

# An Overview of the Hydropower Production Potential in Bangladesh to Meet the Energy Requirements

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## Abstract

Current environmental catastrophes generating from fossil fuel power generation has attracted the attention of energy planners to look for sustainable energy sources. Hydropower is one of the oldest energy sources that have been utilized all over the world to generate electricity, especially in remote areas. Being one of the most densely populated countries, the majority of power demand is fulfilled from fossil fuel. Despite having lots of rivers, Bangladesh has not explored its true potential. So, this paper presents a comprehensive review of the current hydropower potential in Bangladesh. Locations having hydropower potential is evaluated. Different technologies used for hydropower generation have been reviewed. Moreover, global hydropower potential has also been discussed in this study. Based on the economic and environmental study, it is found that small scale hydropower is most feasible in Bangladesh to provide sustainable energy. With a reasonable flow rate, 232 rivers of Bangladesh can be utilized small scale hydropower generation as well as ensuring energy security for remote people. The current study is believed to provide useful information in advancing the generation of hydropower based electricity in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh, Hydropower, Hydropower development, Renewable Energy



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## 1 **1. Introduction**

2 Currently, approximately 11% of the world population which accounts for 840 million people  
3 still lack access to electricity. Around 97% of the people population who lack quality electricity  
4 live in developing countries. Furthermore, global electricity demand will be doubled within 2050  
5 [1-4]. IEA report stated that about 16% of the world inhabitants won't have access to electricity  
6 by 2030 [5]. Providing rural areas with electricity is a major issue in some countries, particularly  
7 those in Asia [6]. Besides, the sustainable generation of power has also gained attention in recent  
8 years. Ongoing environmental issues such as global warming and GHG has encouraged global  
9 policymakers to shift towards clean power generation [6]. According to IEA, 2.5% of the world's  
10 total primary energy is supplied by Hydropower in 2018 [7]. Renewable energy resources open  
11 up the possibility of clean fuel technologies and thus can be a useful solution to combat issues  
12 such as global warming [8-13]. Among different renewable energy resources, hydropower is one  
13 of the cleanest sources of energy that can be utilized to address the electricity need in rural areas.  
14 Hydropower has certain advantages such as low operation cost, low emission, low fuel cost, low  
15 price, and higher plant(s) life than conventional power plants [14]. Hydropower can be  
16 categorized based on power output, head range, and operating system usages. Table 1, shows the  
17 different classification of Hydro-Power based on the above-mentioned criteria.

18 Among these technologies, Small Scale HydroPower (SSHP) is the purest form of energy  
19 since it does not emit more pollutants than other Large Scale HydroPower(LSHP) [24]. Besides  
20 has the disadvantage of ecological damage and large transmission loss due to long overhead  
21 transmission lines [25, 26]. For these reasons, investors have not lost interest while SCHP is  
22 gaining worldwide attention. Another significant hydropower technology that has attracted

1 attention is pumped hydro technology [27]. In this technology, water is stored in a high-head  
2 variation storage reservoir which is constructed in parallel to a large river. When energy demand  
3 is low or there is the availability of a large quantity of water, water is pumped and stored in the  
4 reservoir. This reserved water is used when there is a scarcity or when there is a need to generate  
5 electricity [27]. In 2018, the total primary energy consumption of Bangladesh was 47 Mtoe and  
6 on average 293 kgoe (kilogram oil equivalent) energy is used [28]. At the end of June 2018, only  
7 12.72 TCF of natural gas is in reserve and 3,100 million tonnes of coal is in reserve [28]. The  
8 total energy supply by various energy resources in Bangladesh for 2017-2018 is shown in Fig. 1  
9 [28]. From Fig. 1 it is depicted that a major portion of energy comes from natural gas.

10 Both the usage of coal as well as natural gas has stepped up from 2007 [29, 30]. For  
11 power generation, natural gas demand is rising day by day and power plants consume nearly 40%  
12 of the overall gas production [31]. Furthermore, there is a profound gap in production as well as  
13 demand.

14 In 2019 maximum demand was 13,044 MW while the maximum peak generation  
15 was 12,893 MW. Only Natural gas contributes to 68.49% of the total energy generation [32]. This  
16 dependency on fossil fuel is creating environmental hazards and also sustainability in this sector  
17 is deteriorating. Bangladesh government wants to meet 10% of its electricity demand by utilizing  
18 renewable sources [32, 33]. To foster the usage of sustainable sources and reduce the  
19 dependency on petroleum products, the Government of Bangladesh has undertaken some  
20 measures [34]. Not only public organizations but also private institutions are working  
21 relentlessly to harness energy from renewable energy resources. The main objective of this paper  
22 is to spotlight on the present condition of hydro based energy generation growth in Bangladesh.

1 This study not only highlights hydro based energy generation growth but also several  
2 implications. The current aim of this article is to highlight the present situation of Hydro energy  
3 development in Bangladesh. There are hardly any review studies for Bangladesh which address  
4 hydro energy development in Bangladesh. So, this study highlights these issues and points to  
5 some implications.

6

## 7 **2. Hydro Potential In Bangladesh**

8 Hydro energy is one the cleanest source of energy compared to other conventional energy  
9 sources that are used for power generation on a massive scale. As both costs of supply and GHG  
10 emissions are quite low, this makes hydropower generation an excellent choice for energy  
11 harvesting. Bangladesh is bestowed with lots of rivers and rivers play an important role in the  
12 livelihood of the people of Bangladesh. Figure 2 denotes the river network of Bangladesh [35].

13         Though Bangladesh is bestowed with lots of rivers, hydropower generation is not up to  
14 the mark due to the absence of high head and high flow rate. Resources are limited and proper  
15 utilization of these can lead to the generation of sustainable power for fulfilling the ever-  
16 increasing demand. Around 20% of the world's total electricity comes from hydro energy [36].  
17 Bangladesh is also trying to maximize hydropower generation by taking various measures.  
18 Kaptai power plant was the first hydropower plant in Bangladesh built with a capacity of  
19 230MW. During rainy seasons, excess rain creates an opportunity to produce more hydropower  
20 and that's why Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is planning to establish an  
21 additional 100 MW capacity plant in this area. Along with large scale hydropower plants, micro-  
22 hydropower plants also attracted the attention of people. The first small-scale micro-hydropower

1 plant of Bangladesh was established in Bandarban to meet the energy demand of 140 households  
2 and a temple with a capacity of 10 kW Government established a 50 kW micro-hydropower  
3 plant in Barkal Upazila, Rangamati [36].

4 Some potential sites for harvesting hydropower have been investigated in Bangladesh.  
5 Sustainable Rural energy project surveyed locations for micro-hydro plants in Chittagong district  
6 and it was estimated to be 135.5 MW. Sangu and Matamuhuri river basin comprising 87MW and  
7 80 MW of hydro potential capacity is considered suitable for power generation at an affordable  
8 cost. The expected annual energy production of the Sangu and Matamuhuri project will be 300  
9 GW/year and 200 GW/year respectively. Brahmaputra river basin has a massive potential of  
10 1,400 MW for large scale power generation [37].

11 he northeastern region of Bangladesh also has a promising potential to contribute to the  
12 hydro energy sector in Bangladesh. That's why, Northeast Regional Water Management Project  
13 (FAP-6) under Flood Action Plan (FAP), conducted a preliminary assessment to find out the  
14 potential sites and rivers to produce hydro energy. The project mainly aimed at finding the best  
15 feasible sites to establish runoff, low head hydropower plants [38]. Potential sites along with  
16 flow data are depicted in Table S1 (supplementary data). Considering 5m of head along with  
17 mean monthly discharges of these ten sites, they found the overall potential of 161 MW and  
18 energy production 1,410 GWh/yr. Nine rivers were also found to be suitable from this study.  
19 Normally, during the rainy season, there is a high discharge of water and in the winter season,  
20 rivers almost dry out. So, power generation will significantly decrease in the winter season. From  
21 these nine rivers, it was estimated that annually they will produce 37 GWh and estimated power

1 output will be 35 MW. Potential energy, as well as catchment areas of these rivers, are shown in  
2 Table 2 [39].

3 In 1981 BPDB and BWDB conducted a survey across the country to find out the possible  
4 hydro sites for small-scale hydropower plants. This study found 19 feasible sites for the  
5 generation of hydro-electricity which are shown in Table 3 [38, 39].

6 After three years, in 1984, a team of Chinese experts found 12 potential sites in the hill  
7 tract areas of Bangladesh to produce hydropower. Among these sites was Mahamaya Chara,  
8 located in Mirescharai in Chittagong. This site was found to have the highest potential to develop  
9 a small-scale hydropower plant. From feasibility study of Mahamaya Chara hydroelectricity can  
10 be produced throughout the year except in April and May. There is a proposal to construct a dam  
11 in Mahamaya Chara which will encompass an area of 10.5 km<sup>2</sup> to reserve water and provide  
12 irrigation facilities. A mini-hydro plant will be established at the foot of dam and reservoir water  
13 will run this plant [38]. The Hill tract of Bangladesh has enormous potential for hydro energy  
14 because of numerous small rivers and canals. LGED has been trying to employ hydro energy  
15 resources to meet the energy demand in hill tract areas. As a result, LGED located several  
16 prospective sites of remote hill tract region of Bangladesh. Prospective sites along with power  
17 generation potential, sectional area, lowest, and highest flood level are given in Table 4 [38, 39].

18 Sitakunda, Richang, as well as Toibang of Chittagong, have the potential to establish  
19 micro-hydropower plant [36]. Teesta barrage is the largest irrigation project in Bangladesh along  
20 with 19 potential sites for power generation. LGED investigated the potential to harness hydro  
21 energy and discovered 10 sites with more than 2 m head. Potential sites accompanied by  
22 discharge rate, water head, and water level are shown in Table 5. An overall percentage of

1 electricity production from hydropower resources in Bangladesh from 1971 to 2018 is shown in  
2 Fig. 3.

3

### 4 **3. Small Scale Hydropower Technology**

5 Small-scale hydropower technology is a major subclass of renewable and sustainable energy and  
6 is getting worldwide attention due to its major advantage from an environmental perspective, the  
7 abundance of resources, and increased efficiency. Bangladesh has a huge possibility of SSHT  
8 because of its plethora of rivers and canals which provide abundant water for hydropower  
9 generation. Despite this, SSHT nearly contributes to 2.34% of electricity generation in  
10 Bangladesh [40]. To increase the SSHT generation potential it is required to review SSHT  
11 technology for its adoption in Bangladesh.

12

#### 13 **3.1 General Structure and Principle of SSHT**

14 Hydropower plant has several benefits because of its large capacity of energy generation, size of  
15 the plant, opulence of resources, and ease of installation and maintenance compared to other  
16 energy resources [39]. But its existing efficiency and water power are not easy to extract without  
17 a proper generation system. The proper generation of SSHT principally depends on the head and  
18 flow [41, 42]. Head refers to water pressure determined by the elevation difference of intake and  
19 turbine expressed as vertical distance or force per square area. Flow is defined by the rate with  
20 which the water passes, expressed as the volume of water per unit time. These two factors (head  
21 and flow) play a major role in the performance of the turbine [43]. Major components of SSHT

1 include water supply and penstock pipe, turbine, electronic controller, distribution system, and  
2 electrical load. SSHT's working principle can be summarized as two-stage:

3 Firstly, water from reservoir flow hits the pen stock pipe which ultimately hits the turbine  
4 runner by which the first energy extraction takes place.

5 Secondly, the turbine system drives the generator when the shaft has attached with it,  
6 which converts the hydraulic power to mechanical power, and the generator to convert the  
7 mechanical power to electricity. Finally, this power is distributed through load and grid.

8 To access the potentiality of SSHT it is necessary to find out the energy generation,  
9 hydropower, and mechanical power potentiality. The ratio of these, which is hydropower and  
10 mechanical power potentialities indicates the experimental efficiency of the SSHT. Researchers  
11 have shown how to determine the hydro and mechanical power potentiality [42, 45, 46].

12 
$$H_p = \rho * g * H * Q \quad (1)$$

13 
$$M_p = T * \omega \quad (2)$$

14 
$$\eta = H_p / M_p \quad (3)$$

15 
$$E = w * y * t \quad (4)$$

16 Where,

17  $H_p$  = available theoretical power of water in watts

18  $M_p$  = mechanical power of the turbine in watts

19  $\eta$  = hydraulic efficiency of the turbine

20  $E$  = energy production per year

21  $\rho$  = mass density of water in kilo per cubic meter

22  $g$  = gravitational acceleration in meter per second square



1 H = effective pressure head of water in the meter

2 Q = rate of flow in cubic meter per second

3 T = torque generated by rotating shaft in Newton-meter

4  $\omega$  = rotational velocity in radians/second

5 w = capacity of the installation

6 y = capacity factor (capability of producing electricity in actual field condition expressed as  
7 average output to installed capacity over a period of time)

8 t = time duration, 8,670 h in one year

9 Several researchers have conducted experimental and numerical simulations to predict the  
10 efficiency of SSHT [47]. The study depicts that modern hydro turbine has 90% efficiency for  
11 converting mechanical energy to electricity by reducing the size of the turbine [43].  
12 Computational fluid dynamics is used largely to define the interaction among various  
13 components of hydropower, but this process may not able to evaluate loss and flow behaviour  
14 [48].

15

## 16 **3.2. Basic Small Hydropower System**

### 17 3.2.1. Turbine types based on the working principle

18 The hydro turbine is the principal component of SSHT. According to their work principle, hydro  
19 turbines are classified into two types: impulse turbines and reaction turbines. In SSHT suitability  
20 of impulse and reaction turbine are based on available water head.

21

#### 22 3.2.1.1. Impulse turbine

1 In an impulse turbine, steam strikes the blades, and moving steam circulates through the blade.  
2 Depending upon the water head, impulse turbines have several types which are shown in Table  
3 S2 (supplementary data) [49].

#### 4 5 3.2.1.2. Reaction turbine

6 In this turbine, steam hits the blades axially and circulates the blades circumferentially.  
7 Depending upon the water head, the reaction turbines have several types. Considering medium  
8 head (30-100m), there are two types, one is Francis Turbine and another is Pump as a turbine.  
9 For ultra-low head which indicates head below 2m, two main types of the turbine are Propeller  
10 Turbine and Kaplan Turbine [49].

#### 11 12 3.2.2. Turbine types based on economic and technological point of view

13 Based on the economic and technological point of view four turbines, namely: Pelton, Francis,  
14 Kaplan, and Turgo turbine are widely used because of the low cost of the powerhouse, efficiency  
15 generation, and head suitability.

#### 16 17 3.2.2.1. Pelton turbine

18 Pelton turbine consists of a split bucket surrounding particular rims where water jet from  
19 penstock is accelerated and made to flow out rapidly causing high-speed water jets to ultimately  
20 hit the blade which revolves the wheel generating torque on its shaft and generating power by  
21 converting head pressure into kinetic energy [50]. It consists of four parts: nozzle and flow  
22 regulator, runner and bucket, casing, and braking jets. Geometric design (diameter of bucket

1 center, nozzle, jet, and width) and jet velocity of Pelton turbines depends on the speed of the  
2 runner, head of water, and rate of flow, and is calculated as using the following equations [51-  
3 52] :

$$4 \quad D_1 = 40.8 * \left(\frac{\sqrt{H}}{N}\right) \quad (5)$$

$$5 \quad B_1 = 1.68 * \sqrt{\left(\frac{Q}{k\sqrt{H}}\right)} \quad (6)$$

$$6 \quad D_e = 1.178 * \sqrt{\frac{Q}{k\sqrt{gH}}} \quad (7)$$

$$7 \quad D_j = 0.54 * \sqrt{\left(\frac{Q}{\sqrt{H}}\right)} \quad (8)$$

$$8 \quad V_{jet} = 0.97 * \sqrt{2gH} \quad (9)$$

9 Where,

10  $D_1$  = circle diameter describing bucket center line in meters

11  $B_1$  = width of bucket in meters

12  $D_e$  = diameter of the nozzle in meters

13  $D_j$  = diameter of the jet in meters

14  $V_{jet}$  = jet velocity in meter per seconds

15  $g$  = gravitational acceleration in meter per second square

16  $H$  = net head of water in meters

17  $N$  = speed of the runner

18  $Q$  = flow rate in cubic meter

19  $K$  = number of nozzles

20  $D_1/B_1 > 2.7$

21

### 1 3.2.2.2. Turgo turbine

2 Turgo turbine is an impulse type turbine where high-speed water jet hits the turbine blades  
3 resulting in reverse flow. Basic parts of this turbine are nozzle, runner and buckets, casing, and  
4 breaking jets. Though the Turgo turbine is an extension of the Pelton turbine it has some physical  
5 differences. Turgo turbine has numerous advantages over Pelton turbines such as low cost of  
6 rotors, high flow rate, and control regulation of flow rate. Additionally, as there are fixed jets in  
7 the Turgo turbine it is necessary to maintain a fixed rate of flow.

8

### 9 3.2.2.3. Francis turbine

10 Francis turbine is designed in such a way that one part of the blade creates pressure difference on  
11 others for the production of electricity in hydropower stations. This turbine is the combination of  
12 both impulse and reaction types where blades revolve through the reaction and impulse force of  
13 the flow. It consists of a spiral casing, stays vanes, guided vanes, runner blades, and draft tube.  
14 Although it has several advantages, the inception of this turbine is difficult and cavitation along  
15 with dirt creates a serious problem. The geometric shape of this turbine can be found following  
16 the equations listed below [50-53]:

$$17 \quad D_1 = 84.5 * \left( 0.31 + 2.49 * \frac{94 * N_s}{998} \right) * \left( \frac{\sqrt{H}}{N} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$18 \quad D_2 = \left( 0.4 + \frac{94.5}{N_s} \right) * D_1 \quad (11)$$

$$19 \quad D_3 = \frac{D_1}{0.96 + (3.8 * N_s * 10^{-3})} \quad (12)$$

20 Where,

21  $D_1$  = exit diameter in meters

1  $D_2$ = runner inlet diameter in meters

2  $D_3$ = inlet diameter in meters

3 
$$N_s = \frac{N\sqrt{P_t}}{H_n^{5/4}}$$

4  $P_t$  = turbine power in watt

5  $N_s$  = specific speed; if  $N_s < 163$  then  $D_2 = D_3$

6

#### 7 3.2.2.4. Kaplan turbine

8 Kaplan turbine is principally based on axial flow reaction where water flows through a runner  
9 along the axis of rotation of the runner [43]. The reaction force of water is responsible for turning  
10 the Kaplan turbine [54]. Basic components of the Kaplan turbine are scroll casing, guide vane,  
11 draft tube, and runner blades. Upstream installed guide vane creates better efficiency of the  
12 Kaplan turbine. In Kaplan turbine, the cavitation problem due to pressure drop in the draft tube  
13 creates serious problems that can be mitigated by using stainless steel in runner blades. The basic  
14 dimension of Kaplan turbines is determined by applying the following equations [51-52]. Table  
15 S3 (supplementary data) shows various types of turbines along with their heads and their suitable  
16 operating condition [55].

17 
$$D_1 = 84.5 * (0.79 + 1.6 * 10^{-3} * N_s) * \left(\frac{\sqrt{H}}{N}\right) \quad (13)$$

18 
$$D_2 = \left(0.25 + \frac{94.5}{N_s}\right) * D_1 \quad (14)$$

19 Where,

20  $D_1$  = runner exit diameter in meters

21  $D_2$ = runner inlet diameter in meters

1 3.2.3. Penstock & valves

2 The penstock is used to lead the water to the turbine and materials should be chosen carefully so  
3 that it can handle the water pressure going towards the turbine [56]. The diameter of the penstock  
4 can be measured via equation (15) [57]. Various loss associated with penstock is delineated in  
5 Table S4 (supplementary data) [57].

6 
$$D = C_1 * C_2 * Q^{.43} * Ho^{0.14} \tag{15}$$

7 Here, D is the diameter of Penstock

8  $C_1$  &  $C_2$  are energy co-efficient & material co-efficient of the penstock,

9 While designing a hydropower plant there are various losses associated with penstock. This can  
10 be determined by Eq. (16).

11 
$$H_{friction} = H_{wall} + H_{minor} \tag{16}$$

12 Where, 
$$H_{wall} = \frac{.08 * F.F * l * Q^2}{Dp^5} \tag{17}$$

13 
$$H_{minor} = \frac{V^2}{2g} (K_e + K_{b1} + K_{b2} + K_{c1} + K_{c2} + \dots + K_v) \tag{18}$$

14 Here, F.F = Friction Factor

15 L = Length of pipe

16  $D_p$  = Inner diameter of the pipeline

17  $K_{c1}$ ,  $K_{c2}$  are sudden contraction ratio for the different ratio of large to the small pipe diameter.

18 V = Velocity of water

19  $K_{b1}$ ,  $K_{b2}$  are loss of heads in bends

20  $K_v$  = Loss of head through valves

21

### 1 **3.3. Previous Work through Numerical and Experimental Simulation**

2 Numerous studies are performed focusing on the flow behavior of fluids concerning energy  
3 transformation, velocity and pressure variation, and water head and its effect on turbines  
4 performance which are summarized in Table 6.

5 It is evident from Table 6 that power generation from the hydro turbine is contingent  
6 upon various factors, such as pressure drop, vane angle, tip speed ratio, flow velocity, the  
7 arrangement of the hydro turbine, position of air suction hole on the chamber wall. As a result,  
8 while installing SSHT for a specific region, these factors are crucial to design and efficiently  
9 operate the hydropower generation process. For instance, the tip speed ratio is an important  
10 factor for harvesting power from hydro energy. Up to a maximum tip speed of 6.5 is sufficient  
11 for generating efficient power. CFD analysis is widely used for analyzing the performance of  
12 SSHT considering various conditions which are evident from Table 6. For analyzing the effect of  
13 various parameters such as the position of air suction hole, flow rate, tip shape, blade angle,  
14 varying head, the orientation of turbine blades, and geometry CFD analysis is extensively used  
15 which are discussed in Table 6. There are still lots of scope for development in harnessing  
16 energy from hydropower. Advanced modelling and controlling techniques to maximize the  
17 operation of the hydro turbine is need to be explored. Currently, numerous research and  
18 development are ongoing for the development of technologies of hydropower such as improving  
19 hydropower flexibility, fish-friendly hydro turbine design, energy storage with variable speed  
20 turbines etc. [77].

21

### 22 **4. Economic and Environmental Aspects**

1 Economic analysis plays an important role in the hydropower project. The capital cost involved  
2 in the hydropower project is relatively very high while operation and maintenance cost is low.  
3 Besides cost, site and environmental characteristics should also be paid attention during the  
4 feasibility stage of the project. In this section, economic and environmental analysis has been  
5 carried out.

6

#### 7 **4.1. Economic Analysis:**

8 Installed capacity, hydraulic head and estimated cost per kW should be considered for cost  
9 estimation of the Hydropower project. Aggidis et al. developed formulas to estimate the cost of  
10 Hydropower project based on hydraulic characteristics (head and flow) of a site[78]. The above-  
11 mentioned formulas are shown below

12 For head range from (2-30 m),  $C = 25,000 * \left(\frac{kW}{H^{0.35}}\right)^{0.65}$  .(19)

13 For head range from (30-200 m),  $C = 45,000 * \left(\frac{kW}{H^{0.30}}\right)^{0.60}$  (20)

14 Where H depicts head range and C defines cost.

15 The cost of electromechanical equipment (gearbox, turbine and generator) depends on the  
16 hydraulic characteristics of the sites. For small scale hydro projects, the following equations can  
17 be utilized to estimate the electromechanical equipment cost. Here,  $C_{EM}$  is the electromechanical  
18 equipment cost [79].

19  $C_{EM} = 12,000 * \left(\frac{kW}{H^{0.20}}\right)^{0.56}$  (21)

20



1 In the above-mentioned costs, there was no way to differentiate between the expenses between  
2 different types of turbines. For instance, Kaplan turbine generally has two bands of flow rates  
3 that are used to find out the relationship between turbine cost and flow rate. For the flow rate  
4 between (0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 5 m<sup>3</sup>/s), the following equation can be used.

$$5 \quad C_{k_1} = 15000 * (Q * H)^{0.68} \quad (22)$$

6 For higher flow rate (5 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 30 m<sup>3</sup>/s), equation 5 can be used [78]

$$7 \quad C_{k_2} = 46,000 * (Q * H)^{0.35} \quad (23)$$

8

## 9 **4.2. Environmental Aspects**

10 The increased reliability of production of energy from the renewable resources will impart  
11 positive impacts on the environment by reducing the pollution being caused by the utilisation of  
12 fossil fuels [80-85]. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) stated that SHS has  
13 minimal impact on flora and fauna, has minimal deforestation, and negligible submergence [86].  
14 Besides, Kosnik also stated that the impact of hydro technology on the environment decreases  
15 with the size of the technology. This study also stated that SHS has also minimal riverine impact  
16 than large scale hydro [87]. Besides IEA also believed that the minimal environmental impact of  
17 SHS is due to construction activities and changes in water quality [7]. IEA also delineated that;  
18 flooding caused due to SHS is minimal than Large scale systems. Besides no large dam is  
19 necessary for SHS and this construction period is less. Varun et al. also put SHS beside wind as a  
20 sustainable energy source for energy generation since these systems emit only 31–75 CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh  
21 in the atmosphere [88]. Chhetri et al. [90] also highlighted the issue and complemented SHS as a  
22 sustainable source.

## 1 **5. Global Hydro Resource Potential**

2 The world hydropower installed capacity is estimated to be 1132 GW in 2018 [90]. More than 20  
3 GW was added in 2018 to reach this installed capacity. More than 35% of new installations have  
4 been made in China which as a result makes them the leader [91]. Several studies have also  
5 assessed the hydropower potential. To measure gross hydropower potential in Europe, a model-  
6 based approach was undertaken by Lehner et al. [92] with consideration of socio-economic  
7 changes and climate. The synthetic hydro network was used by Cyr, et al. to map the small  
8 hydropower resources [93]. The gross, technical, and economic hydropower potentials in China  
9 were estimated as 6.1 petawatt hours per (pWh), 2.5, and 1.8 pWh, respectively [94, 95]. The  
10 hydropower potential in the United States was estimated at 2.7 pWh/year [96]. A study by Zhou  
11 et al. reported that total global gross hydropower potential is estimated to be approximately 128  
12 pWh/year [96]. The technical potential is 26 pWh/year. The economic potential ranges from 8 to  
13 25 pWh/year with a cut-off cost from 0.05 to 0.15 \$/kWh/year [96]. In 2018, pumped storage  
14 capacity also showed an increment of 1.9 GW and the year-end total was 160 GW [90]. The  
15 majority of these installations are from China, Austria, and the United States.

## 17 **6. Recommendations**

18 In Bangladesh, the land is scarce, and developing large scale hydropower plant will bring about  
19 negative impacts such as destroying the ecosystem in the selected area, relocation of living  
20 beings, methane formation, etc. Moreover, building these kinds of large hydro plants requires a  
21 constant high flow of water flow along with high construction cost which is not feasible for a  
22 developing country like Bangladesh. The small scale Hydropower plant is gaining importance in

1 providing sustainable hydropower in developing countries [16]. Small scale hydro turbine can be  
2 operated between 3m to 10m head, so it is a feasible solution for power generation like the flat  
3 landscape in Bangladesh along with low water head. Our northeastern region has a good amount  
4 of flow rate of water and head, so more micro hydro plants can be developed in these regions.  
5 Bangladesh has almost 232 rivers along with a reasonable flow rate [55]. So, developing small  
6 scale runoff hydro plants is a good way to harness more energy from hydropower. We can utilize  
7 the natural flow of these rivers to generate small scale hydropower to supply decentralized  
8 energy to the remote area people. As a result, overall pressure on the national grid will deduce.  
9 From the economic analysis, it is recommended that proper technology and site selection should  
10 be done during the feasibility study. Proper selection of these parameters is necessary for  
11 economic sustainability. The environmental analysis, it is clear that Bangladesh should avoid  
12 large scale hydro systems. Importance should be given on small scale systems since its effect on  
13 the environment is marginal.

14

## 15 **7. Conclusions**

16 Due to rapid financial advancement energy usage is on the rise in Bangladesh. The energy  
17 demand is increasing with a forecasted rate of abridgement around 7-8% per year. To achieve the  
18 goal of vision 2020, Bangladesh needs to invest in more on renewable energy projects. It will  
19 provide both ample job opportunities and green sustainable energy. Furthermore, to cope up with  
20 energy demand, the trend of renewable-based grid-connected power and increment of total  
21 generation capacity is on the rise nowadays. In this study, hydro energy potential in Bangladesh,  
22 as well as significant accomplishments are explained in detail. The assessment of modern

1 appliances is also delineated in this study. Several latest technologies, for example, pumped  
2 hydro projects can be a suitable option to fulfil the energy demand of people. More research on  
3 the small-scale hydropower feasibility and its economic and environmental benefit is also needed  
4 to be studied for Bangladesh. Efficient control and optimized design of small-scale hydro  
5 turbines considering site locations and environmental conditions need to be assessed in the future.  
6 Furthermore, onsite data exploration such as climatic conditions, long term data analysis of flow  
7 rate in various seasons, water pressure for individual potential small scale hydropower plant  
8 needs to be further explored.

## 10 **Nomenclature**

BPDB	Bangladesh Power Development Board
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamic
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IEA	International Energy Agency
IRN	International River Network
LSHP	Large Scale Hydropower
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
SSHP	Small Scale Hydropower
SSHPT	Small Scale Hydropower Technology
PEC	Primary Energy consumption

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MTE Million Tonnes of Equivalent

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SI Sustainability index

---

WER Waste exergy ratio

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1

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5

## 6 **Author Contributions**

7 M.I.M. (Master student) developed the conceptualization, methodology, and wrote the  
8 manuscript. A.A. (Ph.D.) helped in developing the conceptualization, methodology, and wrote  
9 the manuscript. H.C. (Master student) helped in developing the conceptualization and  
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12 insights into the study, review the manuscript, and helped with publishing. P.C. (Bachelors  
13 Student) provided literature resources and analysis. T.C. (Master student) contributed to the  
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15 provided valuable insights.

16

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15  
16 **Table 1.** Subdivision of Hydro-Power Based on Different Criteria

Classification	Description
1) Power Output [15-19]	
Large	Higher than 100 MW
Medium	10-100 MW
Small	1-10 MW
Mini	100 KW-1 MW
Micro	5-100 KW
Pico	Less than 5 KW
2) Head Range [20-22]	
Higher head	100 m and above
Medium Head	30-100 m
Lower head	2-30 m



3) The operating system[23]	Considering different parameters various types and sizes of a hydropower plant can be built. Operating parameters such as head as well as flow rate, hydropower plants can be of three types.
Run of river type	In this scheme, power is generated by the natural flow of water, and the flow of water is not controlled. Naturally, it is subject to water shortage during the summer season, and water is filled in a reservoir in the rainy season. Whenever there is a high flow rate exceeding the capacity, then there is water spillage, which means loss of energy.
Reservoir type	In this scheme, an excess portion of water is stored in the reservoir, and power generation is regulated based on demand. It is dependent on the topology of the land where the plant will be built.
Pumped Storage type	This scheme utilizes electricity to pump up water from storage located at the bottom portion of a site to the top of the storage. This type of hydro plant works not only as an energy source but also as an energy storage device. But it is quite arduous to find a suitable location for a pumped storage type plant.

1

2 **Table 2.** Hydro-power Potential in Meghalaya Rivers of the Northeast Region [39]

River	Site	Catchments area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated annual output	
			(MW)	(GWh)
Someswari	Dugapur	2134	5	43
Jadukata	Saktiakhola	2513	13	115
Jhalukhali	Dalura	448	5	45
Sarigoyain	Lalakhali TG	802	3	30
Lubha	Mugulgul	724	3	27
Dhalai	Khalasadaq	342	2	15
Umium	Chalehnapur	518	2	20
Bhugai	Hatipagar	453	1	6
Darang	Ghosegaon	381	1	6
Total			35	307

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2 **Table 3.** Prospective Sites for Micro Hydropower Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts [38,  
3 39].

<b>Location</b>	<b>Cross Sectional area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Lowest flood level (m)</b>	<b>Highest flood level (m)</b>	<b>Power (kW)</b>
Nunchari Tholi Khal, Khagrachari	11	0.06 (May)	3	5
Sealock Khal in Bandarban	25	0.15 (April)	4	30
Taracha Khal in Bandarban	35	0.1 (April)	6	20
Rowangchari Khal in Bandarban	30	0.1 (April)	5	10
Hnara Khal in Kamal Chari, Rangamati	20	0.15 (May)	4.20	10
Hnara Khal in, Hang Khrue Chara M ukh, Rangamati	25	0.12 (May)	4	30
Monjaipara micro hydropower Unit	15	0.50	1	10
Bamer Chara irrigation Project	10			

4

5 **Table 4.** Potential Small Hydropower Sites Identified by BPDB and BWDB [38, 39].

<b>District</b>	<b>River/Stream</b>	<b>Potential of electrical energy (kW)</b>
Chittagong	Faiz Lake	4
Chittagong	Choto Kumira	15
Chittagong	Hinguli Chara	12
Chittagong hilltracts	Sealock	81
Chittagong	Lungichara	10
Chittagong	Budichara	10
Sylhet	Nikhan Chara	26

Sylhet	MadhabChara	78
Sylhet	Banga Pani Gung	616
Jamalpur	Bhugai Kangsa	60 kW for 10 months 48 kW for 2 months
Jamalpur	Marisi	35 kW for 10 months 20 kW for 2 months
Dinajpur	Badul	24
Dinajpur	Chawai	32
Dinajpur	Talma	24
Dinajpur	Pathraj	32
Dinajpur	Tangon	48
Dinajpur	Punar Haba	11
Rangpur	Bari Khora	32
Rangpur	Ful Kumar	48

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2 **Table 5.** Summary of Previous Research Work Reported on SSHT

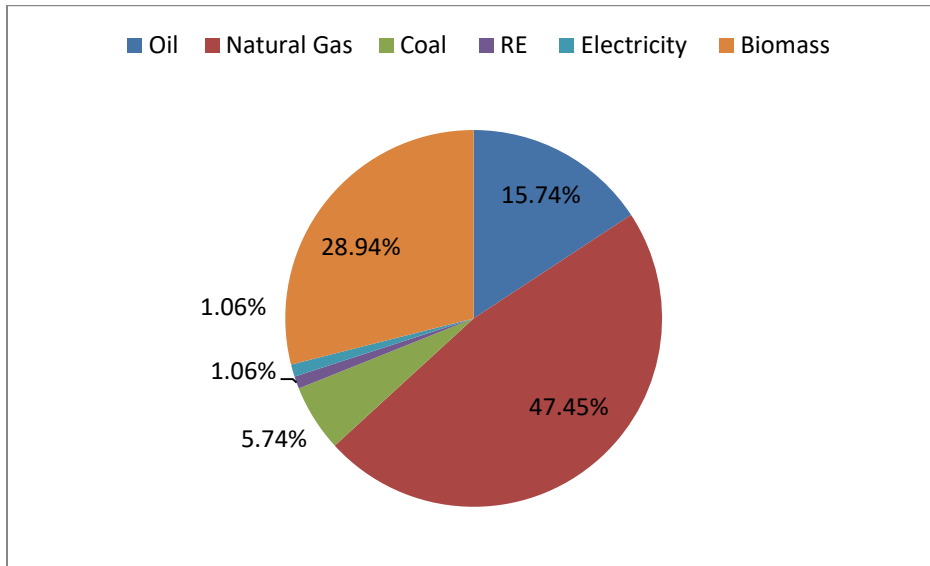
Study	Research objective	Results
[58]	Use large eddy current simulation on several blade and vane angles considering fluid as unsteady and incompressible flow, to determine the effect of pressure and flow velocity on hydro turbine efficiency.	At 320 blade angle maximum and minimum static pressure exists. At 600, 650 and 700 blade angles maximum static pressure are 213 kPa, 217 kPa, and 207 kPa respectively. Efficiency and pressure distribution of hydro turbines vary with guide vane angle.
[59]	Numerical simulation to find the effect of tip speed ratio on power generation.	Up to tip speed ratio 6.5, the power output increases with increasing tip speed ratio. Beyond that, the power output decreases with increasing speed ratio. High pressure exists in the front of the turbine and there is low pressure on its backside.
[60]	Measure the pressure drop, energy extraction, torque of hydro turbine.	For a definite flow velocity torque decreases in a quasilinear fashion with rotating velocity. The pressure drop across the turbine increases with using nozzle and diffuser for axial flow turbines which generates more power from water energy.

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		<p>For specific water flow, velocity torque decreases in a quasi-linear fashion with increasing rotational speed.</p> <p>As in any definite rotating speed, torque reduces as subsequent flow speed decreases.</p> <p>With increasing rotating speed, power extraction increases up to the maximum power, beyond which further increasing rotating speed reduces power extraction.</p>
[61]	Investigate the shot water wheel performance.	<p>The acceptable efficiency of the water wheel is 74.85% which lies within acceptable ranges (70% to 96%). Analytical and actual water strike curve vane on the bucket velocity is 10.22 m/s and 11.3 m/s respectively. Investigation shows that for NACA63415 shaped turbines, where blade with 0.5m radius, power generation increases with the flow velocity. Among three different flow velocities (1 m/s, 1.5 m/s, and 2 m/s), maximum power generation was by 2 m/s flow velocity. For 1 m/s to 1.5 m/s and 1.5 m/s to 2 m/s flow velocity variation output increases up to 3 to 8 times respectively.</p>
[62]	Investigate the effect of flow velocity on the performance of SSHT.	<p>For marine current turbines similar behavior like is observed here for flow velocity of 2.5 m/s and 5 m/s.</p>
[63, 64]		<p>Investigation results show that with increasing flow velocity power generation increases up to maximum power, beyond this reverse phenomenon is seen.</p>
[49]	Effect of the water wheel in hydro turbine.	<p>For head below 2m water, the wheel is more preferred.</p>
[65]		<p>Maximum water wheel efficiency is obtained for 6 number blades rather than 8 to 12 number blades.</p> <p>6, 8 and 12 number blades generate power of 0.041W, 0.036W and 0.026W respectively.</p> <p>6 bladed waterwheel showed 57% improved efficiency than 12 bladed wheels.</p>
[66]	Effect of the arrangement of turbine on hydraulic efficiency.	<p>Triangular arrangement along with 645 mm spacing extract maximum power in comparison with rhombus, square, series, parallel arrangement.</p>
[67]	Novel propeller turbine performance investigation through CFD analysis.	<p>The turbine operation largely depends on the existing flow rate and mismatching of turbine rotor design.</p> <p>Flow rate affects the output which is possible to reduce by new rotor design.</p>
[68]	CFD analysis was performed to analyze air supply method for	<p>The position of the air layer in turbine runner passage plays an important role in preventing shocking loss and</p>

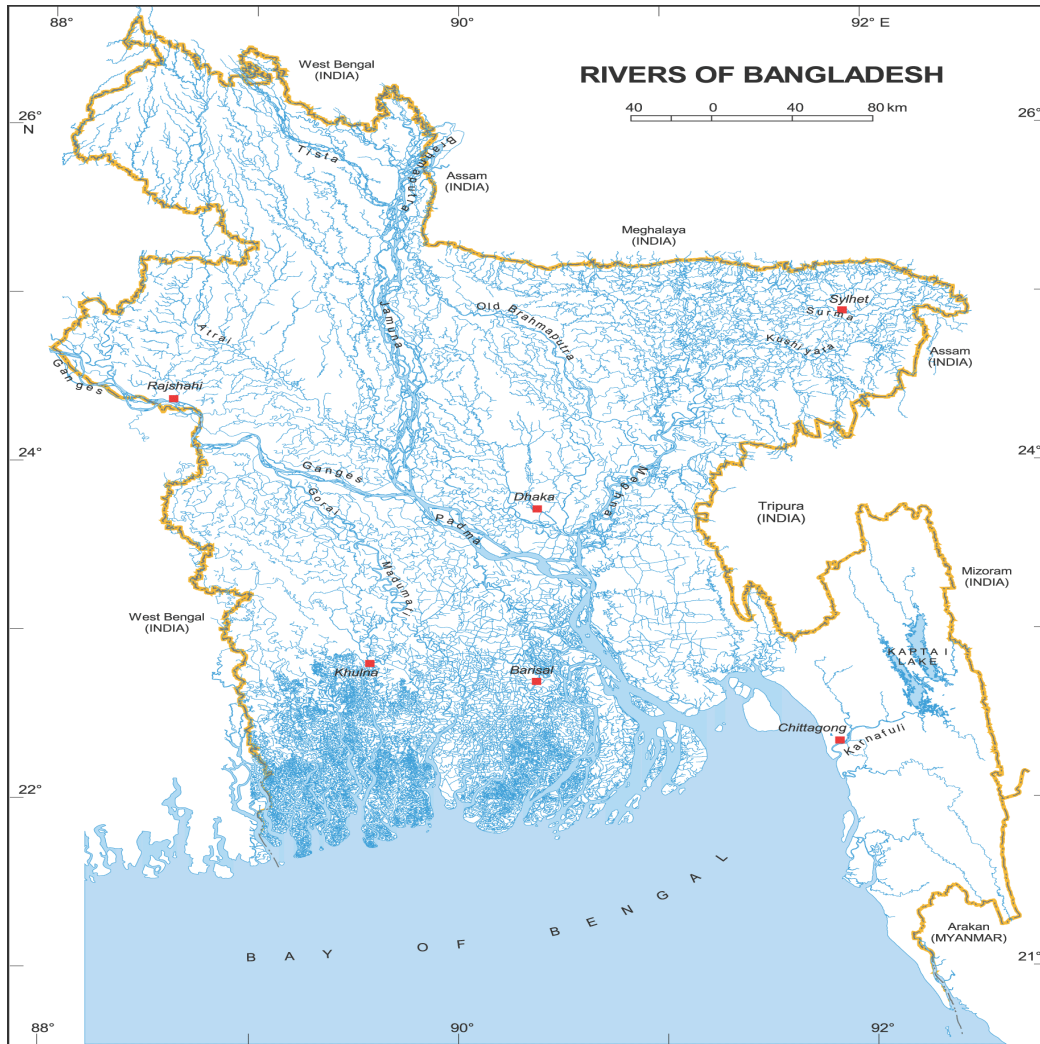
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	crossflow turbine.	recirculation flow in the runner.
[69]	To predict water performance of horizontal axis tidal stream CFD fluent analysis is performed.	The performance of turbine largely depends on the position of the air suction hole on the chamber wall. Changing the tip shape slightly improved the cavitation performance of the raked tip turbine.
[70]	To evaluate performance analysis of pico type turbine CFX CFD with varying runner blade shape	Lower blade angle hydro turbine shows better performance than higher blade angle.
[71]	CFD analysis was performed to optimize the complex geometry of the Kaplan blade.	Change in orientation and geometry of the blade affects the turbine blade efficiency.
[72]	Both CFD and experimental studies were carried out to determine the performance of the Kaplan turbine at full and partial loading.	For total pressure at mid-span shows that at the suction side of blade pressure remain below vapor pressure.
[73]	CFD analysis was performed to determine the suitability of turbine at high head river and efficiency of mini-hydropower at Panching waterfall	For high head mini-hydropower Pelton elbow PVC turbine is most suitable. The efficiency of the Pelton turbine is 0.961 whereas the Pelton elbow PVC is 0.97.
[74]	Experimental and CFD analyses were performed to determine axial flow pump performance.	The axial pump can efficiently work as a turbine and is best suitable for a developing country where proper turbines are not easily available.
[75]	Experimental study was performed to find out the factor influencing rotation per minute (rpm) of the water wheel.	Because of the higher volume retained by the triangular blade, it produces high rpm than the propeller blade shape, and the 20° nozzle angle shows maximum efficiency for both propeller and triangular waterwheel.
[76]	CFD analysis was performed to evaluate the performance of the portable micro- hydrokinetic turbine.	Maximum power coefficient of 0.43 with 73.7% efficiency is achieved relative to Betz limit, and propeller design portable hydrokinetic turbine may not require a large civil engineering structure.



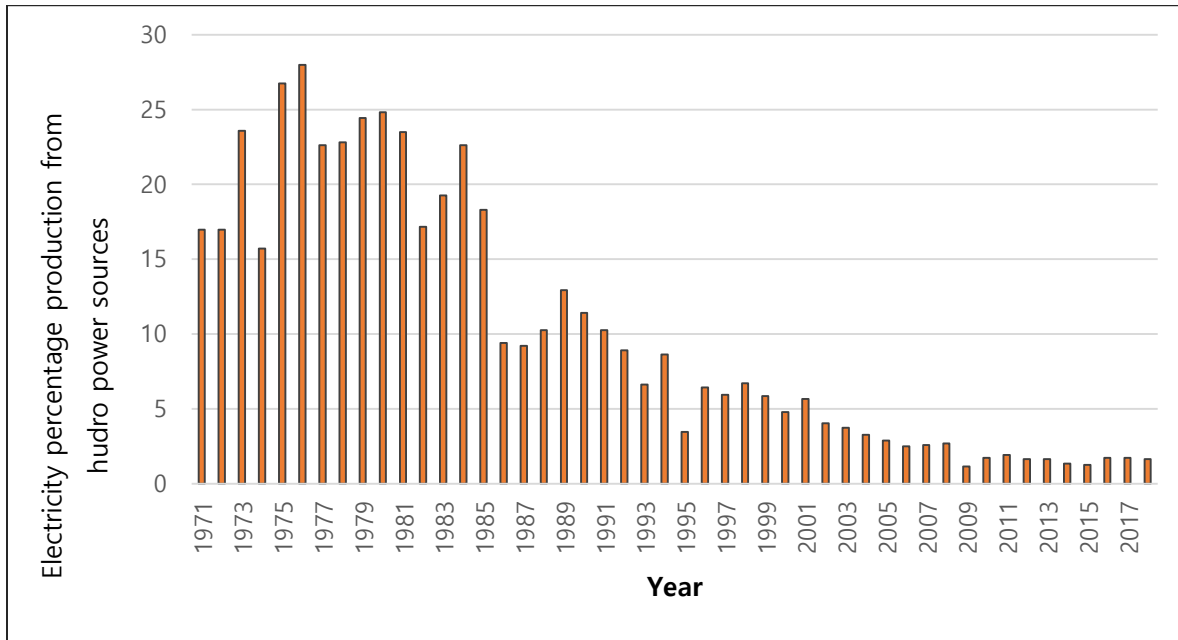
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2 **Fig. 1.** Total energy supplied (%) by various resources in Bangladesh [28].



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2 **Fig. 2.** Map of the river network of Bangladesh [35].



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2 **Fig. 3.** Electricity percentage production from hydropower sources in Bangladesh from 1971 to  
 3 2018 [36].

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Environmental Engineering