School Dropout female children after primary in Coastal Bangladesh

1. Introduction:
Education is one of the major basic rights of human being. From personal development to progress of a nation is highly dependent on the education. Education plays a central role and has a cross cutting impact on all aspects of human life. It is a vital investment for human and economic development. It is widely acknowledged that education is the most important factors contributing to poverty alleviation. Quality education can play dynamic role in productivity, social and economic growth of a country. In developing countries less attention is paid to improve quality of education and provision of education to people belongs to any class. Developing country in the world face many problem and education is one of the major challenges. As a developing country Bangladesh usually faces several challenges in achieving the goal to ensure basic education for all. One such challenge is the high rate of school dropout at primary and secondary school. Hunger and poverty are major challenges for schooling of children. About 20% children are withdrawn from their school by their parents due to poverty (WFP, 2017). Primary school dropout means a child enrolls in school but fails to complete the minimum expected amount of schooling of the education cycle. School dropout means failing to complete a minimum expected amount of schooling. A dropout can be defined as a child who enrolls in school but fails to complete the primary level of the educational cycle. In Bangladesh, although entry into Grade 1 has reached near universal levels, the primary school completion rate has remained around 60% since 2000 (Government of Bangladesh, 2009; World Bank, 2009). Grade repetition and drop out thus remain substantial problems. In Bangladesh primary school dropout rate increased up to 47 percent in 2006 (IRIN, 2006). This dropout rate during secondary level is more severe. Dropout from school is geographical and gender depended. Dropout from school is higher in remote coastal area due to different socio-economic reason and dropout rate for girls is also higher than boys. School dropped out girls faces different problems and major problem is child marriage and abused in law house. There are many reasons of girl’s dropout from school after primary and secondary and those will be presented in this article with its after effect on the life of girls.

2. School dropout status in Bangladesh:
School dropout is a serious issue in Bangladesh for ensuring quality education for all and also a challenge for achieving sustainable development goal no. 4: Quality education. School dropout is associated with many other social problems and also root of different socio-economic problems and a major barrier for wellbeing development especially for girls. In Bangladesh every year about 16.5% children are admitted in 80395 primary schools and according to World Bank about 50% student able to completed primary school. But major problem occurred during admission into secondary school and major dropout happened in this stage of the education system in Bangladesh. According to the information of UNICEF (2005), number of junior secondary school is 4322 in Bangladesh and they also added that net enrollment of children in primary school in about 17 million whereas net enrollment in secondary school is about 10 million. Those student who admitted in 2005 should completed SSC in 2010 and 1200975 students appeared in SSC exam and 960492 were passed in 2010 (The Daily star, 2010). So, this is a clear indication of dropout in the schooling cycle within primary and secondary school in Bangladesh. There are numerous reasons of school dropout of children in Bangladesh and those are illustrated briefly.

**Economic hardship:** Economic hardship is one of the major reasons of school dropout in Bangladesh. Financially weak students have high possibility to dropout. Still one third (31.5 percent) of the population of Bangladesh is living under the poverty line. Recent price hike of essential commodities (especially, food prices) makes it difficult to maintain their livelihood. In Bangladesh people generally spend about 80% of their income for food and they have a very limited amount in their hand for child education. Due to economic hardship many children are forced to work during their childhood generally known as child labor and in Bangladesh about 22.9% child labor are forced to work in hazardous job (BBS, 2006). In the rural area people who live under poverty line send their girl children to the garments factory. Majority of the garments worker in our country come to work for poverty and they join here in their adolescent stages which is a major reason of school dropout. In the coastal area people have limited income source and resources and they want to earn money to send their children to the work. In this situation education for children is a burden for those families.

**Geographical Isolation:** Geographically admission set up of Bangladesh is divided into 64 districts and every District does not get equal facility which impact on the school dropout. Geographically coastal areas are isolated especially in the char area of coastal district in Bangladesh. Those areas are very much scattered and school are far away from their home which is a major reason of school dropout especially for girls. Parents don’t feel safe to send their girls in the secondary school if it is far away from home. As coastal area of Bangladesh is divided in many patches by river, as a reason some time children had to cross river to go to school which create a barrier in schooling especially in the rainy season.

**Insufficient Secondary school:** We have insufficient secondary school in our country which is main reason of school dropout especially for girls. In our country we have about 80395 primary schools and on the other hand we have only 4322 junior secondary school. The number of junior
high school is about half of the primary school. This situation is more acute in the coastal area. Coastal area of Bangladesh is very much remote due to lots of rivers and canals. In most of the area secondary school situated far away from each other and children have pass a long way to go to school. Insufficient of secondary school is a major reason of school dropout in the secondary school level.

**Opportunity Cost:** The opportunity cost of schooling is the income forgone of the next best activity available for children who are in education. These activities relate to child labor or caring responsibilities both within and outside of the household. The opportunity cost for children who are in schooling often increases as they get older, which increases the pressure on them to withdraw from school. In the coastal area when girls cross primary school level then all the responsibility of her younger brothers and sisters come to her shoulder. Due to this responsibility girls had to leave school. On the other hand after completing primary school boys had to help their parents in the fishing boat, agricultural field, salt field and in different works. Parents want that their children help them and they also think that they will be more benefitted if their children help them in their work rather go to school. That’s why school dropout rate increase at higher scale after primary school in the coastal area.

**Poor Physical Condition:** Physical condition means status of well-being when all internal and external body parts, organs, tissues and cells can function properly as they are supposed to function. In the coastal area a significant portion of children could not get proper nutrition. Due to malnutrition they faces problem to see the black board properly, hear the teacher’s lecture, solving critical problem etc. Due to those problems they lose interest from school. Sometime parents think that only high cost food as meat, milk and imported fruit are nutritious whereas they have many nutritious foods around their household. Girls are mainly faces problem due to malnutrition. If a child cannot possesses good health he will face barrier to earn good education. Some factors such as poor health, under nutrition or lack of motivation to learn contribute to child drop out.

**Parent Education:** There is a positive correlation between net enrolment and parental education. The proportion of never schooled parents decreased over time - from 47.7per cent in 1998 to 45.4per cent in 2000, 35.4per cent in 2005 and 33.3per cent in 2008. The net enrolment rate increased for the children of both never and ever schooled parents during 1998-2005, which became stagnant in 2008 for both the groups (The Independent, 2016). If the parents remain unaware, the progress in the child education would remain elusive. Lack of parental interest and engagement with schooling it is often the case that parents lack the ability to understand school related work, so parents are unable to support their children.

**Social Partial Practice:** In many cases society don’t behave equally for all classes which influence the school dropout in Bangladesh. Society in some area Bangladesh allows boys in the school but not girls. As a reason girls school dropout happened. Some evil practice also influences the school dropout in Bangladesh especially in the coastal area. Early marriage, child
slavery, child fostering, trafficking, and multiple household duties for girls are some of the reasons behind the higher likelihood that girls leave the educational system before boys in societies where girls’ rights are not secured and where social norms undervalue girls’ education. Among the all reason girls early marriage is the major reason to leave school at secondary school level.

**Security:** Another major problem for girl’s school dropout at primary and secondary level is security problem. Eve teasing practice is very much higher in our country. Girls are deprived during going to the school. Parents do not feel safe to send their girls alone in the secondary school level and they try to marry their girls at early age. This scenario is more acute in the coastal area where secondary and high school are not available and girls go to secondary school which sometime a couple of kilometer away from their house. School dropout of girls is higher in those villages where secondary high school is not available.

**Lack of Quality education:** School level factors also play a role in increasing pressures to drop out such as teacher absenteeism, school location and poor quality educational provision. Grade repetition and drop out thus remain substantial problems. Inequality is a part of the social structure. Sociocultural norms, religious matter, lack of parental education and less expectation for girls’ education create inequality in primary education.

### 3. Impact of School dropout in Bangladesh:

Education is a vital component for the development of nation as well as world. Education has holistic impact on the society that’s why it is says that Education is the backbone of a nation. As without backbone anybody could not stay straight a nation could not stay straight without education. School Dropout of children is fracturing the backbone of the nation. School dropout of children has many socio-economic and psychological consequences on the society as well as nation. According to Vision 2030, “Education is key component of economic growth because it has directly influence on entrepreneurship, productivity growth and then increases employment opportunities and women empowerment.

Students drop outs reduces literacy rate of country and non-innovative environment. Due to Students dropout economy also have to pay cost. Peoples without proper education unable to get jobs and more likely to spend their lives jobless or on government assistance. These students often struggle with poverty, abuse or neglect in their homes. It is impossible to reduce poverty and hunger without education. So, dropout of children from school will create more economic hardship in the future and make the process more difficult to reduce poverty.

Dropout from school put significant impact on the life of girls in the society. Parents face different problem and fear to keep their girls in the home unmarried and results child marriage. After dropout from school most of the parent try to give marry to their girls. In the Asia
Bangladesh is in the second position in child marriage and its root cause is school dropout. Child marriage creates many more problems as maternal death, malnutrition, divorce and many more. An illiterate girl never establish her rights in anywhere in the society which create a barrier for girls in the society to get justice.

School Dropout also creates psychological pressure on both male and female. Children always feel depression due to leave the school. It creates an invisible barrier between his or her school going friends. Those female children who could not complete secondary level could not access to the rights and her opinions are often ignored in her law house. It was a proverb that an educated nation comes from an educated mother. Due to lack of education those mother face difficulties to help her child in education.

Child labor is another problem created due to school dropout children. Those children who dropped out from school join in different work place and workshop and most of the jobs are hazardous for them. Girls children are often join in the Garments factory after dropout from schools. Another detrimental effect is trafficking. School dropout is the root cause of many socio-economic problems in our society.

4. Conclusion:
Education is vital for socio-economic development of any society and nation. As without water we could not live and society could not develop without education. Government of Bangladesh is working for ensuring education for all people and in this regards they take many initiative. Side by side other development organization and donor is also working hard to achieve this goal. Primary enrollment rate in our country is almost near to the universal rate. But main obstacle in this process to educate everyone is dropout from school in the midway. Main dropout happened during primary school completion and afterward another dropout happened during secondary school. This scenario is more acute in the coastal area of Bangladesh. There are many reason of school dropout in our coastal area and among them unavailability of secondary school, social security, poverty, economic hardship, involvement of girls in the household work and involvement of boys in the agricultural and fishing work. Education is the backbone of the nation and school dropout fracturing the bone of education system. School dropout has many harmful impact of the society. Major impacts of school dropout are skilled man power creation, defected education system, child marriage, economic hardship, child labor and many more. Bangladesh is a fast growing country toward developing country and to make this development sustainable proper education for all people are necessary. Government and other parties working hard to achieve this goal but school dropout could spoil this effort. So, all parties need to take initiative to remove those barriers to keep all students in the school that all children could complete proper education.
5. Reference


