

Determinants of Rural Youth's Attitude and Involvement in Bangladesh Politics

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Abstract

This study seeks to understand political attitude and determining variables those are assumed to relate and explain the variance degree of political attitude of rural youth. The study revealed that 37.9 percent youth are not involved with politics and almost half of the respondents had moderate positive attitude towards present politics. Among the involved youth 35 percent are general members, 18.1 percent executive committee member and 8.6 percent served as president or secretary in the local bodies of political parties. Bi-variate analysis estimated that family size, agricultural knowledge, organizational participation and communication exposure were significantly correlated with political attitude of rural youth whereas, age, organizational participation, communication exposure, perceived prevalence of leadership traits and political attitude had positive significant correlation with involvement in politics. Stepwise multiple regressions mirrored that agricultural knowledge; organizational participation and communication exposure jointly contributed to 30.6 percent variation in prediction of political attitude.

Key words: Determinants, political attitude, involvement, rural youth

1.1 Introduction

Almost one-third of the world's population is currently between the ages of 10 to 24 years. Of total 150 million populations in Bangladesh 44 million (15 to 29 years) are youth and 80 percent of them live in rural areas. The proportion of youth in Bangladesh population remained almost constant for last ten years. (Anonymous, 2009; NIPORT, Mitra & Associates and Macro International, 2005). Furthermore, this age group will contribute substantially to the population size in future. According to one estimate, the 15-24 age group will increase by 21% to reach 35 million by 2020 (Barkat and Majid 2003). Among the total world youth 86 percent come from developing countries, out of which the majority live in rural areas (Mayer and Galappatti, undated).

Young people are, in many ways, under siege: marginalized from decision making processes, faced with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, unemployment and blamed for the increasing levels of crime and violence. They are not in a position to make informed choices in the exercise of citizenship. They are at the mercy of political proprietors who take it upon themselves to interpret and decide what citizenship entails for young people (Anonymous, 2010). The basic problems of Bangladesh youth as identified by National Youth Policy of Bangladesh (2003) are lack of ethical education and discipline, unemployment and underemployment, reluctance to do hard work, insufficient knowledge about health, drug abuse, involvement in antisocial and unethical activities, lack of vocational and technical knowledge, scarcity of credit, lack of self-employment opportunity and absence of responsibility to family and society. Most of the countries of Asia including Bangladesh are facing several problems with existing political system.

Yet throughout 2008, many Asians appeared to progressively lose their faith in democratic politics. In Thailand and South Korea, the streets have been convulsed by mass protests, despite elections that ushered in popular leaders in the past two years. Pakistan and East Timor are rapidly veering toward the status of failed states. Malaysia suffers from a paucity of good governance, proof that simply holding polls doesn't ensure a healthy democracy. Postelection riots shook Mongolia, while [Bangladesh is trying to exercise two years of military-backed rule with a strong voter turnout in its Dec. 29 polls](#). The Philippines, which staged the region's first People Power movement back in 1986, recently endured a state of emergency. Taiwan, where presidential elections 11 years ago marked the first time ever a Chinese society directly chose its leader, is turning against a new President in record time (Beech, 2009). Youth is harbinger of any change. It's particularly true of democratic transition and consolidation. Our democratic revival in 1990 was achieved mainly through widespread student movement. Most recently, the 'Arab Spring' or the sweeping collapse of authoritarian regimes in some countries of the Arab world can largely be attributed to youth outburst against autocratic repression (Haque, 2011). One key factor in democratic politics is that citizens become accustomed to participating in political processes through political institutions, civil society, political parties, the act of voting, expression of opinion on electoral matters, making regular contact with elected representatives, etc.

Youth are not just future citizens of the democratic system, but they are active stakeholders in shaping democracy at a given moment (Mayer and Galappatti, Undated). Research also indicates that youth involvement in positive social relationships and activities, in which adults are also involved, decreases the risk of their engaging in risky or anti-social behavior (Commonwealth, 2005:6). Case study results of young people involvement in policy planning in Bahrain(UNDESA, 2004), research institutions and social dialogue in Brazil(IBASE, 2005), poverty reduction strategy in Vietnam(Save the Children, 2004) and Uganda's(UNICEF, 2003) National Development Plan showed numerous benefits to the respective nations. Countries having democratic government like India, Pakistan, and Philippines also emphasized participation of youth in their existing political system to reinforce youth development as well as to stop corruption and making democracy a successful(Anonymous, 2007; Chawdhury, 2009; Jian, 2009).

Focusing on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices helps us to understand three important conditions for vibrant engagement in democracy. Young people need to know about political institutions and processes, as well as opportunities for participation. They also need to have practical opportunities to engage in civic life and take part in the decisions that are made about the future of their communities (UNDP, 2010:7). Increased youth participation in finances and decision-making can also ensure accountability and transparency in Bangladesh (USAID, 2012). However, in Bangladesh limited number of research has been conducted to know the political involvement of youth and most of these researches were confined in urban area. We are not aware about any research measuring political attitude of rural youth in Bangladesh. So the present study was undertaken to know the determinants of political attitude and involvement of rural youth in politics with the following objectives-

1. To reveal the extent of attitude and magnitude of involvement of rural youth to present politics in Bangladesh.
2. To describe some selected characteristics of rural youth such as age, education, family size, farm size, annual income, agricultural knowledge, organizational participation, communication exposure, perceived prevalence of leadership traits etc.
3. To indicate the determinants those suppose to play role in variation of political attitude of rural youth.

1.2 Youth and Contemporary Politics in Bangladesh

Be it the Language Movement of 1952 or the political movements of 1969 or Liberation War of 1971 youth led and the nation followed. Even after independence, students played a decisive role in toppling Ershad's military dictatorship. Realizing youth as power booster almost all the giant political parties in Bangladesh encompasses youth development as one of their major development agenda. In the human development section of the election manifesto (2008) of present ruling party Bangladesh Awami League emphasized on youth employment. Youth development is also one of their major constitutional (2009) commitments. Bangladesh Nationalist Party described youth development as their prime constitutional (2009) aim and objective, while Bangladesh Jammāt-e-Islami (2012) mentioned youth employment generation as their policy of human resource development. In second part of article 15 the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2004) recognized that one of the fundamental responsibilities of the state is to attain, through planned economic growth, a chronological rise in productive force and a steady improvement in the substantial and cultural standard of living of the people.

Furthermore, importance has also been given to welfare and development of total population including youth in articles- 14, 17 & 20 of the same constitution. The contemporary politics in Bangladesh is characterized by conflicts and corruption both at national and local level i.e., simultaneous tendencies towards political interest and power exercise, process and activities. Within political arena, these tendencies towards political interest and power exercise have led to various attempts at different levels in our country. This attempt initiates both inter-party and intra party conflicts, patron-client relations, and political development initiatives among political parties. The general assumption is that weakened political processes exist in local level and the relation between political organizations and social organizations are not good (Ahmed, 1989). Due to lack of fair politics in major political parties, people involve in corruption and illegal activities and thus serve their evil interest (Khan, *et al.*, 1996). Local level politics is very important in Bangladesh. It has great influence on national politics. Our experiences from the last two regimes indicate that when a party comes into power, it totally ignores peoples demand in local areas. Apart from this, almost all political parties both national and local have introduced corruption and violence among young groups. The promising local politicians who were once our main strength in the struggle against oppression has now become more popular to national level. They are not driven by the ideas, which they proclaim as their political motivation from local level. Because of this evil power there is an ever increasing distrust among the common people and local level politicians (Wohab and Akhter, 2004).

Although national level politics might not always play a large scale role in local politics, local politics are highly relevant to national politics because local politics often have significant role on the formation of national politics. Political scientists also argued that local level policies ultimately impact national policies, which they reflect on local politics (Ahmed, 1989). Seeing corruption and dirty politics all around, most of the younger generation in Bangladesh have become apathetic to prevailing politics. (Chawdury, 2012; Azad, 2012). Overall, the present government, like those of the past, has failed to consistently connect with the youth. Issues of education, employment and empowerment have been left un-addressed. According to 'The Next Generation Report' 87% of the youth enrolled in education programs, don't believe that the education they are getting will help them to get jobs. They think bribery, nepotism and connections are needed for a decent job. This makes 41% of them want to take the first plane out of the country in search of better education, jobs, and opportunities (Chawdury, 2012). Up until now youth development initiatives taken by the governments after liberation is much less than sufficient. For instance according to Department of Youth Development until January, 2012 total number of youth received training from Youth Training Centers was 3.65 million and total amount of loan distributed was 127.75 million USD among .769 million loaner. As the present figure of rural youth in Bangladesh is 35 million so the provided data inferred that only one in every five trained youth received loan from government for self employment while only 8.93 percent of total youth received training.

Like other developing countries the Governments of Bangladesh has also taken several initiatives through decentralization and reforms in the governing system, particularly in the local government system to ensure people's participation for good governance (Sarker, 2006; Siddiqui, 2005). All though rural people in Bangladesh have now obtained opportunities to participate in local development programs, but several researches documented that their participation in local development programs in rural Bangladesh is not effective for the achievement of good governance (Mahmud, 2004; UNDP, 2002; Zafarullah and Khan, 2005).

1.3 Review of literature

Socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, socio-economical status (SES) and age have been regarded as differentiating people in participatory behaviors (Nagler, 1991; Roseston and Hansen, 1993; Verba *et al.*, 1995). According to the life-cycle theory (Butler and Stokes, 1969; Highton and Wolfinger, 2001; Kimberlee, 1998) age is a further variable discriminating between individuals: as people grow older, their interest in politics and their willingness to take an active role would increase. Several studies have also stressed the role played by SES and education in promoting the political and social engagement of people (Brady *et al.*, 1995). Looking at pooled cross-sectional survey data pertaining to presidential elections, The EUYOPART research into political participation by young people suggests that the young Europeans' interest in politics might increase with their age (EUYOUPART, 2006). Strate *et al* (1989) posit that low rates of political participation among younger adults are due to a lack of experience in political matters; that is, younger persons prioritize non-political concerns such as obtaining an education and subsequent occupation, and therefore do not develop the knowledge of the political process to the same degree that older, more established citizens possess.

With regard to middle-age persons, the effects of increasing family income and higher levels of organizational involvement can lead to higher rates of civic involvement and consequently political participation. Inglehart's research (1977, 1990a) on materialism and post materialism has done much to reveal the importance of values for political participation, but the role of communication is only implied in his work (Inglehart & Baker, 2000). For example, he suggested that individuals' communication networks and exposure to a wider range of ideas from "more cosmopolitan" mass media (Inglehart, 1979, p. 347) influence political participation. Mathews and Prothro (1966) in their study demonstrated that exposure to the media favorably affects political participation, interest, information, sense of civic competence (efficiency), and attitude towards change.

Like media access, participation in civic associations, such as religious and community groups, can also generate information sharing. More importantly, civic associations may foster trust and cooperation and thereby encourage citizens to become more engaged in their political communities (Putnam 1993). Research shows that those with significant involvement in religious groups are more likely to vote (Howe 2006; Van Egmond et al. 1998; Verba et al. 1995). McFarland and Thomas (2006) also observe that in the US, young people who become involved in voluntary associations are more likely to engage in future political participation. In Zambia, Bratton (1999) likewise finds that associational membership demonstrated a significant influence on various forms of political participation, including voting. In addition, some social movement scholars from the resource mobilization school have argued that those who are involved in various community and religious groups and who have greater access to an independent mass media are more likely to protest (McCarthy and Zald 1977; Klandermans 1997). Studies focusing on the role of political interest indicate that the motivation of young people to be informed and involved in politics has declined over the last decades, thereby confirming that political interest is a significant antecedent of participation at different levels (Bean, 1989; Crotty, 1991; Park, 1999; Plutzer, 2002)

2. Methodology

Bangladesh is divided into 64 districts of which 27 districts were purposively selected as locale of the study. The districts were selected more or less from all 7 divisions namely Barisal, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong and Rangpur except Sylhet division. Bangladesh has seven major administrative regions known as division. For administrative convenience each division is further split into [districts](#) and each district is further sub-divided into [Upazilas](#). Data were collected from 116 purposively selected male rural youth bearing age in between 18 to 35 years during the period May-June, 2011. The National Youth Policy of Bangladesh (2003) declared this age group as youth. The independent variables such as age, education, family size, farm size, family income, organizational participation, communication exposure and perceived prevalence of leadership traits were measured by using prevailing standard methods.

2.1 Measurement of Attitude towards Politics

To measure attitude towards present politics 10 evaluative statements (five positive and five negative) were created. A modified five point Likert scale was administered to assign score to measure the extent of agreement. We use five-point Likert-type scale as this instrument is short, easy to use, and appropriate for use by academicians and practitioners. Furthermore, many researchers argued that Likert Scale is the most widely used method of scaling in the social sciences today because they are much easier to construct and to be more reliable than other scales with the same number of items (Tittle, et al, 1967; Torkizadeh et al, 2001). The five point scale and their attributed values on a positive and negative statements were as follows:

Opinion	Weights assigned for	
	Positive statement	Negative statement
Strongly agree(SA)	4	0
Agree(AG)	3	1
No opinion(NOP)	2	2
Disagree(DA)	1	3
Strongly disagree(SDA)	0	4

2.3 Measurement of Involvement of Politics

According to the party constitutions of major political parties in Bangladesh there are four tiers of district level party structures viz., Ward Committee, Union Committee, Upazila Committee and Zila (District) Committee (Rahman, 2010). All these committees except district committee can be found in rural areas.

The involvement with politics was measure by involvement in the committees available in rural areas. A score of 0 is given to those who do not have any involvement while 1 is given for general member, 2 for executive committee member and 3 is given if the person is president or vice-president or secretary of the local committee.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Some basic features of individual rural youth

Individual characteristics provided in Table 1 represents that almost two thirds of the respondents had age between 25 to 29. More than half (57.7 percent) of the rural youth have education up to secondary school level and most of them (59.5 percent) came from medium size family. Majority (55.2 per cent) of the young respondent's family owned small farm and belonged to lower middle class category on the basis of earning. This income category was done on the basis of the texts of Shahiduzzaman(Undated) and Ravallion, et al (2009). It was found that except very few all other respondents belonged to lower middle class or middle class category; where as 56.1 per cent of them had medium agricultural knowledge. Organizational participation considered involvement with all other organizations except political organizations and collected data documented that little more than half 53.4 (per cent) of the respondents had medium and high organizational participation in almost equal proportion. The findings of communication exposure indicated that all the respondents covered low, medium and high categories in equal proportion, while majority (52.6 per cent) of youth perceived that they have medium leadership traits.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of selected characteristics of rural youth (N=116)

Selected characteristics	Categories	Respondent		Scoring method	Mean	Std. dev.
		No.	%			
Age	Young youth(18-24)	26	22.4	Year	26.52	2.96
	Youth(25-29)	75	64.7			
	Older youth(30-35)	15	12.9			
Education	Can sign only(0.5)	6	5.2	Year of schooling	8.44	3.14
	Primary schooling(1-5)	16	13.8			
	Secondary schooling(6-10)	67	57.7			
	Higher secondary(11-12)	23	19.9			
	Graduate and above(>12)	4	3.4			
Family size	Small(3-4)	27	23.3	Number of members	6.05	2.44
	Medium(5-7)	69	59.5			
	Large(>7)	20	17.2			
Farm size	Marginal far.(upto 0.20)	20	17.2	Hectare	0.783	0.676
	Small farm(.21-1.0)	64	55.2			
	Medium farm(1.01-3.0)	29	25			
	Large farm(>3.0)	3	2.6			
Annual income	Extremely poor(<36)	3	2.6	Thousand taka/year (1 USD= 82 Taka)	136.9	123.51
	Poor(36.1-48)	9	7.7			
	Lower middle class(48.1-120)	65	56.1			
	Middle class(120.1-480)	35	30.2			
	Rich (>480)	4	3.4			
Agricultural knowledge	Low (3-9)	31	26.7	Score	10.93	2.46
	Medium(10-13)	65	56.1			
	High(>13)	20	17.2			
Organizational participation	No participation(00)	3	2.6	Score	10.67	9.27
	Low participation(1-6)	51	44			
	Medium participation(7-14)	32	27.5			
	High participation(>14)	30	25.9			
Communication exposure	Low(5-15)	39	33.6	Score	18.75	1.70
	Medium(16-21)	38	32.8			
	High(>21)	39	33.6			
Perceived prevalence of leadership traits	Low (42-53)	31	26.7	Score	58.25	7.24
	Medium (54-64)	61	52.6			
	High (>64)	24	20.7			

3.2 Rural youth's attitude towards politics

Table 2 showed that almost half (49.2 percent) of the respondents had moderate attitude towards present political system while a little more than a quarter had low attitude leaving 22.4 percent with high political attitude. The range of score of attitude towards present politics is 14-40 against a possible range of 0-40 and the mean score is 25.32 with standard deviation 5.65. Overall our findings documented that more than three quarter of the rural youth had moderated to low attitude towards present politics. In support to our findings Mayer and Galappatti (Undated) in their research on *role of youth in society, their attitudes to current systems of governance, and their perceptions on the status of democracy in Sri Lanka, using data from the National Youth Survey Sri Lanka and the ILO-IMCAP School-to-Work Transition Youth Survey* found that 52.5 percent of Sri Lankan youth have no interest in politics. Furthermore, a study on democracy of European Countries explored that 51 percent of the German youth have interest in politics where as for Italy and Austria this percentage is consecutively 43 and 42. The study also explored that majority of young people in Europe is not interested in politics (37% interested vs. 63% disinterested in total) (Westpal, 2005).

Table 2. Overall attitude of rural youth towards present politics

Categories of attitude	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Std. deviation	Range
Low(14-21)	33	28.4			
Medium(22-29)	57	49.2	25.32	5.65	14-40
High(>29)	26	22.4			
Total	116	100			

Percentage distribution of rural youth on the basis of their responses to individual statement related to political attitude is presented in Table 3. To facilitate precise understanding we aggregate strongly agree and agree in one column and strongly disagree and disagree in a single column. Data provided in following table resemble that rural youth had mixed responses towards the statements related to present political system. Although they believe strongly on voting rights, political consciousness, political knowledge, importance of political leadership for rural development but interestingly they also agreed that politics is risky, have relationship with corruption and it is not for poor people.

Table.3 percentage distribution of rural youth on the basis of their attitude to each statement

Sl no.	Opinion	Degree of attitude		
		SA/AG (percent)	NOP (percent)	DA/SDA (percent)
1.(-)	Political involvement is risky	53.44	6.89	39.65
2.(+)	Without political knowledge it is impossible to play role in country's development	63.79	13.79	22.41
3.(-)	Economically weak, honest and competent people can't win in election	57.75	1.72	38.79
4.(+)	In any situation every citizen should implement his voting right	92.24	3.44	6.03
5.(-)	Poor people should not take part in politics	58.62	6.89	34.48
6.(+)	Political leaders can play important role in rural and agricultural development	83.62	7.75	10.34
7.(-)	As there is a possibility to involve in terrorism and corruption better not to involve with politics	48.27	15.51	33.62
8.(+)	Every adult citizen should have political consciousness	90.51	7.75	1.72
9.(+)	Prime goal of politics is human welfare	69.82	9.48	19.82
10.(-)	Political consciousness is not necessary for youth	13.79	7.75	78.44

Analyzing survey data it is documented that Bangladesh is exercising a democracy where, other than routine arrangement of free and fair elections, important ingredients such as rule of law and other institutions are still quite fragile. People's confidence in the proper functioning of political parties or even parliament is very low. Among 3,000 respondents, 83% on average viewed democracy as their preferred form of government in an study. It was also indicated that only half of the respondents think that democracy is working well; others moderately or strongly disagree with the majority view.

However, despite all the odds, people's aspiration for democracy is clear (Aziz, 2011). In reference to the findings of 'The Daily Star-Nielsen Democracy Poll 2011' Haque(2011) posit that there is gap between what youth expect out of our democratic system and what they experience of it. With the institutions' inability to deliver, youth are losing interest in democratic participation. Although 80 percent youth show their agreement of changing governments is possible through free and fair elections but about half of the youth surveyed find government not working for poor as well as fulfilling their basic needs. Our findings along with all these evidences encompasses that democratic participation of the youth in Bangladesh is still mostly ritualistic i.e. supporting a political party and voting them in general election. The young cohort is still far from a wider exercise of democratic participation that manifests active citizenship.

3.3 Rural youth involvement in Politics

The involvement of rural youth in present politics is shown in Figure 1. According to illustration a major proportion of rural youth do not have any involvement with present politics. Very small percentage of rural youth got chance of becoming the president or secretary or vice-president of the local bodies. As we discussed earlier local level politics play important role in shaping national politics. However local level committees do not act as decision maker rather they supply future leaders for national level politics. In general top level members like president or secretary or vice-president got chances to be the member of next higher tier. So less number of young leaders in local committees means less voice of youth in district and national level committee. Furthermore, it is well documented that actual practice of democracy is absent within the party structure of most of the major political parties (Khan *et al.*, 1996) Sometimes, for internal conflicts and misunderstanding the district committees cannot be formed for years together. For example, Rahman, (2010: 23) found that Kushtia district Awami League committee was formed in 2004, and the next committee was supposed to be formed after three years, but could not be formed. As cited in the same study an Union level Awami League leader mentioned that, "The committees at Upazila and district levels are formed or directions for the same are given by the central leaders sitting in Dhaka. Here democratic practices are absent within the party".

In the same research Mr. Mahatab Uddin, Organizing Sectary, Human Rights Advocates Association, Kushtia, who is also active in district level BNP politics, has his view that "Democratic practice in the organizational committees of the political parties at different levels is absent because the committees are not formed constitutionally or according to the organization's provisions. Democracy and citizen's rights are not respected". Wohab and Akhter (2004) in their study on organization and process of local level politics in Bangladesh revealed that formation and reformation of local committee after stipulated time is absent in almost all political parties except very few. Sometimes, several years required to form or reform local committees. So, it may be happen that the youth claimed to be the member of the political parties may not have any formal membership. However, many strong supporters like to introduce themselves as member of political parties although they do not actively participate in regular party activities. Haque(2011) in his study on urban youth documented that although 59 percent youth feel close to a political party, 94 percent are not member of any and 89 percent didn't participate in any protest or demonstration in their life.

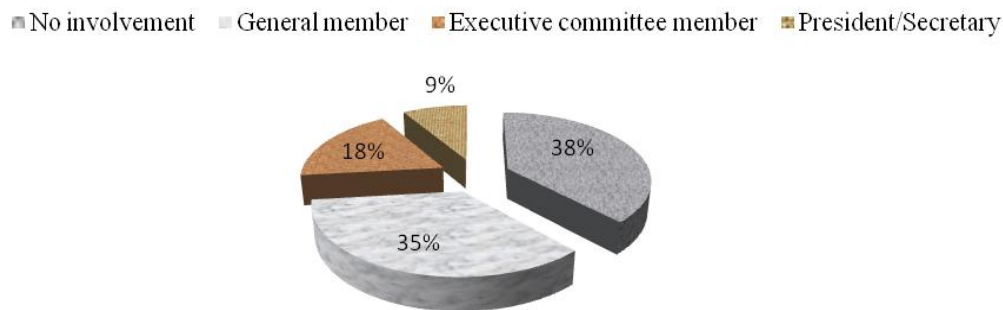


Fig 1. Rural youth involvement in present politics

3.4 Determinants of political attitude

Correlation findings presented in Table 4 show that agricultural knowledge, organizational participation and communication exposure had strong significant positive relationship with political attitude of rural youth while family size had negative correlation. In case of involvement in politics age, organizational participation, communication exposure, perceived prevalence of leadership traits and political attitude found to have positive correlation with involvement in politics. Farahat (2011: 39-85) in his study in Egypt explored that the most important variables affecting degree of male's political participation were political knowledge degree, participation in social organizations, participation in developmental projects and cultural cosmopolitanism where as political knowledge degree, participation in social organizations, age, geographical cosmopolitanism, family education level and cultural cosmopolitanism are the most important variables affecting degree of female's political participation. Supporting our findings research has indicated that individuals' patterns of media use have influenced political participation (McLeod & McDonald, 1985). George and Weber (1993) in their study found that amount of exposure and motivation to watch television is highly predictive of political participation of blacks. Strate *et al* (1989) found that voter participation was lowest among the young (less than 30 years of age), highest among the middle-aged (30 to 64) and at intermediate levels with older groups (65 and older).

Table 4 Correlation between rural youth attitude and involvement in politics and independent measures. (N=116)

Independent variable	Attitude towards politics	Involvement in politics
Age	0.022NS	0.192*
Education	0.082NS	-0.028NS
Family size	-0.269**	-0.095NS
Farm size	-0.074NS	0.027NS
Annual income	0.146NS	0.047NS
Agricultural knowledge	0.387**	0.118NS
Organizational participation	0.349**	0.833**
Communication exposure	0.332**	0.205*
Perceived prevalence of leadership traits	0.104NS	0.203*
Political attitude	-	0.311**

*Significant at $P < 0.05$; **Significant at $P < 0.01$; NS=Not Significant

3.5 Predicting Political Attitude

Stepwise multiple regression method was conducted to estimate a model predicting political attitude of rural youth. Variable that were significantly correlated with attitude towards politics were entered in regression equation. The results of multiple regressions are presented in table 5. These results show that political attitude of youth is the function of agricultural knowledge ($\beta = 0.340$, $p < 0.0001$), organizational participation ($\beta = 0.274$, $P = 0.001$), communication exposure ($\beta = 0.244$, $p = 0.003$). The results reveal that agricultural knowledge has the strongest contribution to the variance of political attitude. It contributes 15% of the variance of the political attitude, while organizational participation and communication exposure contribute 9.9% and 5.7% consecutively to the variance of politics. Indeed, all these three variables together contribute 30.6% variance of political attitude of rural youth.

Table 5 predicting political attitude

Variable	R ²	Adj. R ²	Beta	SE	t	P	F	ρ
Agricultural knowledge	0.150	0.142	.340	0.182	4.280	.000	20.064	.000
Organizational participation	0.249	0.236	.274	0.045	3.421	.001	18.736	.000
Communication exposure	0.306	0.288	.244	0.069	3.035	.003	16.469	.000

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

This study documented that attitude of rural youth's attitude towards present politics is radical. It was also found that almost half (49.2%) of the responds have moderate political attitude.

This finding and other related references mentioned in this study mirrored that although present politics in Bangladesh is suffering from remarkable shortcomings, but rural youth's attitude towards politics is not frustrating. This study also posit that a major proportion of rural youth are involved with politics despite very few of them worked as president or secretary or vice-president of local committee. In bivariate analysis family size, agricultural knowledge, organizational participation and communication exposure found to be significantly correlated with political attitude of rural youth, whereas age, organization participation, communication exposure and perceived prevalence of leadership traits exhibit significant positive correlation with rural youth involvement in politics. Findings of stepwise multiple regressions presented that agricultural knowledge, organizational participation and communication exposure are three variables all together predict 30.6% variation in rural youth's political attitude. In light of our findings following recommendations can be put forward:

1. Provision of involving more youth leaders in local organizations need to be created as participation in such organization is helpful for youth to form positive political attitude and socialization..
2. Media can play important role in developing positive political attitude among rural youth as they have very limited chances to get political knowledge form other formal institutions. However, Care should be taken not to spread misleading information though mass media.
3. Political parties should create space for youth in the different tier of party structural and selection of youth leader in these tiers need to be performed by strong democratic process.
4. This study well documented that contemporary politics in Bangladesh is suffering from many shortcomings like corruption, terrorism, misuse of power, lack of youth involvement, etc. As government solely is no capable of solving all these problems, people from every sphere should come forward to drive these unwanted events from politics and inspire young people to form positive attitude to healthy political system and hence taking Bangladesh in the way of progress.

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