Technology and Us: Connecting Dots

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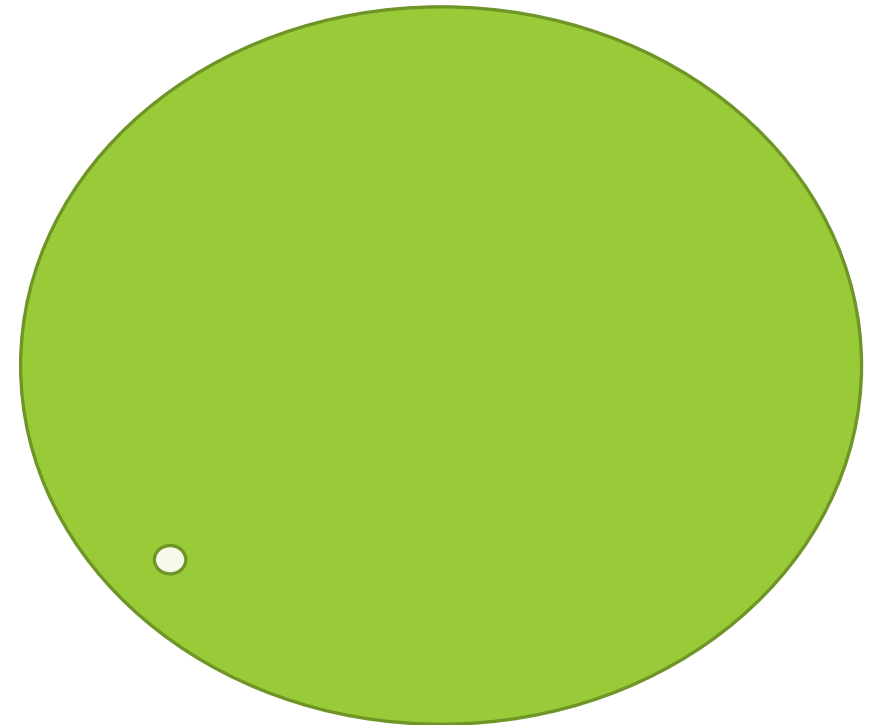# Introduction

Who am I

A dot in the big picture

Dreaming big

Studied in USA

Computer Science

Came back to Bangladesh (wanted to change the world)

Bangladesh

Who we are

Bangladesh, a beautiful country

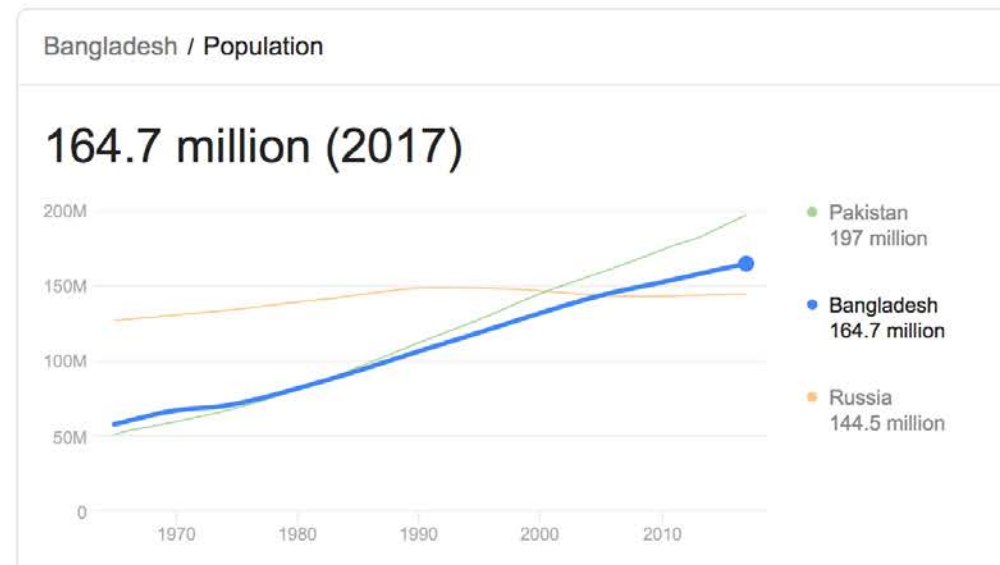Resources constraint and natural disasters

Enormous opportunities

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9yCeTtwk2E

http://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/index.php?lang=en

Bangladesh

Important Geographic location

164.7 million people

Per capita income 1466 USD

Bangladesh / Population

164.7 million (2017)

- Pakistan 197 million
- Bangladesh 164.7 million
- Russia 144.5 million

Bangladesh
Country in South Asia

Bangladesh, to the east of India on the Bay of Bengal, is a South Asian country marked by lush greenery and many waterways. Its Padma (Ganges), Meghna and Jamuna rivers create fertile plains

World bank, accessed on March 2019

Natural Disasters

Prone to natural disasters and climate change

More than 80% population is exposed to flood
- Around 25% land is exposed to flood
- Severe flood in every 4-5 year

More than 70% population is exposed to cyclone
- Major cyclone every 3-4 year
- Source: World Bank
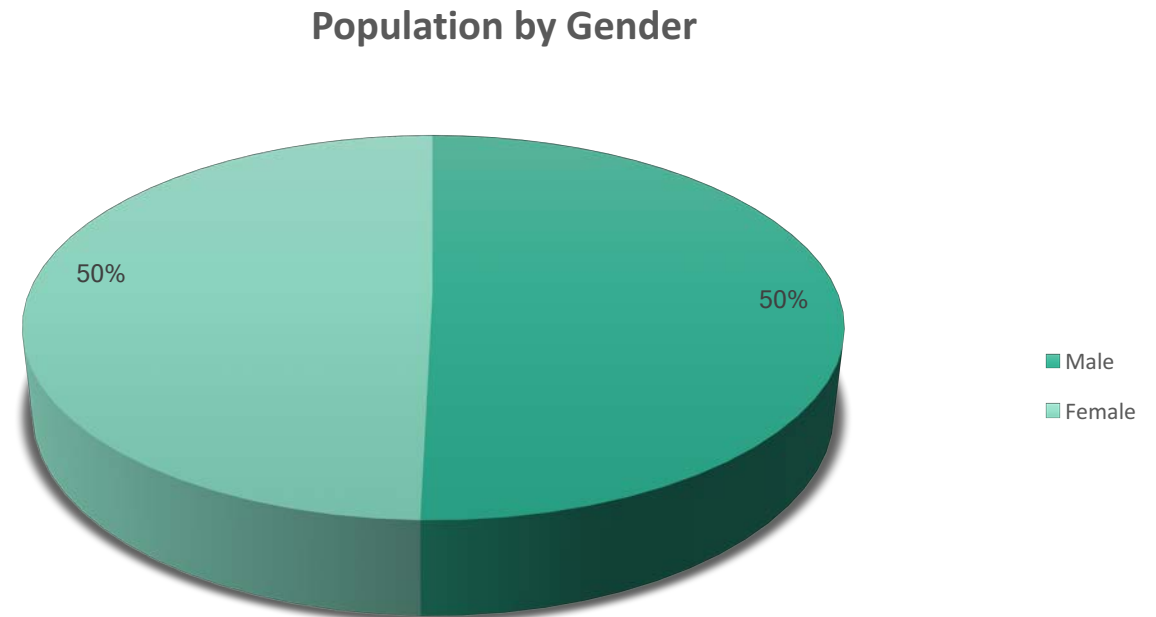

Oxfam Blog Post

Opportunities

Opportunities: People

Almost equal number of male and female population

Data from 2019
◦ Male 50.39%

◦ Female 49.61%

◦ 30% of population are young (10 to 19 years)

Population by Gender

50%   50%

■ Male
■ Female

Bangladesh bureau of statistics

Opportunities: People and Connectivity

People

Connectivity

The Mobile Phone subscribers are shown below:

OPERATOR	SUBSCRIBER (IN MILLIONS)
Grameen Phone Ltd. (GP)	73.068
Robi Axiata Limited (Robi)	46.900
Banglalink Digital Communications Limited	33.690
Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd. (Teletalk)	3.885
Total	157.544

BTRC, January 2019

Opportunities: Internet and global connectivity

Digital connectivity

The total number of Internet Subscribers has reached **91.421** Million at the end of January, 2019.

The Internet subscribers are shown below:

OPERATOR	SUBSCRIBER (Million)
Mobile Internet	85.630
WiMAX	0.061
ISP + PSTN	5.730
Total	**91.421**

BTRC, January 2019

Opportunities: Connectivity and Reducing Digital Divide

Research shows that education plays an important role

So does connectivity

Reduces digital divide

[Zhou, Yan, Nirvikar Singh, and P. D. Kaushik. "The digital divide in rural South Asia: survey evidence from Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka." *IIMB Management Review* 23.1 (2011): 15-29.]

Opportunities: Banking

Opens up opportunities

A particular revolution using Bkash

◦ 24 Million users in 2018

Table 1: Comparative summary statement of Mobile Financial Services (MFS)

Serial no	Description	Amount (in May, 2014)	Amount (in June, 2014)	% Change (May, to June,2014)
1	No. of approved Banks	28	28	-
2	No. of Banks started to convey the service	20	20	-
3	No. of agents	3,78,018	4,14,170	9.56%
4	No. of registered clients	161.48 lac*	167.10 lac*	3.48%
5	No. of active accounts	65.05 lac*	67.48 lac*	3.74%
6	No. of total transaction	3,76,78,005	4,40,15,721	16.82%
7	Total transaction in taka	8,205.99	8,523.01	3.86%

[5]Source: www.btrc.gov.bd

[Siddik, Md Nur Alam, et al. "Financial inclusion through mobile banking: a case of Bangladesh." *Journal of Applied Finance and Banking* 4.6 (2014): 109.]

Opportunities: Healthcare

It exists in research

Initiatives through calling options are popular such as Maya Apa

Much more to do

Maya Apa now a part of Google Launchpad Accelerator

Being the first startup from Bangladesh to join the programme, Maya Apa, a crowdsource that answers to anonymous user questions on topics such as healthcare and legal issues, has been selected to join the 5th class of Google Launchpad Accelerator. Supported by BRAC and the ICT Division of Bangladesh,

0 Shares

TOP NEWS

- 'We are one,' says PM Ardern as mourns with prayers, silence
- Farmland turns WASTELAND
- No retreat
- Big industries killing Halda
- Almost 100 dead as Iraq ferry s spring holiday trip
- 2 'drug traders' killed in Cox's 'gunfight'

Research Introduction
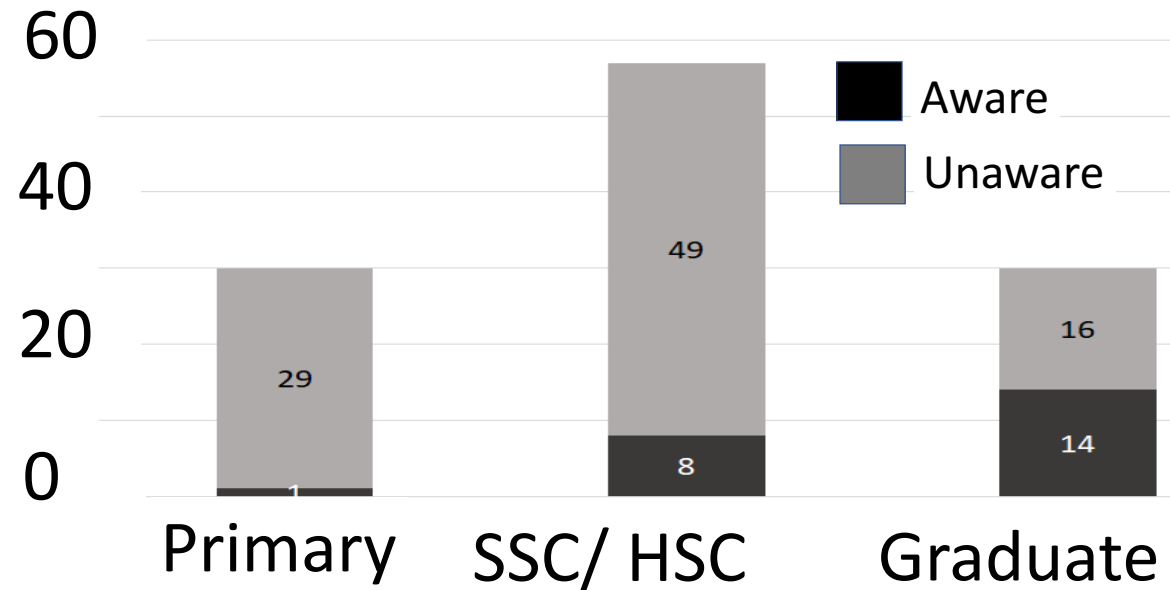# Low-cost local solutions

Breast Cancer

Low level of awareness

More than a disease

Requires special care

No one wants to talk about the problem

Calling it chest pain instead of breast pain.

Disaster Detection & awareness
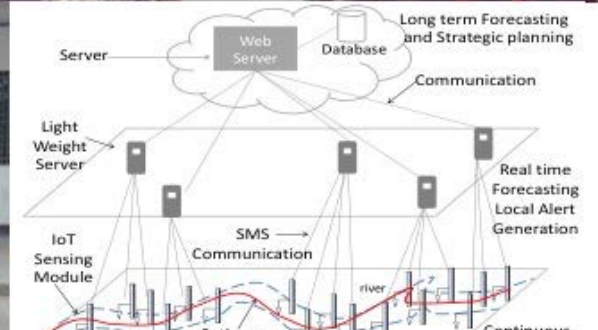
Shonabondhu (Golden Friend)

Detects flash flood

Low cost sensor solution

Uses connectivity of mobile phone network

Considers a mobile phone as a server

Social acceptance is a challenge

Family connection

Can we use technology to connect family bonds?

Preserve stories that are verbally stored?

Allow technology to create image or lost history?

Family (1981)

Socialization (1998)

Personal Achievements (1971)

Family (1978)

Puja Celebration (2017)

Eid Celebration (2018)

Puja Celebration (2015)

Iftar Party(2018)

Technology Challenges

Challenges: Abuse

Digital world abuse

Widens the digital divide

Impacts women more

Patriarchal views play a role

Challenges: Suppression

Digital Silence

Freedom of speech on cyber world

Controlled platform

Way Forward

Policy

Awareness

Ownership

Responsibility

Conclusion

Technology usage with awareness

Technology usage with policy changes

Technology usage with Support

Thank you