

LearnEng with Shahan

Written English with BCS & Bank

Reading Comprehension - 04

Prepared by Shahan Sir

Read the given text carefully & answer the question set below it.

Recently, the well-known Boston Consulting Group wrote a piece entitled 'Bangladesh - the surging consumer market nobody saw coming'. It categorically states that the country is emerging as the 'world's next growth opportunities for consumer product companies'. Incredibly, every year about two million Bangladeshis join the ranks of the middle class and the affluent. This surge is seen as reflecting the quick graduation of Bangladesh to the level of a low middle income country from that of a least developed country. Policymakers in Bangladesh predict that the country would **graduate** to a middle income country with \$5000 + per capita in another five years. By 2025, about 30 million people will join the middle class here. Bangladesh's heretofore growth story was unfortunately overshadowed by the growth story of neighboring India. But the reasons behind Bangladesh's own success story are fast becoming apparent.

The fact that -micro credit has spawned all over the country but has not affected inflation is another great sub story. Besides garment manufacturing, footwear, pharmaceuticals and IT services have led the country to reap immense benefits. A consumer society whose median age will just be 24 in the near future will do wonders for manufacturers, whose consumer base will expand significantly. Add to this, the burgeoning foreign remittance of Bangladeshi workers and professionals now working abroad. Not only the spending, but the cash backup works as a mix for consumer expenditure in quality goods. Yet the Bangladesh story does not end there. From 2000, the country pulled its shoestring and began to rise, making significant improvements in the basic condition of people's lives. Life expectancy began to improve, and now **stands** at 70 years. The country can pride itself on having overtaken the life expectancy of neighboring India by five years.

This is in spite of India's citizens having more per capita income. Bangladesh has also taken giant steps in improving health and education. Today girls' education has crossed 95 percent, surpassing the education level of boys. Another great progress is in infant mortality. Child mortality has also more than halved and is now falling more rapidly. Maternal mortality has fallen by two-thirds. Today females live two years more than males. A unique phenomenon in Bangladesh today is that the rate of poverty reduction is more than the rate of growth per year. All this is the secret behind Bangladesh's growth story. Several factors seem to have

Served by Shahan Shahadat

contributed to this success. Birth control in Bangladesh has never been coercive; it has always been voluntary. This has encouraged couples and especially mothers to understand the path they need to take to build a happy family. Today, the fertility rate is 2.3, which is slightly above the replacement level. Add to this the widespread growth of female education. Two other phenomena have buttressed this achievement. The **boom** in the garment industry - Bangladesh is now the second largest garment exporter in the world just behind China, a **behemoth** in this field. The other is the introduction of microcredit that fueled the income of women in the entire country.

These two growth elements have pumped money into the pockets of women who have spent mainly on health, education and nutritious food. This combination is so potent that it can be dubbed as the 'Bangladesh magic' behind growth. Meanwhile, food production in this tiny country has grown three times since 1971. What was the international basket case of Henry Kissinger of yore is turning into an almost food exporting nation. The Bangladeshi farmer is also diversifying crop production into vegetables and fruits as well as exotic food items. An extraordinary strategy used by Bangladeshi farmers was the use of high yielding seeds and irrigation to grow crops, turning the winter crop (Boro) into the largest yielding crop season. The phenomenal growth of Bangladesh can also be attributed to the huge amount of foreign remittances sent by 10 million expatriate Bangladeshis. These remittances are serious money in the pockets of families and are spurring trade as well as small scale industries.

A fascinating phenomenon of Bangladesh is that the diaspora does not belong to the poor families only. The middle income professionals are also a part of it. The social safety programs have leapfrogged and are now 12 percent of the GDP in the country. The Bangladesh society is now going through a rebalancing exercise. In spite of the country's cantankerous politics, there is a consensus in favor of social programs. The other extraordinary phenomenon of Bangladesh is the expansion in the growth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). From the global giants, the Grameen Bank and BRAC, there seems to be an NGO for all worthy causes in Bangladesh. Yet two aspects of Bangladesh are disappointing.

The first is corruption. Like measles, it has pockmarked the society. It is not only a rent seeker but a policy **drifter** too. It contorts and deflects priorities. It becomes virulent at times. The other is dysfunctional politics. People are politically conscious but there are politicians and professionals who serve their own interests more than that of society. The government is trying to contain corruption by introducing digital technology in delivering goods and services. One of the remarkable things in this sphere is the use of the internet for government procurement and collection of revenue rather than for tendering and solicitation. About 20 percent of government purchases take place through the internet. But the use of digital technology needs to be sped up. Bangladesh needs course correction fast to achieve Bangabandhu's (Sonar Bangla.)

Part A

01. Answer the questions below. Do not copy any sentence from the passage above. Write the answers in your own sentences having your own wording and phrasing.

- a. Why do people out there think that Bangladesh is emerging the next big consumer opportunity?
- b. What does this flow of development suggest?
- c. What do the policy makers predict?
- d. How is the progress in Bangladesh deprived of highlight?
- e. What is another side story about the prosperity of Bangladesh?
- f. How many people of Bangladesh join the middle class every year?
- g. What is the 'Bangladesh magic' behind growth?
- h. What is the appearance of food production in this country now?
- i. What are the social safety programs?
- j. What are the disappointing aspects in Bangladesh?

02. Find out the contextual meaning of the words given below.

- a. Graduate b. Stands c. Boom d. Behemoth e. Drifter

03. Correct the following run-ons by using appropriate subordinates (Such as, though, although, since, till, until, unless, lest, while, in case, if, in order that, given, as if, as though) 5×2=10

- a. He appears to earn quite a meager amount. He leads a very extravagant life.
- b. The girl walks. She were the president of USA.
- c. Give the customer the mobile number of the chairman. He wants to make a deal.
- d. He passed the whole year without having a single look at the syllabus He could get hold of no question in the test.
- e. People from all walks of life come forward to remove gender discrimination. Girls will be getting less advantages.

04. Correct the following run-ons by using appropriate subordinates (Such as, though, although, since, till, until, unless, lest, while, in case, if, in order that, given, as if, as though)
5×2=10

- (a) Love is a great virtue in private life. Love does not work in public life.
- (b) Tolerance is a desired virtue. It is not a mere talked about thing.
- (c) Love is good for private life. Tolerance is good in public life.
- (d) There is two solutions; one is a Nazi solution.
- (e) The way is less thrilling. I like it.

05. Join the sets of sentences into one sentence.

5×2 = 10

- a) The government is willing to open up to the people. It can perform smoothly.
- b) There is a law for people's right to information. People cannot believe its efficacy.
- c) People can seek the help of law. Any officer refuses to provide the demanded information.
- d) There prevailed a culture of denial for a long time. People are very doubtful about the implementation of RTI.
- e) The trend is new. People from both the sectors are opening up to the activation of the law.

04. Join the sets of sentences into one sentence.

2×5=10

- a. The British people have voted for Brexit. They started implementing hate crime.
- b. The immigrants in Britain have contributed to the economy. The British people have counted otherwise.
- c. Some people were there. They highlighted the negative aspects of the immigrants.
- d. The people wanted a verdict. David Cameron figured out a possible referendum.
- e. The intention of the British people was sound. Brexit seems to end up being something else.