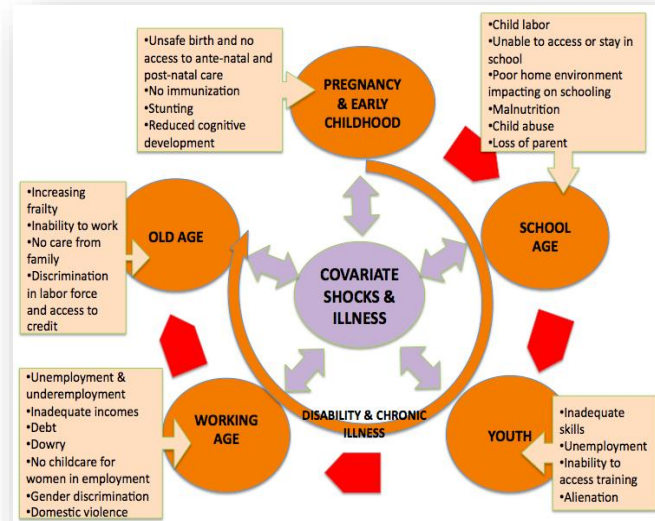


Policy Analysis Report:

A Review of Consistency of National Policies with National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



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Acronyms

BLRI	Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute
CMC	Central Management Committee
FY	Financial Year
G2P	Government to Person
GED	General Economic Division
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAEP	New Agricultural Extension Policy
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
SSS	Social Security System
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

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Chapter One: Introduction and Background

The government of Bangladesh launched its National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in July 2015 and the Action Plan for NSSS was published in 2018. The Government is committed in reducing poverty, vulnerability and inequality and has been taking initiatives to fulfill the its poverty reduction target. Vision 2021, the perspective plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021 and Government's Five-Year Plan are in tandem with each other to work for human development and against poverty. Bangladesh has made progress towards its target and the recent Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES 2015) showed the reflection of these advancement. As per HIES 2016, the poverty rate of Bangladesh is 24.3% (Urban: 18.9% and Rural: 26.4%) and within 5 years, it came down from 31.5% (HIES 2010). Extreme poverty rate is 12.9% (Urban: 7.6% and Rural: 14.9%) and from 17.6 % in 2010 (HIES 2010). Moreover, poverty has declined in both urban and rural areas. Monthly income levels for households, has increased by 38.9% between 2010 and 2016. Along with poverty, other human development indicators such as access to drinking water, access to toilet, literacy rate etc. also have improved over the last 5 years. For long, social security has been a pertinent issue for government. The Government has increased social safety net programmes fund from 24.6% to 28.7% and it reflects government's commitment for social security. Though the Government has prioritized social security, the current social security process is a complex system and 35 ministries are affiliated with this system. Currently 125 social safety net programmes (74 Lakh beneficiaries) are running under these 35 ministries (2019-2020).

NSSS has mentioned about the Social Development Framework (SDF) and other policies that it should consider social security in their own goal to have a common SDF. NSSS mentioned that "The main objective of the SDF is to have a comprehensive and consistent set of policies that can help Bangladesh achieve better equity and social justice in the context of its development effort." SDF could be achieved through if the policies and strategies related to poor, vulnerable groups have aligned goals with the social security system. NSSS has given emphasis on the alignment among the following strategies: Government's poverty reduction strategy, the education strategy, the health, nutrition and population strategy, the strategy for sanitation and water supply, the strategy for inclusive finance, the strategy for women and gender empowerment, the strategy for social inclusion of ethnic and religious minorities, the strategy for environmental protection and climate change management, the strategy for disaster management, the strategy for the children of special needs, elderly and widow and the Social Security Strategy.

NSSS provided roles for the General Economic Division (GED), "GED will monitor and evaluate NSSS implementation and oversee coordination and consistency of the social security policies/strategies with NSSS and medium term and long-term national plans and strategies". NSSS assigned GED major tasks and in order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS, General Economic Division (GED) was assigned to review the consistency of national policies with NSSS. The action plan of NSSS stated that GED ensured consistency between NSSS and 7th Five-year plan and GED is determined to maintain this for future policies/strategies.

The broad objective of the study is to analyze the associated government strategies/ policy papers in order to understand their alignment with NSSS's core concept. The specific objectives are as follows:

- Review the consistency of the national policies with NSSS that is, to monitor the consistency of the social security policies and programmes with the NSSS

- Development of compilation matrix which shows how compliance are those analyzed strategies with respect to poverty, vulnerability and life cycle risks.

Methodology:

Qualitative research is one type of scientific research that tries to seek answers to a research question. The process includes collecting evidence, producing findings that were not determined in advance, and produce findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study. Moreover, it pursues to know a specified research question or problem from the viewpoints of the local population that it involves.

The study followed qualitative research and It was mainly based on secondary research. As the objective of the study was to analyze several policies/strategies relating to NSSS of Bangladesh, the initial stage of the study was to collect of policies that are associated with Bangladesh’s NSSS. The policies were updated so that the latest versions were reviewed. The policies/strategies were basically collected in soft copy version. In total, 30 policy/strategy papers were collected for review and analyzed based on the pre-defined criteria. The criteria were selected considering the objectives of the study. The policy papers were then reviewed in order to explore whether the policies have addressed anything regarding people with low income level, women, marginal groups (ethnic groups), vulnerable groups (old aged people, children, pregnant women) etc. It is compilation of national policies to check or assess whether those policies have any component on poverty, vulnerability, marginal groups, life cycle risks etc. After the inconsistencies or gaps were identified for each strategy paper. For this study, the sampling of the study was purposive or subjective Sampling. As conducting a policy analysis ensures the researchers have gone through a systematic process to choose the policy option that may be best for that situation. This study followed a systematic process to analyze the policies/strategies regarding the NSSS. The following diagram showed the process of the study:



FIGURE 1 PROCESS FLOW

Selection Criteria for choosing policies for review:

NSSS has discussed about the social development framework and it explained its focus. It states that the focus of SDF can be achieved through collaboration among government policies and programmes. As Bangladesh is glorified by numbers of policy papers by sectors and ministries. As the NSSS, has or supposed to have association with several strategies, such as, education health, nutrition, population, sanitation, inclusive finance, women and gender climate change etc., the current study assessed these national strategies. However, strategies with are slightly related with poor and vulnerable were also assessed for this study. In total, 30 strategy papers were evaluated for this study as per our analysis criteria.

Limitation:

As the study was purely secondary based and only checked the absence and presence of the poverty alleviation and vulnerability concept in any policy paper. This study did not analyze the strength or depth of the existing articles of strategies which already has their stand on poverty and vulnerability. Moreover, the study has considered only broad head policies/strategies, not all policies of Government of Bangladesh.

Chapter Two: Overview of NSSS of Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh has always been committed in reducing poverty, vulnerability and inequality and the commitment can be seen in government documents such as the government's five year plan, Perspective Plan and Vision 2021. The current safety net support also reflects its Government's interest and its contribution in preparing people in tolerating risks. However, there are problems like inclusion and exclusion error which the social security system had been facing. In order to recognize these problems, Bangladesh has embarked upon the formation of a comprehensive National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). General Economic Division (GED) developed the strategy paper under supervision from Central Management Committee (CMC) and Cabinet Division. NSSS represents the realities if Bangladesh also considers good practices of different countries. NSSS discusses the evolution and performance of the current social security system (SSS) and the issues and challenges of the present social security system (SSS). As the government bears commitments of confirming citizen's right to social security with the following vision: "Build an inclusive Social Security System for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth". Moreover, the goal of NSSS, "Reform the national Social Security System by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened delivery systems and progress towards a more inclusive form of Social Security that effectively tackles lifecycle risks, prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable members of society."

The NSSS will reinforce the transformation towards a lifecycle approach by considering programmes in a small number of priority schemes. Lifecycle approach provides a comprehensive framework of the lifecycle of a human being and analyses the basic risks along the cycle. In addition to the lifecycle risks, the NSSS also puts similar emphasis on the covariate risks – such as natural disasters, food price shocks, etc. The five-core life cycle programmes suggested by NSSSS are as follows:

- Programmes for pregnancy and early childhood
- Programmes for school age
- Programmes for working age
- Comprehensive pension system for elderly
- Programmes for people with disabilities
- Covariate Risks
- Reaching Out to the Socially Excluded Population

NSSS discussed about financing of NSSS and strengthening the delivery of the National Social Security System as well. It also talked about results-based monitoring and evaluation system for the social security programmes.

Chapter Three: Policy analysis and NSSS compliance Matrix:

This chapter will present the summary of analysis of several national strategy papers. The subsections are comprised of two parts, preamble on the selected strategies and their relevance with NSSS. The analysis was conducted considering how compliance the strategies are in terms of poverty alleviation, vulnerability, lifecycle risks etc.

1 National Education Policy 2010:

Preamble:

National Education Policy 2001 was developed considering the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Moreover, the UN Child Rights Convention that highlights to ensure the rights of children in every member state has been a further area of consideration, which was also counted while developing the strategy paper. The main objectives of this policy are directed toward the cultivation of human values.

Relevance with NSSS:

The National Education policy has its own aims and objectives, it has included the poverty, gender, people with special need as its own objective. Under the primary education section there is a provision for stipend of poor students, special provision (free admission, education material, lunch and stipend) for street children and ultra-deprived children. In case of higher education, tuition and other fees are determined as per the financial solvency of the parents or guardians who will benefit the students from such a system. There is provision of stipends for poor and meritorious students of primary and secondary levels students. For higher education, there is facility to provide scholarships to poor and meritorious students from a fund created through the contribution of the authority, donations of citizens and former students. For some specialized education such as engineering and agricultural studies curriculum or syllabus development, emphasis should be given to poverty eradication as per the education policy.

For marginal and ethnic groups, this policy paper has indications on ensuring availability of teachers from ethnic groups and to prepare texts in their own languages so that ethnic children can learn their own indigenous languages. This paper instructs for special assistance to be provided to the marginalized indigenous children. In some remote areas, there is no primary school and in that case primary schools will be set up in these areas inhabited by ethnic people, both in hilly or plain lands. The policy paper talks about taking measures to provide residential facilities, special help and scholarships for the children of freedom fighters, of small ethnic communities and socially backward groups. Teachers should be trained to acquire efficiency in delivering education to the students of disadvantaged community and small ethnic groups and the disabled learners by sincerely responding to their special needs.

For people with special needs/disability, there is facility for providing special and preferential attention for their needs. The facilities of the lavatories and the scope of smooth movement should be adequately designed and created with special attention in order to fulfill the special needs of physically challenged learners. There is a sub-section on special education, which mentions about the aims and objectives of special education. Other than special education, they are brought under efficient remedial system, special care and nursing. There are strategies in the education policy paper regarding people with disability and it includes conducting surveys to know about their exact numbers, teachers training on disability, integrated education system programme for the visually handicapped children, hearing and speech

impaired and mentally and physically handicapped children. This policy also provides indication of flexible curriculum and issues related to handicapped children is suggested to be incorporated in the syllabus from primary level in order to increase knowledge and create awareness among the people. Moreover, the policy paper says about ensuring equal opportunity for them in the job market.

There is one section called women's education and the main aims and objectives of this section includes fostering awareness and confidence among women and strengthen women's outlook in favor of demanding equal rights, to motivate women at all levels to acquire skills in order to participate in the affairs of running the country, to ensure women's participation in poverty alleviation and socio-economic development programmes. It has also talked about to strengthen them in a way that they can play their roles in the socio-economic development of the country through self-employment or being employed in various positions and to change their existing subordinate position and to empower them to take strong steps to ensure equal rights and to resist dowry as well as violence against women. The strategy paper has strategies for women's education, and this comprises of special allocation for women's education in the budget, steps to minimize the dropout rate of girl students and to create opportunities for women for education of part-time, vocational, non-formal and technical nature. It also tells about the curriculum and content to include positive and progressive image of women and secondary level curriculum of last two years should include gender studies and issues of reproductive health. Special stipends should be provided for the poor and meritorious girl students to pursue higher education and undertake research. Moreover, women's participation must be ensured at all levels of policy and decision-making, namely, anything related to primary, secondary and higher education.

The education policy also has mentioned about youth in its Scout Girls Guides' aims and objectives section and, in its sports section, as well. It instructs to help grown up children, adolescents and youths as self-respectful, independent, honest, morally sound, enterprising, caring, health-conscious and above all, good citizens of country. It says to help the youths to acquire the qualities to become responsible, self-conscious and philanthropic persons by developing their personality through the cultivation of the programs of scout and girls' guide. The strategy paper gives importance on physical fitness and sports, as an imperative factor for the complete development of the youths and students.

There is another section on adult and non-formal education with an objective to emphasize on adult and non-formal education to make all the adult citizens of the country literate. Adult education includes literacy, development of human qualities, social awareness and professional skills development.

2 National Livestock Development Policy 2007

Preamble:

Livestock plays an important role in the national economy of Bangladesh. The general objective of the National Livestock Development Policy is to provide enabling environment, opening up opportunities, and reducing risks and vulnerability for harnessing the full potential of livestock sub-sector to accelerate economic growth for reduction of rural poverty in which the private sector will remain the main actor, while the public sector will play facilitating and supportive role.

Relevance with NSSS:

The introduction of the policy paper mentions about the National PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) and stresses the importance of the livestock sub-sector in sustaining the acceleration of poverty reduction in the country. The dynamic potential of this emerging sub-sector thus requires critical policy attention. Under the general objective of the National Livestock Development Policy, it has said, “provide the enabling environment, opening up opportunities, and reducing risks and vulnerability for harnessing the full potential of livestock sub-sector to accelerate economic growth for reduction of rural poverty in which the private sector will remain the main actor, while the public sector will play facilitating and supportive role.” The policy paper also instructs for the rapid improvement in animal productivity for food security and livelihood leading to poverty reduction. There is mentioning about the shortage of operating funds for research in Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI). The annual allocation shows a declining trend in real terms. BLRI has been entirely depending on the development budget and contract research grants (under development projects) for carrying out research. This has restricted BLRI in developing and undertaking meaningful research programs to support the poverty reduction program of the Government. It also mentions to consider livestock sector as a thrust sector, because the sector proved to be a useful tool for poverty reduction, income generation and meet up the nutrition deficiency.

The strategy paper mentions about women and the availability of traditional self-employment to rural dwellers, particularly women, and how it is important where there is scarcity of alternative income generating opportunities. The paper states to provide access to micro-finance and insurance schemes and to introduce / improve with an emphasis on smallholder and women entrepreneurs. There are micro-finance packages targeted towards the hard-core poor including women. It also instructs to formulate CBOs (Community Based Organisations) and linking them with DLS, NGOs, commercial banks, and insurance companies would be encouraged for delivery of appropriate livestock credit packages to the doorstep of small-scale livestock farmers including poor women.

3 National Fisheries Policy 1998

Preamble:

The Fisheries Policy paper has the objective for the enhancement of the fisheries production, to alleviate poverty through creating self-employment and improvement of socio-economic conditions of the fishermen, to fulfill the demand for animal protein, to achieve economic growth through earning foreign currency by exporting fish and fisheries products and to maintain ecological balance to conserve biodiversity.

Relevance with NSSS:

Objectives of the National Fisheries Policy tells about poverty alleviation through creating self-employment and improvement of socioeconomic conditions of the fishermen. Also, priority will be given to government owned ponds, water bodies, and other suitable waterbodies for fish culture as a means of alternative earning source for the poor fishermen. Government owned khas ponds and other water bodies are guided to be leased out on long-term basis to the poor and interested fishermen/ trained jobless youths. Article 10.7 of this strategy paper tells that private and social organizations who are interested in fish culture, as a tool for poverty alleviation, emphasize will be given to fishermen’s emersion programme NGO. There are instructions for non-institutional credit programme that will continue to alleviate poverty

and generate employment. About khas land, larger natural or artificial government khas water bodies will be managed and directed by the fishermens and fish farmers' co-operatives to increase production and alleviate poverty. This paper also discusses about women's participation in this sector and how they will be encouraged and trained in fish culture.

4 National Water Policy 1998

Preamble:

The objective of Water Policy of Bangladesh is to provide direction to all agencies working with the water sector, and institutions that relate to the water sector in one form or another, for achievement of specified objectives. It addresses issues related to surface water management, ground water management, availability of water for everyone, sustainable public and private delivery system, legal and regulatory environment etc.

Relevance with NSSS:

The strategy paper talks about poor and gender balance. The strategy states that the ownership of water does not vest in an individual but in the state. The Government reserves the right to allocate water to ensure equitable distribution, efficient development and use, and to address poverty. It also states that fisheries and wildlife are integral aspects of economic development in Bangladesh and strongly linked to advancement of target groups, poverty alleviation, nutrition, and employment generation. One of the objectives of the national water policy instructs the availability of water to all elements of the society including the poor and the underprivileged, especially in considering the needs of women and children. Moreover, it is guided to bring institutional changes that will help decentralize the management of water resources and enhance the role of women in water management. The role of women is recognized in this paper as women have a stake in water management, they are the principal providers and carriers of water. Moreover, lack of access to safe water supply in the rural areas is a special hardship for women who have to carry water over long distances, which significantly impact on their health and productivity.

5 National Youth Policy 2017

Preamble:

National Youth Strategy has the vision to develop a moral, humane and forward-looking youth people who are capable of boosting prosperity and glory of Bangladesh. The paper has its mission, values and objectives. This strategy paper also indicates that government has taken special measures for the welfare of the sixteen categories of youths; for example, unemployed youth, women youth, rural youth etc. It also identifies priority areas for youth development, that is, empowerment, health and recreation, good governance, sustainable development, equitable development, healthy society, globalization and research.

Relevance with NSSS:

The rights of poor, women and disable youth are recognized in the National Youth Policy. The values of the policy states that the government must maintain equality of all without distinction as to gender.

Moreover, the government will take special measures for the welfare of the development of women youth, youth with special needs, homeless and slum dwelling youths. However, the later sections of the policy paper discussed about gender sensitive and disability inclusive policies. For education institute or any training, it is instructed to ensure gender-responsive and disability-friendly infrastructure. It is instructed to ensure a work environment sensitive to all youth, especially women youth and youth with special needs. Also, women entrepreneurs will be provided incentives to marketize their products and promote their entrepreneurship. It is also directed to take projects and programmes to deal with effects of climate change on women, youth with special needs and other backward sections of youth.

6 National Agriculture Policy 1999

Preamble

The National Agriculture Policy of Bangladesh addresses the opportunities and constraints of this sector. The overall objective of the National Agriculture Policy is to make the nation self-sufficient in food through increasing production of all crops including cereals and ensure a dependable food security system for all.

Relevance with NSSS:

The policy paper claims the possibility to reduce rural poverty and raise the living standard of people by creating agriculture as a lucrative sector. This paper states about credit system (Agricultural Credit Foundation) in terms of poverty. It's a non-profit organization with the primary objective of increasing investment in agricultural activities by meeting the demand for loan by the landless, marginal and small farmers; and at the same time to alleviate, poverty. In national agricultural credit committees, women representatives nominated by the government should be included as members. There is a chapter in this strategy on women in agriculture with an objective to ensure participation of women in agriculture. It is encouraged to include women in agriculture related activities like post-harvest operations, seed preservation, nursery business, jute stripping, vegetable cultivation, homestead gardening, floriculture, production of horticultural seeds, establishment and management of cottage industries based on locally produced agricultural commodities, etc. Separate extension programme will be organized for women in the light of the New Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP), as they also take part in the production of field crops.

7 National Health Policy 2011:

Preamble:

National Health Policy is developed with the objective to ensure basic medical treatment for everyone. It has guided to maintain and expand equity for accessing and delivering medical services. The policy paper also directs to aware people for maintaining disease prevention.

NSSS relevance:

The objectives of this policy paper includes ensuring access to standard health care service for people, especially poor and vulnerable from both rural and urban areas. It has also talked about medical treatment for mother and children including child delivery system. Other objectives include access to family planning programmes for extreme poor, poor and availability of family planning products for them and guaranteeing gender balance in health sector. It has stated that priorities will be given to deprived, poor, marginalized, old aged and person with disabilities for any medical facilities. The strategy paper tells about women's right for better physical and mental health and that will be ensured at every steps of life cycle

to maintain gender balance. Women's access to basic medical treatment will be ensured for diminution of young mother and infant's death. Women's nutrition demand especially pregnant mothers' need will be ensured. Awareness programmes will be conducted on women's HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases). All institutions should have women friendly infrastructure.

8 National Rural Development Policy 2001

Preamble:

National Rural Development policy is developed with a view to meet the constitutional compulsions to develop rural people and to bring positive changes in their living standard. This strategy paper has its own rationale, background, aims and philosophy. It indicates programmes for several groups specially for rural poor, women, child, youth, disadvantage groups, elderly people etc.

Relevance with NSSS:

The government of Bangladesh has laid utmost emphasis on poverty alleviation in this policy paper. Several programmes are already available for rural development considering reducing poverty and vulnerability. For example, Bangladesh Rural Development Board has a country-wide network of cooperatives and informal groups targeting programmes for small farmers, poor women and men with financial and technical assistance. The government has initiated various people's welfare oriented programmes targeted at rural development poverty alleviation, such as, Ashrayan (housing for the poor), Back Home Programme, One House one Farm, Old Age Allowances, Allowances for Widows, Deserted Wives and Destitute Women, Stipend for Education, Food for Education, VGD, VGF etc. There is an article in this paper on poverty alleviation, and it guides on the programmes for poverty alleviation. Experiences of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Directorate of Co- operatives, Palli Karma Shahyik Foundation (PKSF), Rural Poverty Alleviation Foundation, Social Development Foundation, Government and Non- government Organizations are instructed to be analyzed and compared with international experiences.

The policy paper guides to ensure equal participation of women with men in all socio-economic and cultural development and cultural activities. It is instructed to provide emphasize on empowerment of poor and rural women. There is a section on empowerment of rural women, especially on their awareness on their rights and laws, gender equity in social, cultural, economic and political matter. Local administration will take initiatives to motivate and provide increased assistance to rural women so that they undertake income-generating activities according to their ability. It is stated that priority will be given to implementation of policies regarding women's equal rights, poverty alleviation, economic empowerment and employment as per National Women Development Policy 1997.

There is a section on the development of disadvantaged rural people as well and it gives emphasize on ensuring rights for the disadvantaged and downtrodden sections of the rural community. The paper guides to ensure separate and planned programmes for the development of those sections of people who are aged, destitute, disadvantaged, physically and mentally disabled, orphaned, and those women who are either windows or deserted wives. Several supports programmes will be developed for disadvantaged elderly people in the rural areas to help them.

9 National Food Policy 2006

Preamble:

The present food policy is developed in light of the recently adopted Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and in a broader perspective according to the definition of food security as adopted in the World Food Summit. The goal of the food policy is to confirm a reliable food security system for all people of the country. The objectives are to ensure adequate and stable supply of safe and nutritious food, purchasing power of the people for increased food accessibility and adequate nutrition for all (especially women and children).

Relevance with NSSS:

In order to maintain food purchasing power of poor, government is conducting both short run and long run approaches. The policy paper clearly explains the types and rationale for these approaches and their relationship with poverty reduction strategy. It also guides about transitory shock management specially for the poor who are affected by the shocks mostly. The strategy guides us about the effective implementation of targeted food programmes to improve food security which impact the people under poverty line, old age people, abandoned women, widow and people with disability.

Emphasis is given to nutrition level of the vulnerable people, such as, women (especially the adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers), children, and old age persons. This can be acquired by ensuring proper caring practices at household level and by maintaining equitable food distribution within the household without any gender or preference bias. It discusses the role of social security programmes as well.

10 National Children Policy 2011

Preamble:

National Children Policy of Bangladesh has five fundamental principles. It states to ensure child rights in the light of the constitution of Bangladesh, child act and international charters/ conventions, poverty alleviation of the children, elimination of all forms of child abuse and discrimination, elimination of all forms of abuse of and discrimination to female child and participation of the children and accepting their views into consideration in overall protection and, in the best interest of the children.

Relevance with NSSS:

This policy paper considers poverty as the main obstacle to ensuring child rights and holds a section on alleviation of child poverty. It states that priority will be given on child's nutrition, health, overall protection, education and social security for the poverty alleviation of the children. This paper suggests national food and nutrition policy to expand their horizon for children. It is guided to increase the social safety net to ensure the rehabilitation of all poor children and street children. One of its fundamental principles are to elimination of all forms of abuse of and discrimination to female child. It has directions for safety and security of the female children, for ensuring proper mental and physical development and elimination of all discriminatory behavior towards the female child. Moreover, it has stated that initiatives shall be taken to extend facilities to the female child, disabled child and child with special needs. Special measures and mainstreaming will be conducted for children with disability and autism. One article tells about developing special programmes for the backward and small ethnic group children.

11 National Women Development Policy 2011

Preamble:

The policy has stated on ensuring increased participation of women in education, health, agriculture, industry and commerce, service and other sectors and elimination of poverty. Several safety net programmes have been running under Ministry of Women and Children affairs to ensure full and equal participation of women in socio-economic activities. Programmes for women also have alignment with National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Relevance with NSSS:

One of the objectives of National Women Development Policy are to free women from the curse of poverty. It states about mobilizing poor women to increase their skills and creating alternative socio-economic opportunities through providing them training. It also indicates in supporting and inspiring the UN agencies, development partner agencies and voluntary organizations in taking necessary measures for eliminating poverty of the women. Another objective of National Women Development Policy to extend overall assistance to ensure rights of the disabled women and women belonging to the smaller ethnic groups. This paper instructs to undertake programme to prevent disability and its determination and extending special co-operation to their families for taking care and growth of the disabled women. Another objective is to arrange safety of the widow, aged, guardian less, husband abandoned, unmarried and childless women and to ensure rights to nutrition and to have physical and mental health of highest standard all through the life cycle of women (childhood, adolescence, during pregnancy and in old age). Special Program will be developed for Small Ethnic and Backward Group Women to ensure all their rights.

There is an article on development of female child and to ensure necessary rights to the proper physical and mental growth of the female children. Also, it shows the path to eliminate discriminatory treatment to disabled female children and their security in all areas. Finally, it states that measures will be taken to increase efficiency and skill to conduct wider research in the matter of women development and gender equality.

12 Export Policy 2012-15

It is expected that the Export Policy 2012-2015 will play pivotal role in employment generation and poverty alleviation achieving desired and projected growth of our export. For alleviating poverty, credit as well as other facilities will be provided to tea producers of small farms.

The paper emphasizes on the necessity of increasing involvement of women in trade expansion activities through reduction of discrimination between men and women. The increasing involvement of women will play a positive role in the economic development of the country through strengthening our economic foundation

13 Private Sector Power Generation Policy

This strategy paper only discusses about the poverty alleviation. It states that Bangladesh needs to achieve and sustain an annual economic growth rate of at least six or seven percent to alleviate poverty and realize desirable socio-economic and human development.

14 National Science and Technology Policy 2001

This strategy paper states that Technological progress is thus the crucial determinant in the realization of the twin objectives of eradication of poverty and acceleration of socio-economic development.

15 Land Utilization policy 2001

Land utilization policy only talks about poverty alleviation, Land utilization policy guides with the objectives to maintain agricultural land usage to continue food production, proper use of land, difference between different types of land, management of government “Khas” land and proper usage of land for poverty alleviation and employment generation.

16 National Labor Policy 2012

Labor policy in Bangladesh holds some guidelines for poverty alleviation, women, youth population. This paper remarks job creation as main driving force for poverty alleviation. There is prohibition of employment of children and adolescent and prohibition of certain agreement in respect of children. Moreover, this policy alludes on women’s advancement and rights. Furthermore, there is prohibition of employment of children and adolescent and prohibition of certain agreement in respect of children. The policy paper declares ensuring social safety for the workers.

17 National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation 2014

Preamble:

The goal of this strategy is to ensure safe and sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene services for all, leading to better health and well-being. The objective is to provide a uniform strategic guideline to the sector stakeholders, including the government institutions, private sector and NGOs, for achieving the sector goal. The strategies are divided into three themes; WASH intervention, emerging challenges and sector governance.

Relevance with NSSS:

This policy guides to prepare separate and inclusive projects or separate components development as per requirements of the hard to reach area and vulnerable people. This policy paper guides to mainstream gender in planning, implementing and decision making. As women are considered as managers of water and sanitation of the households, their strong involvement is required. It is instructed to involve women from the planning process of any programmes, equal participation of men and women, gender sensitive promotions etc. it is recommended to Give priority to the extreme poor for services and subsidy in cases of all water supply and sanitation facilities.

18 Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy 2009

Preamble:

The government of Bangladesh has developed this strategy to eradicate poverty, increase employment opportunities, ensure food security, provide access to energy and power, achieve economic and social

wellbeing of all citizens. Bangladesh has targeted pro-poor, climate resilient and low carbon development. The strategy covers description on climate hazards of Bangladesh, impacts of climate change and its mitigation.

Relevance with NSSS:

The action plan and the strategy paper are developed together and the needs of the poor, vulnerable, women, children, will be mainstreamed in all activities under the action plan. The action plan is for 10 years (2009-2018). The first pillar of the action plan tells about social protection. It guides to increase resilience of the vulnerable groups, develop climate change adaptive cropping system, fisheries, livestock system in order to reduce vulnerability. This strategy directs to conduct research linked with climate change, poverty and vulnerability to identify possible interventions to increase the resilience of poor and vulnerable households to climate change.

19 Bangladesh Population Policy 2012

Preamble:

Bangladesh's population policy is developed with a view to develop a healthier, happier and wealthier Bangladesh through planned development and control of the nation's population. The objectives of the strategy include lowering total fertility rate, easy access to reproductive health services, awareness among the poor, ensure gender equality, reducing maternal and infant mortality rate etc. The paper also narrates role of different ministries in population program.

Relevance with NSSS:

The policy states to continue door to door services to all eligible couples, specially for the poor. As a considerable portion of the population of Bangladesh is elderly, poor and disabled, the strategy suggests undertaking special priority programs for them about health, education and social security/safety net. There is a separate section on empowerment of women and equal partnership of men and women. This section emphasizes on formulating gender sensitive strategies, awareness and promotions, encouraging institutions/organizations involved in women's development to participate in activities pertaining to family planning and reproductive health etc. There is another section on adolescent welfare programme that covers health, reproductive health, maternal health and family planning issues.

20 National Nutrition Policy 2015

Preamble:

The goal of the National Nutrition Policy comprises to improve the nutritional status of the people, especially disadvantaged groups, including mothers, adolescent girls and children and objective is to prevent and control malnutrition. The objective of the strategy to ensure availability of adequate, diversified and quality safe food, strengthen nutrition specific and sensitive interventions and ensuring coordination among sectors to ensure improved nutrition.

Relevance with NSSS:

The first strategy states to improve the nutritional status of all citizens, including children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The policy suggests ensuring the adoption of nutrition

programmes targeting people living in poor rural and urban areas and in remote locations identified through nutrition surveillance. This paper also proposes to include issues of nutrition in the National Social Security Strategy paper, particularly regarding food diversity in food-related programmes. It is suggested to initiate nutrition programmes targeting ultra-poor and deprived communities and link up nutrition programmes with other social safety net programmes. This policy has prioritized appropriate and adequate nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mother and to support increased harmonization among pertinent programmes, including about social safety nets, education and women's empowerment. The policy paper has the proposition to ensure appropriate nutrition for adults and elderly persons suffering from malnutrition-related non-communicable diseases as well.

Finally, Policies for textile sector, freedom fighter, power plant, import, tourism, shipping were also analyzed, and they do not have any elements regarding poverty or vulnerability, which are recognized in NSSS.

21 Other Government Documents:

The study tried to investigate several important Government strategies apart from the sectoral strategies. This included Bangladesh Government's Five-year plan, Delta plan and Perspective plan. Another essential document was examined and that was SDG, including its targets indicators.

7th Five Year Plan:

7th Five Year Plan (FY 2016 to FY 2020) of has recognized NSSS in the chapter on Gender empowerment, social inclusion and social protection. In social protection, the Government continued to implement ongoing programmes and adopted NSSS in their planning process about social protection. The NSSS would guide to strengthening the poverty impact and to modernize the social security system. Additionally, it has macroeconomic perspectives, progress with implementation of the sixth plan. The 7th Five-year plan acknowledged NSSS's life cycle risk-based approach in order to mitigate poverty at risks at several stages of life of poor and vulnerable population. It also accepted NSSS's intention of improving the administrative arrangements, that included modern MIS, cash based G2P payment, grievance redressing mechanism, proper M&E system for social security programmes. The Seventh plan took proper implementation of the NSSS as one of its major tasks.

Delta Plan 2100:

The Delta plan pointed out poverty as one of the greatest challenges before Bangladesh to eradicate poverty. Among multiple factors, social protection programs and interventions were cited have a pivotal role in reducing poverty significantly.

The Delta plan reinforced in the social protection draft strategy that probed the life cycle within the social protection area. It also explained that it was provision of services from childbirth to insurance moving on to pension schemes. This plan referred that NSSS covered almost all aspects such as primary stipend, secondary stipend, widow, disability, freedom fighters etc.

Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (Year 2010 to 2021):

Perspective plan of Bangladesh (2010 to 2021) aimed to achieve solid development targets for Bangladesh. It is expected that if targets are achieved, it would change the socio-economic environment of Bangladesh from a low-income economy to the first stages of a middle-income economy. There would

higher per capita income, higher standard of living, better education, social justice and better protection from climate change and natural disasters. The perspective plan shared plans about promoting gender balance, broad-based growth and food security, macroeconomic framework to become middle income country, agriculture and rural development and human development etc. Gender balance referred about gender equity, broad-based growth and food security talked about women, disabled, and girl children. Furthermore, macroeconomic framework for middle income country alluded about the safety nets for the poor, elderly and disabled population. Agriculture and rural development mentioned about engaging educated youth in this process.

The perspective plan recognized social protection and one of the strategies for accelerated poverty reduction of perspective plan to strengthen the coordination, targeting and coverage of social protection programmes. This plan guided to design and implement a range of social protection programs that meets the needs of this under-privileged group, that included poor women, children, ethnic groups, disable and elderly population.

The chapter on Social protection “Addressing poverty through social protection” explained perspectives on social protection. It stated that social protection included safety nets, social insurance, labor market policies and processes of self-help within society. This plan referred main challenges of implementing social protection programs and that included coverage issues, targeting beneficiaries, leakages, and disparity in regional distribution. Government planned to continue priority to core social protection programs and a coherent and integrated national social protection strategy based on a comprehensive mapping of vulnerabilities or risks was in the process of development. Furthermore, the Perspective Plan provided strong emphasis on monitoring and coordination of social protection programs like which was mentioned in NSSS.

Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) 2030:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs targets were established with 232 indicators were set for measurement. As nine indicators repeat under two or three different targets, total number of indicators become 244.

First SDG mentioned about ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. Measuring indicators of this goal included social protection. Those were proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployment persons, older persons, person with disabilities, pregnant women, newborne, work-injury victim, poor and vulnerable. It also targeted to measure the proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection). Goal aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering of all women and girls. It mentioned to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household. Goal 8 promoted sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. It included government spending in social protection and employment programmes as a proportion of the national budgets and GDP as measurement plan. Goal 10 established inequality within and among countries as their one of the goals and suggested to adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality. This goal also targeted to measure Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers.

Chapter Five: NSSS compliance matrix and summary discussion

The previous chapter presented the preamble and relevance with NSSS for 20 policies, which are related with social security. The relevance with NSSS was identified based on the strategies stand for poverty alleviation, gender equity, inclusion of person with disability and marginal groups, special provision for children, youth and old aged. The following sections will try to discuss about the above-mentioned strategy papers to understand how compliance with NSSS.

Alleviation of Poverty:

Almost all the analyzed strategies have or plan to have programmes for poverty alleviation. Only national labor policy has mentioned nothing about poverty alleviations. National strategies for fisheries, health, rural development, women, climate change, population, nutrition have poverty alleviation as one of their own objectives and mentioned special attentions for poor people. Strategies for education, livestock, water, youth, agriculture, export, private sector power generation, science and technology, land utilization, water and sanitation have the stand for poverty alleviation in their articles.

Gender equality:

Most of the analyzed strategies have considered gender equality in their policy document. However, among the analyzed 20 strategy papers, 3 of the papers don't have anything mentioned on gender equality. They are private sector power generation, science and technology and land utilization strategies. Education, water, health, rural development, food, children, water supply and sanitation and population policies have undertaken gender equality in their objectives. Strategies for livestock, fisheries, youth, agriculture, export, labor, climate change and nutrition have emphasized on gender. However, Bangladesh Government has its own national strategy for women development.

Inclusion of person with disability:

Not much strategies have mentioned the inclusion of people with disability in their sectoral strategy paper. Education, health, rural development and children policy have commenced inclusion of people with disability in their policy paper. However, strategies for youth, women, labor and population have highlighted on this inclusion. Policies for livestock, fisheries, water, agriculture, export, private sector power generation, science and technology, land utilization, water and sanitation, climate change and nutrition do not have any strategies with regards to inclusion of person with disability.

Inclusion of marginal groups:

Disadvantaged community or ethnic groups are considered as marginal groups in most of the national strategy papers. Strategies for education, health, rural development, women have inclusion of marginal groups in their objectives of the strategies. However, national policy paper for children, water supply and sanitation, nutrition have mentioned inclusion of marginal groups in their documents. The rest of the strategies have stated nothing about this inclusion.

Programmes for children:

Government of Bangladesh has a separate strategy paper for Children. Strategies for education, water, health, rural development, food, women, labor, climate change, population and nutrition studies have their guidance for children. Among them, national water, health, rural development, food and population strategy have specified about their emphasize on children in their objectives of the strategies. The rest of the analyzed strategies have not covered their stand about children.

Programmes for old aged people:

National education, health, rural development, food, women, climate change, population and nutrition strategies have policies for old aged people. Among them, national health and rural development has undertaken old aged people's development in their objective's statements.

Programmes for youth:

Not a lot of strategies have mentioned about youth and their development. Among the analyzed strategies, only 5 of them have considered them in their strategies and none of them (excluding national youth policy) have stated about youth development in their national objectives.

The following table shows the list of policies analyzed with respect to their stand on poverty alleviation, gender equity, inclusion of marginal groups, people with disability, children and youth development and old aged people. The policies were given 1 point for their consideration on their compliance on NSSS. Final score is the summations of every 1 that their polices got for their mentioning of criteria.

TABLE 1: NSSS COMPLIANCE MATRIX

National Policies	Criteria							Scores
	Poverty	Gender	Old age	Children	Disability	Youth	Marginal groups	
Education	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7
Livestock	√	√						2
Fisheries	√	√						2
Water	√	√		√				3
Youth	√	√			√	√		4
Agriculture	√	√						2
Health	√	√	√	√	√		√	6
Rural Development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7
Food	√	√	√	√	√			5
Children	√	√		√	√		√	5
Women	√	√	√	√	√		√	6
Export	√	√						2
Private Sector Power Generation	√							1
Science and technology	√							1
Land Utilization	√							1
Labor	√	√		√		√		4

Water supply and sanitation	√	√					√	3
Climate change	√	√	√	√				4
Population	√	√	√	√	√	√		6
Nutrition	√	√	√	√		√	√	6

Among the policies, two policies, National rural development and education, got the highest mark by mentioning about elements related to poverty and vulnerability. In the second position, we have Health, Women, Population and Nutrition, who have considered most of elements that are related with life cycle-based vulnerability recognized in NSSS.

List of Best and weakest 6 NSSS compliance policies are:

TABLE 2 LIST OF BEST AND WEAKEST POLICY PAPERS

Best 6	Weakest 7
1. Education	1. Livestock
2. Rural Development	2. Fisheries
3. Health	3. Agriculture
4. Women	4. Export
5. Population	5. Private Sector Power Generation
6. Nutrition	6. Science and technology
	7. Land Utilization

However, Policies for textile sector, freedom fighter, power plant, import, tourism, shipping were also analyzed, and they do not have any strategies with regards to poverty or vulnerability recognized in NSSS.

Another analysis was conducted in terms of the ministries. This analysis might guide the relevant ministries to steer them in order to maintain consistency with NSSS. However, it was always considered during the analysis that not every strategy or policy paper need to comply with NSSS with all aspects. The strategies or policies should adopt the compliance with NSSS as per their own demand and context.

- 1. Ministry of Education:** Ministry of education covered all aspects of life cycle in their policy paper “National Education Policy”. Special instructions were provided for people or children from low income households. Moreover, there were directions to give emphasize on poverty alleviation while designing curriculum or syllabus. Female students or girls would avail support from the education system to create awareness and confidence among them. The policy paper considered special are for children, youth, old-age people and person with disability as well. This paper ensured quality education for child from marginal groups with teacher and equipment support. In short, the strategy or policy of education in Bangladesh maintained consistency with NSSS.
- 2. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock:** The policy paper on national livestock development policy included guidance for poverty alleviation through and inclusion of female population. The paper instructed to improve animal productivity for poverty alleviation. It also instructed to utilize

women population in productive way for poverty alleviation. However, special measures should be taken to include youth and marginal groups into their strategy to prioritize them in livestock productivity trainings or programmes. National policy of fisheries as well considered to take fish production development to reduce poverty. There was article that encourage in engaging women for their capacity development in fish culture. However, the policy paper lacked same the way as Livestock development policy. Inclusion of different marginal groups and youth development should be considered in the policy as their addition would influence their income level. Access to Government Khas land, pond, water bodies for fish culture should be open to marginal group and youth population for their development.

3. **Ministry of Water Resources:** National water policy provided specific emphasis on access to water for poor, women and children. However, special measures are required to ensure access to water for the elderly population and people with disability. Marginal groups also should get special attention for accessing water, specially who live in the heard to reach area.
4. **Ministry of Youth and Sports:** National youth policy recognized the rights of poor, women, youth with disability to maintain equality. However, youth from marginal groups should be recognized in the youth policy. Special programmes or projects are required to acknowledge their need.
5. **Ministry of Agriculture:** National agricultural policy aimed to reduce poverty by utilizing productivity in agriculture and the paper can be used as a guidance document for poverty alleviation through agriculture. The paper encouraged women in equal participation in agricultural activities. However, engagement of youth and people from marginal groups should be acknowledged in the policy document to ensure their access to different programmes or trainings etc.
6. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:** National Health Policy 2011 ensured access to quality health services for poor and vulnerable people in Bangladesh. It provided highlights on prioritizing poor, marginalized, old aged, mother, infants and people with disabilities. It was suggested to maintain gender balance in the health sector. Overall, the policy fell into one of the best policies who were consistent with NSSS. Nevertheless, young generation should be prioritized for awareness building on family planning, access to mental health care etc. Bangladesh population policy almost covered all elements that made it compliance with NSSS. Bangladesh nutrition policy almost encompassed all components, yet inclusion of people with disability would have made the policy paper more consistence with NSSS.
7. **Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives:** National rural development was developed under Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives. This strategy paper was one of the best papers with maximum compliance with NSSS. The rights of poor and vulnerable persons, women, such as, children, youth, old aged, people with disability and marginal people were conceded. Government had been running several programmes catering to these vulnerable groups. National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation didn't consider guidance for Old aged population, Children, people with disability and youth development. Inclusion of these factors might increase the uniformity with NSSS.

8. **Ministry of Food:** National food policy guided approaches for poverty reduction, programmes ensuring food security for women, old age people, persons with disabilities, and children. However, additional emphasis should be given to the young generation and people from marginal groups to guarantee their food security.
9. **Ministry of Women and Children Affairs:** National Children Policy successfully portrayed children's right and their access to basic services, government programmes etc. The strategy paper guided to eliminate discrimination towards girls, poor children, children with disability and children from marginal groups. So, this paper included all relevant factors to maintain consistency with NSSS. National Women Development Policy was also another strategy paper which incorporated policies for poor women, women with disabilities, marginal groups, children, old aged women, lactating mothers, widowed etc. These made this policy as one of the strongest policy papers in terms of relevance with NSSS. However, there was still room for inclusion about the young female population to ensure their rights and entitlements.
10. **Ministry of Commerce:** National Export Policy recognized poverty alleviation and gender equality in the policy document. However, the acknowledgement of poverty alleviation and gender equality were enough for this policy paper to maintain consistency with NSSS.
11. **Ministry of Land:** National Land Utilization policy identified poverty alleviation for management of Government Khas land, agricultural land etc. Nevertheless, the paper should recognize gender equality, inclusion of people with disabilities and marginal groups in order to achieve uniformity with NSSS.
12. **Ministry of Labor and Employment:** National Labor Policy mentioned about poverty alleviation, gender equality and youth development. Inclusion of disability would have made the policy paper more compliance with NSSS.
13. **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:** Bangladesh Climate Change strategy and Action Plan included poverty alleviation, gender equality, children's right and inclusion of old age people. There were no mentioning on people with disabilities, youth population and marginal groups which would have made the policy paper more compliance.

Chapter six: Way forward

This chapter will suggest the way forward with this study's findings. In total 30 policy papers have been analysed and among them 6 of them haven't any article or clause regarding poverty or vulnerability. The study findings suggested the following way forward:

- This analysis can be an eye opening for the policy makers that large numbers of the policies don't consider poverty alleviation, gender equity, inclusion of vulnerable groups in their strategies. The

policy maker can be aware about it and can consider revisiting their sectoral strategies to compliance with NSSS. At the beginning the policy makers can prioritize and make relevance with their own strategy.

- The stakeholders can use this analysis while conducting national strategy analysis; for example, ministry of health will be able to notice that national health policy only lacks on recommendations about youth. Ministry of labor can identify that their national policy paper lacks in instructions for old aged, people with disabilities and marginal groups. The analysis had another dimension to assess by ministry. Ministries can take this analysis and incorporate the results in their future decision making regarding social protection.
- Further analysis can be done by doing the level or intensity of the policy that is how far the existing polices for the poor and vulnerable have amenability with NSSS.
- NSSS was published in 2015 and most of the national policy are published before 2015. So, the relevant stakeholder should visit NSSS and make connection with their own strategy.

Annex 1: Lists of Documents Reviewed

1. National Education Policy 2010
2. National Livestock Development policy 2007
3. National Fisheries policy 1998
4. National Water Policy 1998
5. National Youth Policy 2017
6. National Agriculture Policy 1998
7. National Health Policy 2011
8. National Rural Development Policy 2001
9. National Food Policy 2006
10. National Children Policy 2011
11. National Women Development Policy 2011
12. National Export Policy 2018
13. National Utilization Policy 2001
14. National Labor policy 2012
15. Bangladesh Climate Change strategy and Action Plan 2009
16. National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation 2014
17. Bangladesh Population Policy 2012
18. 7Th Five Year Plan
19. Delta Plan 2100
20. Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (Year 2010 to 2021)
21. National Textile Sector Strategy 92
22. Freedom fighter allowance syatem,
23. Policy guidance for power plant,
24. National Import policy 2002,
25. National Tourism policy 1992
26. National Shipping policy 2000
27. Telecommunication Policy 2013
28. Industrial Policy 2016
29. National Sports Policy 1998
30. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11803Official-List-of-Proposed-SDG-Indicators.pdf>

Annex 2: Checklist for assessing the strategies/policy papers

The checklist was used to assess the strategy/policy paper for this study. Those are as follows:

1. The strategy/policy paper have any element for poverty alleviation
2. The strategy/policy paper have any element for gender equality
3. The strategy/policy paper have any element for old aged inclusion
4. The strategy/policy paper have any element for inclusion of people with disabilities
5. The strategy/policy paper have any element for children
6. The strategy/policy paper have any element for youth development
7. The strategy/policy paper have any element for marginal groups