

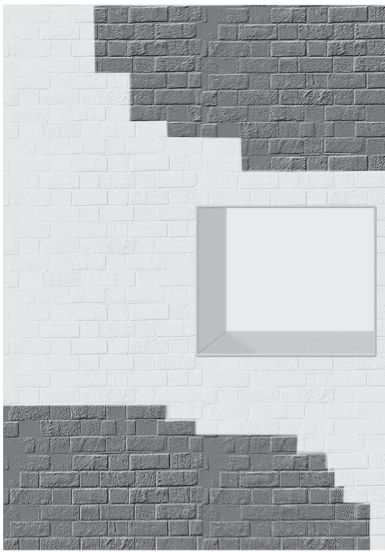


Human Security in Bangladesh



In Search
of Justice
and Dignity

About the Cover :



Human security ranks, alongside food and shelter, as one of humankind's most basic needs. All people crave personal security, as it enables them to live their daily lives in peace and build their future without fear. But for many people in Bangladesh today, particularly the poor and vulnerable, human security is an elusive goal.

A brick-wall of seemingly insurmountable obstacles separates them from the peace of mind that comes with human security. This report provides a detailed analysis of that brick-wall of obstacles -- in the hope that a better understanding of its structure will facilitate efforts to dismantle it. Through a window in the brick-wall, we glimpse the promise that genuine human security holds for society -- a world where a mother can take her child out in the open to enjoy precious moments without anxiety or fear.

The shadow falling across the upper part of the brick-wall mirrors Table 4.1 in the report, which shows the main reasons given by crime victims as to why they are reluctant to seek legal remedies. The lower shadow illustrates Table 4.2 which outlines the reasons given by complainants for not persevering with their court cases.



Table 4.1 (page 70)

80% Fear of bad treatment by police
 80% Fear of harassment by police
 80% Fear of accused illegally influencing police
 80% Costs involved
 70% Uncertainty over completion of trial
 70% Fear of having to pay for lawyer
 70% Apprehension about giving money to prosecutor
 60% Need help of influential person to contact police
 40% Unsure of securing justice in court
 40% Lack of confidence in court system

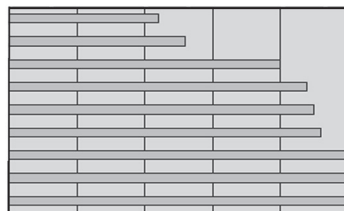


Table 4.2 (page 70)

44% Expenses related to frequent adjournments
 52% Lawyers demand money in name of court
 80% Frequent adjournments granted to influential accused
 88% Witnesses are reluctant to attend court
 90% Must pay court staff to collect entitlements for witnesses
 92% Delays in investigation and trial
 100% Problems related to the entitlements for witnesses
 100% Cases delayed due to non-attendance of witnesses
 100% Uncertainty of receiving summons in time

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the United Nations or of UNDP.

Human Security in Bangladesh

In Search of Justice and Dignity

September 2002

Copyright © 2002
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Bangladesh

ISBN 984-32-0330-5

TEAM FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

The research design, formulation of individual study outlines, review of consultants' initial drafts, and substantive overseeing of the study were carried out by the Team Leader A.T.R. Rahman, and assisted by the Deputy Team Leader D. Solongo.

Dr. M. Enamul Huq, Chief Coordinator and Ex-Inspector General of Police, was responsible for managing the research team and drafting inputs. He also provided an invaluable contribution to the final editing and launch of the report. V.M. Del Buono and K. Kang of the United Nations Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice Division, and S.K. Lee from the Singapore Attorney General's Office, participated in the formulation of the study. This report is a collaborative effort of the United Nations and Bangladesh experts. Bangladesh experts drafted the individual chapters (see Annex-1).

Analysis of policies, institutions and agencies dealing with human security -- Dr. M. Enamul Huq and Dr. Abdul Hakim Sarker; **The Legal Framework for Human Security: the search for clarity and credibility** -- Dr. Borhan Uddin Khan and Dr. Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque; **Awareness on Rights and Legal Aid Facilities: the first step to ensuring human security** -- Mr. Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury and Dr. Shadeen Malik; **Recording and Investigating Human Security Violations: the role of the police** -- Mr. A.N. Hussain and Mr. Md. Mazharul Hoque; **Prosecution and Punishment of Human Security Violations: functioning of the court system** -- Mr. Z.A. Shamsul Haq and Mr. Md. Qutubur Rahman; **Human Security in Prisons: protection and reform of prisoners** -- Mr. Nirmalendu Roy and Ms Salma Chowdhury; **Informal Systems and Village Courts: poor people's preference** -- Mr. Nurul Huda and Mr. Harun Karimdad; **Violence and Repression against Women and Children: an unending agenda** -- Dr. Sumaiya Khair and Ms Masuda Rehana Begum.

The final editing and production of the report was carried out by Charlotte Duncan, Cathy Stevulak and Binoy K. Khisha of UNDP.



United Nations Development Programme
UN Offices, IDB Bhaban (19th floor)
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon
GPO Box - 224, Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh

Tel: (880-2) 811 8600
Fax: (880-2) 811 3196
registry.bd@undp.org
www.un-bd.org/undp