



The Role of Political Parties in Addressing Environmental Challenges in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Bangladesh, with high environmental vulnerabilities including the impacts of climate change, riverine erosion, flooding, salinity intrusion and high pollution, needs strong and durable political will for both mitigation and adaptation. It is precisely the critical but ambivalent role which political parties play in addressing those existential challenges which this essay will focus on. By and large, mainstream political parties have slowly recognized environmental issues in terms of their manifestos and rhetoric (commonly speaking to the issue of climate change), yet on the ground have acted to put short-term economic growth and political stability ahead of long-term environmental sustainability. The analysis illustrates different functions of parties: agenda setting vis-à-vis by policy frames, legislation, funding, and public mobilization. However, significant gaps persist. Often, environmental policies are not effectively enforced, and there is disjointed coordination among institutions, and insufficient resources. Powerful vested interests with business interests in polluting sectors (textiles, tanneries, brickfields) come above environmental norms. Political polarization of the parties stalls bipartisanship on important long-term environmental policies and party structures at the local level are insufficiently empowered to deal with localized ecological threats in an effective manner. The study seeks to analyze promises about the environment in party manifestos, to assess the success of their implementation as policy, as well as to look into the impediments in moving from the promises for the environment and concrete achievements. It also examines how political parties cooperate with government agencies, NGOs and civil society to promote sustainable development. It also emphasizes their efforts to create public environmental consciousness. Findings suggest that a stronger political will, more inclusive policy-making and more inter-party confluence etc. are necessary in Bangladesh to effectively address the environmental issues raised in this article.

Keywords: Political Parties, Environmental Challenges, Global Warming, Stakeholders, Environment, Public Policy.

1. Introduction

Political parties play a key role in shaping climate action and environmental policy through legislation, electoral commitments, and public awareness campaigns. Effective environmental governance depends not only on government policy but also on how political parties translate their promises into action to address challenges such as pollution, deforestation, and climate change. Bangladesh, the largest delta in the world, lies between 20°34'–26°38'N and 88°01'–92°41'E and has a subtropical monsoon climate with three dominant seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon. Around 80% of annual rainfall occurs during the monsoon (BBS, 2023). Despite contributing only about 0.48% of global emissions, Bangladesh is among the most climate-vulnerable countries, ranked seventh in the Global Climate Risk Index (Climate Watch, 2023). Its low-lying geography exposes it to floods, cyclones, droughts, salinity intrusion, and sea-level rise. Rajshahi City, located on the northern bank of the Padma River, faces severe droughts, heatwaves, declining water bodies, and groundwater depletion. These environmental problems are driven by climate variability, rapid land-use change, population pressure, and limited awareness (Kafy et al., 2021a; Rahman et al., 2024). Unlike coastal regions, Rajshahi is less affected by cyclones but is highly vulnerable to heat and water scarcity. Although Bangladesh has many political parties with diverse ideologies, their environmental roles remain underexplored (Shakil, 2013). While environmental policy is formally guided by the Ministry of Environment, political parties influence it through parliamentary debate, advocacy, and policy agendas. However, their actual contribution to environmental protection and climate action has received limited scholarly attention. This study examines how major political parties in Bangladesh address environmental issues by analyzing their environmental agendas, stakeholder engagement, public awareness efforts, and policy actions. It contributes by highlighting the practical role of political parties in environmental governance and encouraging stronger collaboration for sustainable development. The primary aim of this research is to examine how political parties influence environmental governance in Bangladesh by critically analyzing their environmental policies, agendas, and initiatives; assessing their interaction with other actors in formulating and enforcing sustainable environmental policies; identifying the challenges they face in adopting such policies; and evaluating their contributions to public awareness, environmental consciousness, and public participation.

2. Literature Review

Existing literature on environmental governance and sustainable development in Bangladesh largely emphasizes the role of government institutions, climate vulnerability, and urban environmental challenges, while giving limited attention to political parties as key actors in environmental policymaking. Imran Hossain, A.K.M. Mahmudul Haque, and S.M. Akram Ullah examine the relationship between sustainable development, environmental governance, and government institutions in Bangladesh, highlighting the need to balance economic growth with environmental protection through stronger laws and institutional coordination. However, their study provides limited discussion on the role of political parties in environmental governance (Hossain, Haque & Ullah, n.d.). Similarly, Lipon Chandra Das et al. analyze climate change impacts, adaptation strategies, and institutional responses in Bangladesh, emphasizing the importance of disaster risk reduction and climate-resilient development. Nevertheless, the study does not develop any framework linking political parties to environmental policymaking (Das et al., n.d.). M. A. Mojid identifies climate change as a major threat to sustainable development in Bangladesh, particularly through sea-level rise, cyclones, and salinity intrusion. The study highlights the need for improved local-level planning and adaptation strategies, yet it does not consider political party involvement in environmental governance (Mojid, n.d.). Hasnat, Kabir, and Hossain discuss major environmental problems in Bangladesh and propose solutions such as human capital development and population control. However, the role of political institutions, particularly political parties, is

not addressed (Hasnat, Kabir & Hossain, n.d.). In contrast, literature on political parties in Bangladesh primarily focuses on their structure, ideology, and democratic weaknesses. Rounaq Jahan analyzes major political parties such as the Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, and Jamaat-e-Islami, highlighting leader-centric organization and patronage politics as barriers to democratic consolidation. However, environmental policy issues are not included in her analysis (Jahan, n.d.). Shahid Jehangir's *Bangladeshe Daliya Rajniti* discusses political systems, elections, party conflict, and funding mechanisms, but does not address environmental governance. Similarly, Quamrun Nahar examines the role of political parties in democracy in Bangladesh, emphasizing institutional weaknesses and intra-party challenges, yet omitting environmental policy dimensions (Nahar, n.d.). Theoretical contributions such as Gilat Levy's model of political parties focus on policy trade-offs and party behavior but remain detached from environmental concerns and the Bangladesh context (Levy, n.d.). Likewise, Marume, Chikasha, and Ndudzo provide a general overview of political party systems and democratic functions without addressing environmental issues (Marume, Chikasha & Ndudzo, n.d.). Finally, Tahmeed et al. explore green and climate-resilient urbanization in Rajshahi, focusing on urban growth and climate adaptation strategies. However, the study does not incorporate the role of political parties in shaping environmental governance or climate policy implementation (Tahmeed et al., n.d.). Overall, the reviewed literature demonstrates a strong focus on environmental governance, climate change impacts, and institutional responses, as well as political party structure and democratic functioning. However, there is a clear gap in integrating these two areas, particularly regarding how political parties in Bangladesh influence environmental policy, awareness, and implementation. This study addresses this gap by examining the role of political parties in environmental governance within the context of Bangladesh.

3. Research Methodology

The study employs a mixed-method research design combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to examine the role of political parties in addressing environmental issues in Bangladesh, with a specific focus on Rajshahi City Corporation and Paba Upazila, selected purposively due to their high exposure to environmental challenges such as air pollution, water scarcity, rising temperatures, and poor waste management, as well as their active political environment. The research follows a descriptive and analytical approach to assess the current situation and critically evaluate the effectiveness of political party interventions in environmental governance, including their policies, stakeholder interactions, implementation challenges, and public awareness activities. Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires using both closed- and open-ended questions, supported by Likert-scale measurements, along with Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with political leaders, environmental officials, and local government representatives, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with citizens to capture grassroots perspectives. Secondary data will be gathered from policy documents, party manifestoes, government reports, NGO publications, academic literature, and media sources to triangulate findings. A purposive sampling technique will be used to select 50 respondents, including representatives from major political parties (Awami League, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Jatiya Party), key stakeholders such as NGO workers, local government officials, teachers, and environmental activists, as well as members of the general public. Quantitative data will be analyzed using SPSS through descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and mean scores, while qualitative data will be examined using thematic analysis to identify key patterns related to political behavior, policy gaps, and public expectations. Ethical considerations will be strictly maintained, ensuring informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, and voluntary participation, with data used solely for academic purposes. Although the study is expected to provide valuable insights into the politics-environment nexus and policy implementation gaps in Bangladesh, it has limitations including its restricted geographical scope, potential response bias, limited

access to official documents, small sample size, and time and resource constraints, meaning that findings should be interpreted as indicative rather than fully generalizable.

4. Results and Discussions

Age of the respondents:

Table 1

Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-25	31	62.0	62.0	62.0
26-35	15	30.0	30.0	92.0
36-45	2	4.0	4.0	96.0
46-60	1	2.0	2.0	98.0
60+	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The age distribution of the 50 respondents shows a strong dominance of younger participants. The largest group is 18–25 years (62%), followed by 26–35 years (30%), together accounting for 92% of the sample. Older groups are minimally represented, with 36–45 years at 4% and both 46–60 and 60+ at 2% each, indicating a clear youth-skewed sample.

Gender of the respondents:

Table 2

Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	44	88.0	88.0	88.0
Female	6	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

As shown in table , there are many more male than female participants among the 50 respondents. 88% (44) were male, in contrast to 12% (6) who were female. This strong gender asymmetry indicates that the results of this study must be mainly understood from a masculine point of view.

Education Level:

Table 3

Education Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid High School	8	16.0	16.0	16.0
Undergraduate	34	68.0	68.0	84.0
Postgraduate	4	8.0	8.0	92.0
Other	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The educational status of participants indicates a generally literate sample. The majority, 68% (34/67), hold an undergraduate degree, followed by 16% (8 respondents) with only high school education, while 8% are postgraduate and another 8% fall under the “Other” category. This shows that most respondents have higher education experience, which may influence their knowledge, participation, and opinions on the research issue, with undergraduates forming the dominant group consistent with a relatively young and educated profile..

Occupation:

Table 4**Occupation**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Student	33	66.0	66.0	66.0
Professional	7	14.0	14.0	80.0
Business	8	16.0	16.0	96.0
Other	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

With respect to occupation for participants, there are a higher proportion of students 33 (66%) who participated in this study. This evinces a high associational involvement on the part of the academic or youth sector. Also, 16% are businessmen (8 respondents) and 14% are professionals (7 respondents). 'Other' is the category for just 4% (2 respondents).

Area of Residence:

Table 5**Area_of_Residence**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rajshahi City Corporation	34	68.0	68.0	68.0
Paba Upazila	16	32.0	32.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

Most of the respondents, 68% (34), live in the Rajshahi City Corporation and 32% (16) in Paba Upazila. This distribution has an urban bias, which indicates that urban insights are overrepresented in the results.

What best describes your primary affiliation:

Table 6**What best describes your primary affiliation?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Political Party	10	20.0	20.0	20.0
Stakeholder Group	5	10.0	10.0	30.0
Valid Government Jobs	2	4.0	4.0	34.0
Others	33	66.0	66.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

With respect to primary affiliation, majority of respondents fall under 'Others' category, 66% (n=33) suggesting there is a group that is a member of a general public or no affiliation. 20% (10 respondents) are political party members, 10% (5 respondents) are stakeholder groups, and 4% (2 respondents) are in government positions.

Effectiveness of Environmental Policies of Major Political Parties in Bangladesh:

Table 7**How effective do you think the environmental policies of major political parties in Bangladesh are?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
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Valid	Very Effective	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Effective	7	14.0	14.0	16.0
	Neutral	8	16.0	16.0	32.0
	Ineffective	30	60.0	60.0	92.0
	Very Ineffective	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

Most respondents consider the environmental policies of major political parties in Bangladesh insufficient. In total, 60% (30 respondents) find them not effective and 8% (4 respondents) strongly not effective, resulting in 68% negative responses. A further 16% (8 respondents) are neutral. Only 14% (7 respondents) view them as effective and 2% (1 respondent) as very effective. Overall, the results show widespread dissatisfaction and a perceived gap between political promises and environmental performance.

Political parties' prioritization of environmental issues:

Table 8

To what extent do you agree that political parties in Bangladesh prioritize environmental issues?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	14	28.0	28.0
	Neutral	14	28.0	56.0
	Disagree	19	38.0	94.0
	Strongly Disagree	3	6.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

There is general skepticism about the sincerity of political parties in Bangladesh regarding environmental issues. A total of 44% of respondents disagree (38%) or strongly disagree (6%) that the environment is a political concern, reflecting the view that it is often neglected in party manifestos. Only 28% (14 respondents) agree, indicating limited trust in political commitment to environmental issues. Another 28% are neutral, suggesting uncertainty or lack of awareness of party-level environmental actions. Overall, the findings highlight a gap between environmental rhetoric and actual political engagement.

Transparency in the environmental agendas of major political parties:

Table 9

How transparent do you find the environmental agendas of major political parties?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Transparent	2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Transparent	8	16.0	16.0	20.0
Valid Neutral	6	12.0	12.0	32.0
Opaque	29	58.0	58.0	90.0
Very Opaque	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The world is skeptical about the real degree of transparency in the environmental agendas of the major political parties in Bangladesh. Fifty-eight percent (29 responses) view these agendas as opaque (an additional 10% (5 responses) consider them very opaque), a net 68% bad number. Only 16% (8) say the agendas are transparent and a paltry 4% (2) say they're very transparent. At the same time, 12% (6) are neutral. Almost half of the remaining popularity ratings fall within this range, which indicates a broadly-held public concern about the opaqueness and verifiability of political parties' environmental pledges – and concerning the credibility and accountability of those pledges.

Environmental initiative of political parties' alignment with sustainable practices:

Table 10

How well do you think the environmental initiatives of political parties align with sustainable practices?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Well	2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Well	12	24.0	24.0	28.0
Neutral	19	38.0	38.0	66.0
Valid Poorly	14	28.0	28.0	94.0
Very Poorly	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data show mixed but generally cautious views on political parties' environmental actions and sustainable development. Overall, 34% (17 respondents) rate alignment as poor (28%) or very poor (6%), with additional concerns about the sustainability of political efforts. In contrast, 24% (12 respondents) rate it as good and 4% (2 respondents) as very good, totaling 28% positive views. The largest group, 38% (19 respondents), remains neutral, indicating uncertainty or lack of awareness. Overall, while some perceive progress, many remain skeptical about the authenticity and effectiveness of political efforts toward sustainability.

Improvement of political commitment to the environmental protection:

Table 11

Do you believe the political commitment to environmental protection has improved over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
Neutral	10	20.0	20.0	56.0
Valid Disagree	19	38.0	38.0	94.0
Strongly Disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data show mixed perceptions of political commitment to environmental protection in Bangladesh. A total of 36% (18 respondents) believe there has been some progress. However, a larger share—44% (22 respondents)—disagree (38%) or strongly disagree (6%), indicating skepticism or dissatisfaction with political efforts. Meanwhile, 20% (10 respondents) remain neutral, suggesting uncertainty or limited awareness. Overall, despite some perceived progress, many respondents are unconvinced about the long-term effectiveness of political commitment to environmental issues.

Effectiveness of collaboration between political parties and environmental NGOs in Bangladesh:

Table 12

How effective is the collaboration between political parties and environmental NGOs in Bangladesh?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Effective	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
Neutral	24	48.0	48.0	72.0
Ineffective	12	24.0	24.0	96.0
Very Ineffective	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

Opinions on political party–NGO collaboration on environmental issues are divided. 24% (12 respondents) consider it effective, while another 24% view it as ineffective and 4% as very ineffective. The largest group, 48% (24 respondents), remains neutral, indicating uncertainty or low visibility of such collaboration. Overall, although some coordination exists, it is not clearly visible or impactful to the public, suggesting a need for greater transparency and engagement to improve trust and effectiveness.

1.13 Involvement of local communities in environmental decision-making:

Table 13

To what extent do political parties involve local communities in environmental decision-making?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	16	32.0	32.0	32.0
Neutral	13	26.0	26.0	58.0
Disagree	16	32.0	32.0	90.0
Strongly Disagree	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The results show mixed views on whether political parties in Bangladesh adequately involve local communities in environmental decision-making. 32% (16 respondents) agree that such involvement exists, reflecting cautious acknowledgment of participation efforts. However, 32% disagree and 10% (5 respondents) strongly disagree, while 16% (8 respondents) deny sufficient community involvement. A further 26% (13 respondents) remain neutral, suggesting uncertainty or lack of awareness. Overall, the findings indicate a perceived gap in community participation and highlight the need for greater transparency, communication, and inclusive governance in environmental policymaking.

1.14 Engagement of environmental experts in policy formulation:

Table 14

How actively do political parties engage with environmental experts in policy formulation?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Very Actively	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Actively	14	28.0	28.0	30.0
Neutral	11	22.0	22.0	52.0
Passively	23	46.0	46.0	98.0
Very Passively	1	2.0	2.0	100.0

Total	50	100.0	100.0	
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Source: Field Data 2025

The results suggest that political parties are relatively indifferent toward environmental experts in policymaking. A total of 46% (23 respondents) view their engagement as passive and 2% as very passive, indicating limited use of expert input. In contrast, only 28% (14 respondents) believe parties are active and 2% (1 respondent) very active in involving experts. The remaining 22% (11 respondents) are neutral, reflecting uncertainty or low visibility of expert participation. Overall, the findings highlight a gap in evidence-based policymaking and the need to strengthen collaboration between experts and political parties on environmental issues.

Consultation with academic institutions for environmental research:

Table 15

How often do political parties consult with academic institutions for environmental research?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Often	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Often	6	12.0	12.0	14.0
Sometimes	25	50.0	50.0	64.0
Rarely	17	34.0	34.0	98.0
Never	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

Responses indicate that political parties in Bangladesh rarely consult academic institutions for environmental research. Half of the respondents (50%, 25) say this happens occasionally, while 34% (17) report it occurs rarely and 2% believe it never happens, showing weak and inconsistent collaboration with academia. Only 12% (6 respondents) think it happens often, and 2% (1 respondent) very often. Overall, the findings highlight limited use of academic evidence in policymaking and a weak link between universities and political actors on environmental issues.

1.16 Effectiveness of the cooperation between political parties and government agencies in implementing environmental strategies:

Table 16

How effective is the cooperation between political parties and government agencies in implementing environmental strategies?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Effective	2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Effective	12	24.0	24.0	28.0
Neutral	15	30.0	30.0	58.0
Ineffective	19	38.0	38.0	96.0
Very Ineffective	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

Many respondents express low confidence in cooperation between political factions and government institutions on environmental issues. A total of 38% (19 respondents) rate it as ineffective and 4% (2 respondents) as very ineffective, making 42% who perceive significant coordination and implementation problems. In contrast, 24% (12 respondents) consider it good and 4% (2 respondents) very good. Meanwhile, 30% (15 respondents) remain neutral, likely due to limited awareness or exposure. Overall, the findings suggest that although some cooperation exists, it is widely seen as inadequate, highlighting the need for stronger institutional coordination and accountability in environmental governance.

Effectiveness of the collaboration between political parties and private sector companies in Bangladesh:

Table 17

How effective is the collaboration between political parties and private sector companies in Bangladesh?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Effective	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
Effective	15	30.0	30.0	42.0
Neutral	16	32.0	32.0	74.0
Ineffective	12	24.0	24.0	98.0
Very Ineffective	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

Perceptions of cooperation between political parties and the private sector in Bangladesh are mixed but relatively more positive than other areas. In total, 30% (15 respondents) consider the collaboration effective and 12% (6 respondents) very effective, making 42% positive views. Meanwhile, 24% (12 respondents) rate it as ineffective and 2% (1 respondent) as very ineffective. A further 32% (16 respondents) are neutral or uncertain. Overall, confidence in political–private sector cooperation on environmental issues is moderate, with clear scope for improvement in transparency, goal-setting, and public communication.

Significance of political rivalries in implementing sustainable environmental policies:

Table 18

How significant are political rivalries as barriers to implementing sustainable environmental policies?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Significant	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
Significant	13	26.0	26.0	50.0
Neutral	17	34.0	34.0	84.0
Insignificant	5	10.0	10.0	94.0

Very Insignificant	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data indicate that political disagreements are seen as a major barrier to implementing sustainable environmental policies in Bangladesh. Overall, 50% (25 respondents) rate them as significant (26%) or very significant (24%), showing that partisan conflict strongly disrupts environmental governance. Meanwhile, 34% (17 respondents) are neutral, suggesting uncertainty or lack of direct experience with such conflicts. Only 16% (8 respondents) consider political disagreements not significant or not very significant, indicating a minority view. Overall, the findings highlight the need for nonpartisan approaches and stronger cross-party cooperation for effective and sustainable environmental policymaking.

Financial resources allocated by political parties for environmental projects:

Table 19

How adequate are the financial resources allocated by political parties for environmental projects?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Adequate	4	8.0	8.0	8.0
Adequate	11	22.0	22.0	30.0
Neutral	8	16.0	16.0	46.0
Inadequate	22	44.0	44.0	90.0
Very Inadequate	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The figures show concern about the adequacy of financial commitments by political parties toward environmental issues. Overall, 54% (27 respondents) rate financial resources as not adequate (44%) or very

not adequate (10%), indicating a widespread perception of insufficient funding for environmental initiatives. In contrast, 22% (11 respondents) consider the allocation adequate and 8% (4 respondents) very adequate. A further 16% (8 respondents) are neutral, possibly reflecting limited awareness of budgetary matters. Overall, the findings highlight a gap between policy intentions and actual financial commitment, suggesting the need for stronger budget allocation for environmental action.

The role of political influence in hindering environmental policy enforcement:

Table 20

How do you perceive the role of political influence in hindering environmental policy enforcement?

	Frequen cy	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very High	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
High	19	38.0	38.0	62.0
Moderat e	14	28.0	28.0	90.0
Low	4	8.0	8.0	98.0
Very Low	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

According to the data, political influence is seen as a major obstacle to implementing environmental policy in Bangladesh. Overall, 62% (31 respondents) rate its influence as high (38%) or very high (24%), suggesting that political interference significantly hinders environmental regulation. A further 28% (14 respondents) consider it moderate, reflecting partial recognition of its impact. Only 10% (5 respondents) view political influence as low or very low. Overall, the findings indicate strong public concern about partisan interference, which may undermine accountability and weaken environmental governance.

Ratings of the awareness of political leaders regarding environmental challenges:

Table 21

How would you rate the awareness of political leaders regarding environmental challenges?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very High	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
High	7	14.0	14.0	16.0
Neutral	17	34.0	34.0	50.0
Low	18	36.0	36.0	86.0
Very Low	7	14.0	14.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

These figures indicate a generally low perception of environmental consciousness among political leaders in Bangladesh. Overall, 36% (18 respondents) rate awareness as low and 14% (7 respondents) as very low, totaling 50% negative views. In contrast, only 14% (7 respondents) consider leaders to have high awareness and 2% (1 respondent) very high awareness. A further 34% (17 respondents) remain neutral, reflecting uncertainty or limited knowledge of leaders' environmental understanding. Overall, the findings suggest that political leaders are widely perceived as lacking environmental awareness, which may hinder informed decision-making and effective policy formulation.

1.22 Bureaucratic limitations in the effectiveness of environmental policies:

Table 22

To what extent do you agree that bureaucracy limits the effectiveness of environmental policies?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	4	8.0	8.0	8.0
Agree	30	60.0	60.0	68.0

Neutral	13	26.0	26.0	94.0
Disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The findings show a strong belief that bureaucracy hampers environmental policy implementation in Bangladesh. Overall, 60% agree and 8% strongly agree, indicating widespread concern about administrative delays, red tape, and rigid governance. A further 26% (13 respondents) are neutral, reflecting uncertainty or mixed experiences. Only 6% (3 respondents) disagree. Overall, bureaucracy is widely perceived as a key structural barrier, suggesting that improving administrative efficiency could enhance environmental policy effectiveness.

Effectiveness of political parties in promoting environmental awareness:

Table 23

How effectively do political parties promote environmental awareness?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Effectively	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Effectively	10	20.0	20.0	22.0
Neutral	15	30.0	30.0	52.0
Ineffectively	21	42.0	42.0	94.0
Very Ineffectively	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data show broadly negative public opinion regarding political parties' environmental awareness initiatives. Overall, 48% (24 respondents) rate these efforts as ineffective (42%) or very ineffective (6%), suggesting

limited belief in their effectiveness in environmental education and advocacy. In contrast, only 20% (10 respondents) consider them effective and 2% (1 respondent) very effective. A further 30% (15 respondents) remain neutral, reflecting uncertainty or limited awareness. Overall, the findings highlight a gap between political messaging and public perception, emphasizing the need for stronger, more visible environmental awareness initiatives.

1.24 Political parties' engagement of youth in environmental initiatives:

Table 24

How well do political parties engage youth in environmental initiatives?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Well	1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Well	15	30.0	30.0	32.0
Neutral	23	46.0	46.0	78.0
Poorly	7	14.0	14.0	92.0
Very Poorly	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data show an ambivalent view of political parties' engagement with youth in environmental initiatives. Overall, 30% (15 respondents) rate youth involvement as good and 2% (1 respondent) as very good, indicating some positive perception. However, 46% (23 respondents) remain neutral, suggesting uncertainty or low visibility of such efforts. In contrast, 22% (11 respondents) rate engagement as poor (14%) or very poor (8%), reflecting notable dissatisfaction. Overall, despite some perceived involvement, the high proportion of neutral and negative responses suggests that youth engagement in environmental initiatives is limited or not clearly visible.

Importance of political parties in fostering environmental responsibility among citizens:

Table 25

How important do you think political parties are in fostering environmental responsibility among citizens?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Important	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
Important	19	38.0	38.0	50.0
Neutral	10	20.0	20.0	70.0
Unimportant	10	20.0	20.0	90.0
Very Unimportant	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data reveal a dual perception of the role of political parties in promoting environmental awareness. Overall, 50% (25 respondents) consider political parties important (38%) or very important (12%) in shaping public attitudes and environmental behavior. In contrast, 30% view them as unimportant (20%) or very unimportant (10%), reflecting skepticism about their impact. A further 20% (10 respondents) are neutral. Overall, while many recognize the potential of political parties to drive environmental change, a notable trust deficit remains.

1.26 Political parties' usage of social media to promote environmental issues:

Table 26

How actively do political parties use social media to promote environmental issues?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Actively	14	28.0	28.0	28.0
Neutral	13	26.0	26.0	54.0
Passively	21	42.0	42.0	96.0
Very Passively	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data suggest that political parties are largely viewed as passive users of social media in addressing environmental issues (Isholova et al., 2018). Overall, 46% (23 respondents) consider parties passive (42%) or very passive (4%) in digital environmental engagement. In contrast, 28% (14 respondents) believe parties are active in communicating environmental issues via social media. A further 26% (13 respondents) remain neutral, indicating limited exposure or inconsistent outreach. Overall, the findings highlight missed opportunities for political parties to use social media effectively for environmental awareness and youth engagement.

1.27 Transparency of political campaigns about their environmental commitments:

Table 27

How transparent are political campaigns about their environmental commitments?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Transparent	3	6.0	6.0	6.0
Transparent	14	28.0	28.0	34.0
Valid Neutral	9	18.0	18.0	52.0
Opaque	21	42.0	42.0	94.0
Very Opaque	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Data 2025

The data indicate that political campaign transparency regarding environmental pledges in Bangladesh is widely questioned. Overall, 42% (21 respondents) describe campaigns as opaque, suggesting that environmental promises are often unclear or misleading. In contrast, 28% (14 respondents) consider campaigns transparent and 6% (3 respondents) very transparent. A further 18% (9 respondents) remain neutral, possibly due to limited awareness of environmental messaging during campaigns. Overall, the findings highlight a significant trust deficit in political communication on environmental issues and the need for clearer, more accountable electoral commitments.

5. Findings

This study examined the nature and performance of political parties in addressing environmental problems in Bangladesh, based on responses from 50 participants including political actors, stakeholders, government representatives, and citizens. The findings reveal a general lack of confidence in political parties' environmental performance, with 60% of respondents viewing policies as ineffective and only 16% considering them effective or very effective. Concerns about transparency are also prominent, as 68% rated party environmental agendas as opaque or very opaque.

In terms of priority, 44% disagreed that political parties give sufficient importance to environmental issues, while only 28% agreed. Engagement with experts and academic institutions is perceived as weak, with 48% describing expert involvement as passive or very passive and 36% reporting rare or no consultation with academic institutions. Similarly, collaborations with NGOs, government, and the private sector are viewed as limited in effectiveness, with predominantly neutral or negative perceptions.

Community participation and youth involvement in environmental decision-making are also seen as inadequate, accompanied by widespread skepticism regarding the authenticity of engagement. Additionally, 52% of respondents rated political awareness campaigns as ineffective or very ineffective. Structural barriers further compound these challenges, as 50% identified political conflict as a significant obstacle to policy implementation and 68% cited bureaucratic inefficiency as a major hindrance. Financial constraints are also evident, with 54% perceiving environmental funding as insufficient, while 62% believe political influence undermines effective policy enforcement.

Finally, only 12% believe political campaigns clearly communicate environmental commitments, and 70% perceive political leaders as having low, very low, or uncertain environmental awareness. Overall, these findings highlight a substantial gap between political intentions and public expectations, underscoring the need for greater transparency, stronger institutional coordination, expert inclusion, and depoliticized, evidence-based environmental governance in Bangladesh.

6. Conclusion

The study concludes that the relationship between political parties in Bangladesh and environmental conservation is largely underdeveloped and often perceived as ineffective. Although environmental issues occasionally appear in political rhetoric, respondents question whether these priorities are genuinely implemented, visible, or impactful. Overall, political parties are seen as insufficiently prioritizing environmental concerns, with widespread doubts regarding the transparency and effectiveness of green policies.

Engagement with environmental experts, universities, local communities, NGOs, and private sector actors is generally viewed as superficial or inconsistent, with collaborative efforts often perceived as symbolic rather than substantive. These challenges are further intensified by bureaucratic inertia, financial constraints, and institutional rivalries, which hinder effective environmental governance. Additionally, political campaigns and party communication are considered largely ineffective in raising environmental awareness, particularly among younger populations.

Despite these limitations, the findings also indicate recognition among respondents of the potential role political parties could play in advancing environmental accountability and sustainable development. This suggests an opportunity for transformation if stronger political will, improved policy design, and enhanced coordination with experts and institutions are established. In conclusion, while current political engagement with environmental issues in Bangladesh remains weak, there is clear scope for improvement. Political parties must move beyond rhetoric and integrate environmental sustainability as a core, transparent, participatory, and long-term policy priority.

7. References

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