align local innovation to international policy goals. The young population of the country by focusing on the circular economy frameworks and green entrepreneurship is making Bangladesh a leader in sustainable business. These Youth-led cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) will be very relevant in helping to maintain competitiveness in the trade in a post-LDC Bangladesh.

Regional Integration: BIMSTEC and the SAARC Deadlock

Bangladesh has placed BIMSTEC as its main instrument on its main vehicle of regional diplomacy in the context of the ongoing stalemate in SAARC. The 2025 2027 period is a tenure of chairmanship of BIMSTEC, which occurs in the backdrop of a more aggressive geopolitical contest within the Indo-Pacific that makes the chairmanship critical to ensuring stability in the region.

The 2025 BIMSTEC Young Leaders Summit, which was held on the theme of Youth as a Bridge to Intra - BIMSTEC Exchange, highlights the fact that the younger generation has a role to play not only in promoting the 2030 SDGs. The involvement of Bangladesh has been characterized by a wide range of personalities such as athletes, journalists, and social workers who have been preaching mutual cooperation across borders. The conference was geared towards the development of resilient and inclusive 21 st century leadership in the Bay of Bengal region emphasized through design thought, entrepreneurship, and socially responsive innovation.

Young Diplomats and Capacity Building

In addition, the BIMSTEC Young Diplomats Interaction Programme, its New Delhi meeting has also provided a broad-based experience to the young Bangladeshi diplomats on the new paradigms in geopolitics and geoeconomics. This endeavor is in the form of a strategic element of a wider regional plan of strengthening institutional resilience and improving interpersonal connections.

Curriculum development in Dhaka has been conducted equally at the Foreign Service Academy there, with specialized training modules having been conducted on more than 223 junior officers and therefore a cadres of diplomats who are not only well trained in critical analysis, but also in diplomatic praxis.

Institutional Mechanisms for Youth Engagement

To move beyond one-off consultations, Bangladesh is developing lasting mechanisms for youth participation in public decision-making.

The UNESCO Youth Voice Mechanism (YVM)

The Youth Voice Mechanism (YVM) is a joint venture involving UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, the ILO, and UN Women, which represents an organized method of introducing the young people into the national policy. This mechanism will ensure that youths are preoccupied with preventing crisis-based protests and encouraging long-term and active participation by the youth by systematically identifying their needs, which include livelihoods, safety, and governmental services.

Special initiatives have been targeted in making the YVM inclusive and accountable. Special emphasis has been placed on including marginalized populations (including ethnic minorities, tea-estate workers, and gender-diverse youth making sure that the voices of the most frequently sidelined population in official policy debates are sufficiently represented).

The UN Youth Delegate Program

The United Nations Youth Delegate Programme at the global level still remains an inalienable process whereby member states can include the youths in their National Delegations to the General Assembly. In its example of Bangladesh, which is a fast-track nation, it is convincingly trying to use programs like Generation Unlimited to confer substantive opportunities on its young citizens. Such representatives take center-stage roles in the process of conveying international agreements- such as, in the case example, the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development- with their national constituencies, thus developing a strong national sense of ownership of international processes.

The Violence of Exclusion vs. The Meritocracy of Inclusion

The analysis of the existing situation in youth leadership in Bangladesh can be analyzed using the analytical perspective of a violence of exclusion and a meritocracy of inclusion. During multiple decades, the political machine in Bangladesh has been controlled by a small circle, which creates a sense of disillusionment among the younger generations. This marginalization goes beyond the political realm into economic ones with 85% of the jobs being stuck at the low-productivity informal sector with low wages and poor working conditions.

The basic tenet of the opposition to this exclusionary paradigm is at the core of the 2024 July Revolution. The quota reform call was an expression of a need to have meritocracy, the system based on skill and hard work as opposed to political favors, to influence personal careers. What the movement stressed was that in the absence of formal avenues, the young people will create their own autonomous spaces of democracy, the streets.

The problem facing New Bangladesh is to channel this meritocratic drive into the formal diplomatic corps and international relations in general. The Specialized Diplomatic Training Course (SDTC) at the Foreign Service Academy, and its elaborate twenty-module curriculum, is a first step into developing skilled and youth leadership. However, there is still an important Preparatory Gap. Urban youth are 55 % willing to be formally employed, but rural youth are a notch higher at 64 %, although the two groups of population are not far apart in their demanding that they be able to acquire professional skills in a more tangible and actual way.

Moreover, the so-called Youth-Washing phenomenon that dominates the world climate discussion requires correction through granting the power to make decisions to youth representatives, and not regarding them as the listening part. The fact that 94 % of the youth are ready to take action on climate change is corroborating the premise that the force of the present is ready but structures of the past are very rigid.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To foster a robust environment for youth leadership in diplomacy, the following ten recommendations are proposed:

1. **Institutionalise Youth Advisory Councils:** Establish permanent youth councils within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all major diplomatic missions to ensure youth-led perspectives are integrated into policy formulation.
2. **Implement YPS Resolution 2250:** Develop a National Action Plan for Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) to recognise and protect the positive role of youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
3. **Bridge the Skills-Diplomacy Gap:** Reform university IR curricula to include professional training in digital diplomacy, climate finance, and technical negotiation skills.
4. **Expand Model UN and Simulation Programs:** Provide state support for Model United Nations (MUN) as an experiential learning tool to build negotiation and leadership skills in prospective global leaders.
5. **Secure the Protection of Youth Activists:** Create specific legal and diplomatic protocols to safeguard young advocates from administrative retaliation, detention, or violence when engaging in civic dissent.
6. **Champion Regional Youth Exchange:** Launch a "BIMSTEC Youth Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Exchange" to foster regional connectivity and entrepreneurship among South and Southeast Asian youth.
7. **Support Youth-Led Research Hubs:** Provide funding for youth-centric research exchanges like the Saleemul Huq Action Research Exchange (SHARE) Hub to drive evidence-based climate policy.
8. **Promote Gender-Inclusive Diplomacy:** Implement targeted programs to overcome socio-cultural barriers for young women, ensuring they have equitable access to leadership and decision-making roles.
9. **Leverage the "Three Zeros" Framework:** Align youth-led SMEs and innovation projects with the national goal of zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions.
10. **Enhance Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Ensure all youth, including marginalised and Indigenous communities, have the digital literacy and infrastructure to participate in global policy discourse.

Limitations

The main constraint of the research is that it is based on existing secondary data and archival excerpts, which are unlikely to capture the most up-to-date and real-time changes in the specific diplomatic instructions of the interim government since the late 2024 and early 2025 transitions:9 in addition, the report focuses on the so-called Generation Z phenomenon, but as of now, there is still limited empirical data on the sustainability of the influence of this particular segment of the population in the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA): Lastly, the protection gap often contributes to an under-reporting of youth experience of political violence and surveillance, which may change the perception of the perceived safety of politics.

CONCLUSION

Bangladesh has now found itself at a crossroads in terms of its democratic and foreign policy. The July Revolution has revealed that the young people of the country are no longer satisfied to assume the role of spectators of their own destiny as a nation; instead, they can see themselves as the creators of a common future of the world. By surpassing performative youth-washing and trying to incorporate the young people into

formal diplomatic entities on a merit basis, Bangladesh can tap into its demographic bonus to tackle the existential crisis of climate change and economic inequality threats. Dr. The three zeroes vision by Muhammad Yunus provides a strategic roadmap, but its implementation depends on whether the institution of the Generation Z, which is filled with courage and innovation, is inclined in the long-term frameworks of the state. Finally, youth leadership in diplomacy is not just a chance to Bangladesh but it is the only path to sustainable future in the world.

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