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**Application of Anthony Giddens and Ulrich Beck's Theories Based on Sociological Study on Women's Demographic Change in Dhaka City**

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*Globalization, Reflexive Modernity, Demographic Revolution, Women Empowerment*

**Abstract:**

Globalization and reflexive modernization are the main reasons for the development of the current social system. The discussion on women's demographic change in Bangladesh is not new rather than this must be voiced issue. Women are playing a significant role in various sectors in the country. Women are making themselves strongly changing socio-economic conditions, not only by indulging in household chores but also involving themselves in different sectors like RMG, banking, IT, teaching, and so on. By discussing some of the theories of Anthony Giddens and Ulrich Beck, presenting the current social context of the women of Bangladesh which has shown how they are self-conscious and self-reliant. These theoretical standpoints have been used to identify causes, consequences, and adaptation mechanisms to deal with the modern social system. This study highlights how relationship patterns and labor markets are changing due to globalization. It also analyzes the responsible elements and symptoms of the individualization of women in Bangladesh. The recent conflicting interests, love, and sexual life are investigated in this paper.

## **Introduction**

The demographic change of women has become a dramatic global phenomenon. Dimensions of the global modernity process inter-relates to the demographical change in Bangladesh. A change in socio-economic status in Bangladesh, particularly in women's life style is likely to bring about a change in the desired family size, relationship pattern, self-identity, and labor market. In the previous period, women faced more obstacles but in recent periods they earn their sexual emancipation that means moral and ethical issues are sequestered in our society. Emotional and sexual democratization helps to create social and psychic change in our society. We have already seen some of the changes of women in our country likely selective discrimination, family size falls faster, female abortion, sex detection techniques, prenatal methods, etc. Women are joining various workplaces such as garment factories, government offices, and also private sectors. Changes in the status of women in Bangladesh, particularly related to increased opportunities for education, selection of the spouse, security, economic development, democratization of relationship, sexual autonomy, and gender equality. Globalization and the Reflexive Modernization process interrelate to the transformation of intimate relationships in our country. Nowshin (2018) claims that the divorce rate in Bangladesh is constantly increasing in the past seven years, it has increased massive 34 percent. In all the total circulation, women also represent their identity. Recent period, they deal with their own identity for the reflexive modernization process. Reflexive modernization in our country that has recently gained political momentum, the new social movements are also considered to be an expression of reflexive modernization. A demographic revolution is now largely based on strong technological foundation Women are connecting with ICT and modern technologies. This study also examined issues of social constraints, risk, and other limitations of the women involved to work in a male-dominated society. The study findings further indicate the women's position in the family, society is more respected since they started earnings and society accepts outside the home more easily now than five or six years ago.

## **Literature Review**

Canning(2011) examined some important causes of the demographic revolution. In it, he has described the importance of mortality rate, fertility rate, urbanization system, the quality of people. He highlighted how the fertility rate is declining due to lower child mortality and a decline in the mortality rate. McNay(2003) has tried to identify some of the positive and negative consequences

of its demographic transition. For non-domestic economic roles, women's lives are changing dramatically and one of the consequences is that women can be associated with different jobs. He also identified that women use sex detection techniques and the female abortion system in many cases for their preference for sons, which in many cases has a negative impact on society. Dyson(2001) agreed in his study that women are now getting married too late and many times they are not getting married at all. They are becoming much more easily separated from their spouses. Due to their economic independence, their self-dependence is highly increasing. Canning(2011) also showed that women's early childhood health treatment, nutrition system, longer life span improvements have led to changes in women's education system and market productivity. Khatun(2018) examined that women's participation in the labor force of Bangladesh is increasing a lot. Not only women are restricting their labor force participation in the ready-made garments sectors, but they are also occupying many important sectors such as telecommunications, banking, restaurants, transport sector, managerial and senior possibilities working in organizations. She also argued that women are playing a leading role in many important economic, social, political, and cultural issues. She spoke of some barriers such as lack of transport system, toilet facility, child care facility, and security issues. She also emphasized the impacts of women being victims of different violence in various ways. International Conference on Population and Development (1994) identified some important priorities that help women to control their childbirth, reproductive health system, and also reproductive rights. Women's decision-making ability, financial resources, accountability mechanisms are the main priorities for increasing women's condition in our society. McNay(2003) states that due to the educational system and household autonomy, many changes have taken place in the social status of women. In family and social relationships, they are trying to present themselves by applying their opinion.

### **Theoretical and conceptual framework**

#### **Anthony Giddens: Theory of Late Modernity:**

Anthony Giddens has used a significant terminology in his theory of modernity and that is a juggernaut. He has focused on the advanced stage of modernity through the word juggernaut. Advanced stage modernity is also referred to as high modernity and late modernity. In Anthony Giddens's theory of late modernity, four institutions are mentioned: capitalism, industrialism, administrative power, and military power. Capitalism is the product of commodity production,

private ownership and the dimensions of labor tried to explain through. In describing the administrative power, you have seen how the state monitors the information sector. In addition, military power is used to solve various problems in the state. In describing modernity, Giddens mentions 3 types of aspects or dimensions which have played an important role in modern society. The time-space distancing disembedding of the social system and the reflexivity of modern society is among them. The two things behind disembedding are the symbolic token and the expert system. Anthony Giddens describes modern society as a multidimensional society. Also, this multinational society is always working with a central feature, development, and tensions. He also said that we are living in a high era of modernity. He referred to it as a glimpse of postmodern society. Talking about time-space distancing, he showed that time and space were much more linked in pre-modern societies, but in modern society, it has gradually broken down.

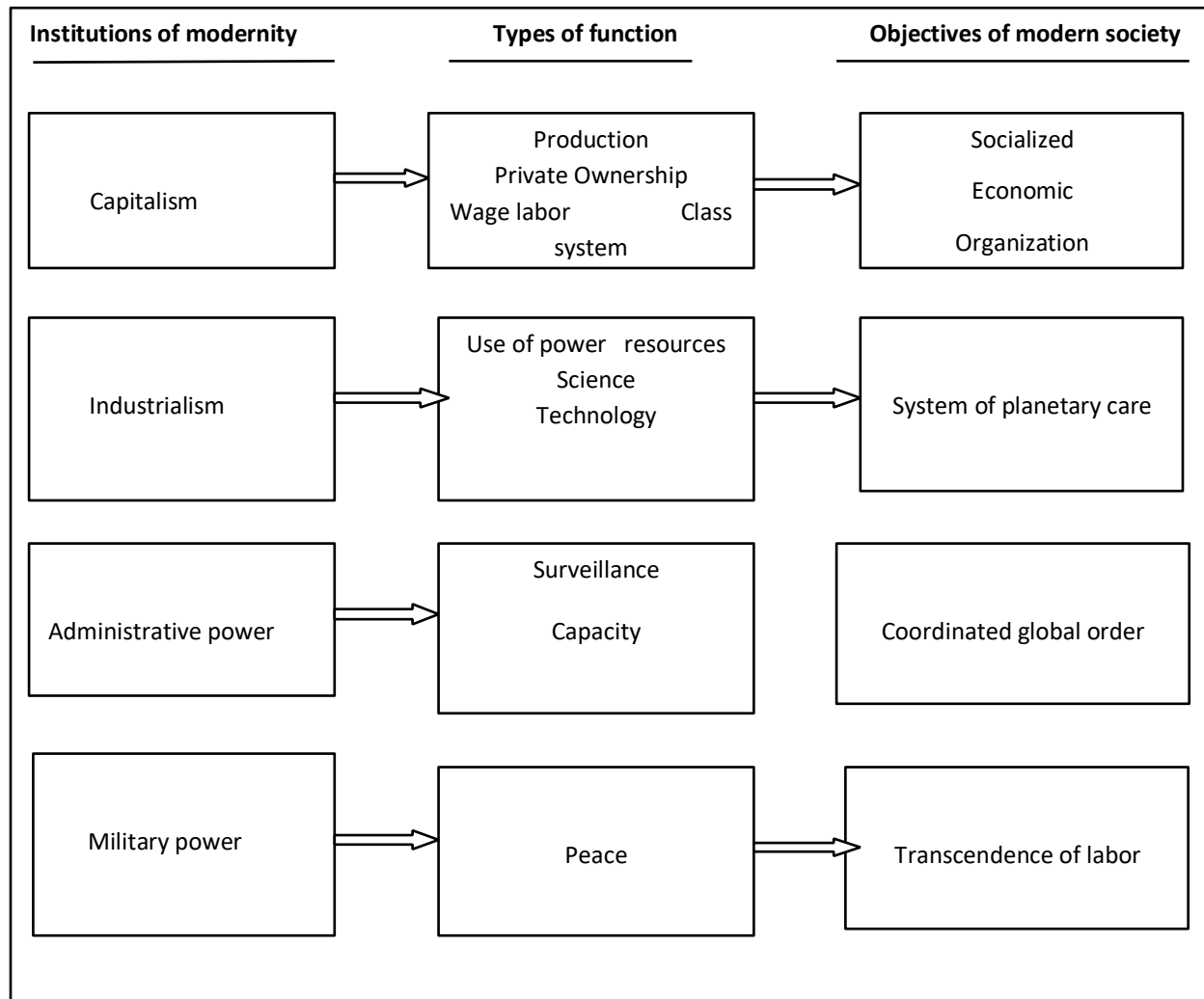


Figure 1: Institutional complexes of modernity and theoretical framework.

In the previous society, space was defined as physical presence and localized but in modern society, it was progressively far from space. According to Giddens, social systems have gradually become part of disembedding. This is why these institutions called family, marriage are gradually becoming isolated from the local society (Giddens,1991).

### **Anthony Giddens: The Reflexivity of Modernity and The Transformation of Intimacy**

Reflexivity has been created in modern society and the effect of this reflexivity is to work on two levels of our life in which the personal level is another institutional level. Due to reflexive modernization, identity is changing very fast. In the case of self, we now find reflexivity, alter, and molded issues. The effect of modernity is that demoralization is happening in all areas of our lives. This change is mostly in the case of morality. In our current drama movies, the extramarital relationship is now shown as a normal subject, but in the previous society, it was not. This is the current reflexively matter. What is normal for one is immoral for another. Moral things are slowly sequestered from society. Self-exploration and intimate relationships are working behind the wind to create reflexivity. Democratization is working extensively in the current society's relationship pattern. Traditional relationships were much more repressive. Relationships were formed depending on some moral issues. But now it's getting a lot more sequestered. Due to reflexive modernization, the demographic revolution of women is taking place. Socially, the roles of women are changing very fast. For example, giving birth to a woman was much more rigid but now it has changed. Giddens speaks of two types of equality in an intimate relationship. One is sexual equality and the other is emotional equality. And as a result, relationships are becoming democratized. This change is taking place at the individual and institutional levels in society. Intimate relationships are causing social and psychic changes in society. As a result of this change, various opportunities and risks have been created. (Giddens, 1992).

### **Beck's theory of Risk Society of Modernity**

In his reflexive modernization theory, Beck tries to highlight the structural changes inherent in society. He points out the differences between social structure and social agents in relation to relationships. Due to the change in them, the agents are becoming individualized very fast. Because

of individualization, modernization is also happening very fast. In this case, the agents must release social structural constraints. There is a three-stage periodization in social change, which he refers to as pre-modernity, simple modernity, and reflexive modernity. Beck says modernity is very co-extensive in industrial society. Due to reflexive modernity, various risks are being created in the society. Distinct social formations of industrial society and risk society. Industrial societies used to be much more structured for social classes, but risk society has an individualization system. Describing Beck risks, he said that risk is a systematic way of dealing with hazards and insecurities. And these risks are being produced through the modernization process. In the case of reflexive society, he mentions two agencies: the intermingling of continuity and discontinuity. Describing his second modernity, Beck said that modern institutions are now becoming global and the role behind it is breaking free from the hold of tradition, customs and the old industrial society is disappearing. And therefore, risk society is being replaced. In his theory, Beck speaks of risk and uncertainty, referring to the management of risk as a prime feature of the global order. The nature of risks is also constantly changing. Due to the advancement of science and technology, many benefits are happening to us, and risks are being created. Speaking of manufactured risks, he has highlighted many forms, and these are slowly becoming borderless. (Beck, 1992).

Beck and Beck-Gernsheim discusses the nature of personal relationships, marriage, and family patterns in describing the normal chaos of love. Today, there is a battle between the sexes, and due to which the growth of the marriage counseling industry, family courts, increasing divorce rates are seen in society. Marriage and family life are becoming flimsy and fragile. In the case of marriage, the effect of economic purpose is increasing. Women are being employed in families with different jobs. Just do not engage yourself in giving birth to children and raising them. In relationships, sex, love, children, marriage, work, politics, and economics are being given importance. (Beck and Gernsheim, 1995).

The risks and uncertainties that Beck talks about in her social relationship are being widely observed among women in Bangladesh. As a result of modernization, women are changing their relationship patterns, labor market biography. The decline of arranged marriage is happening and women are choosing their own spouse. It is also true that through these risks and uncertainty divorce rates, terrorism activities are increasing a lot.

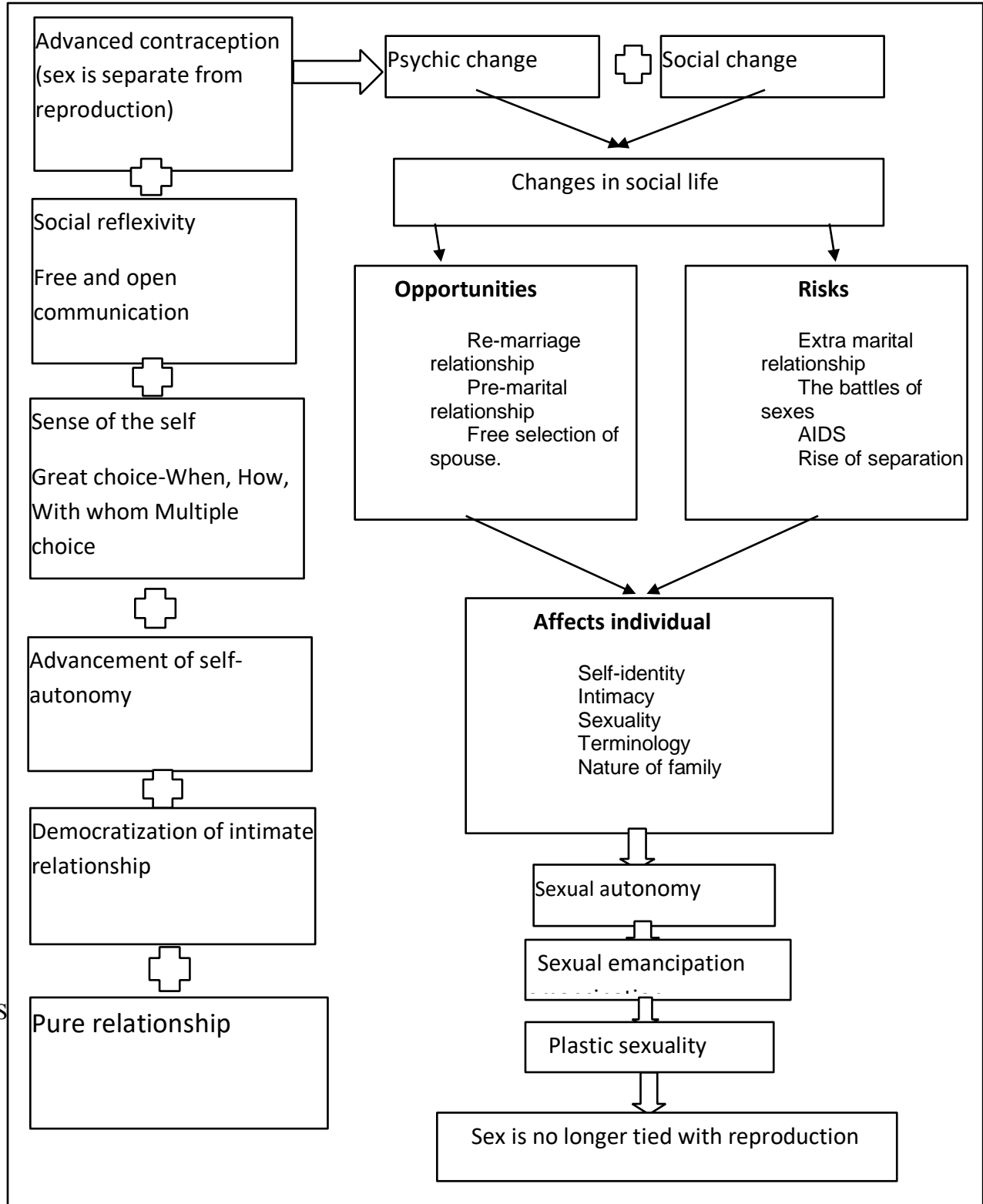


Figure 2: Reflexivity of Modernity and conceptual framework.

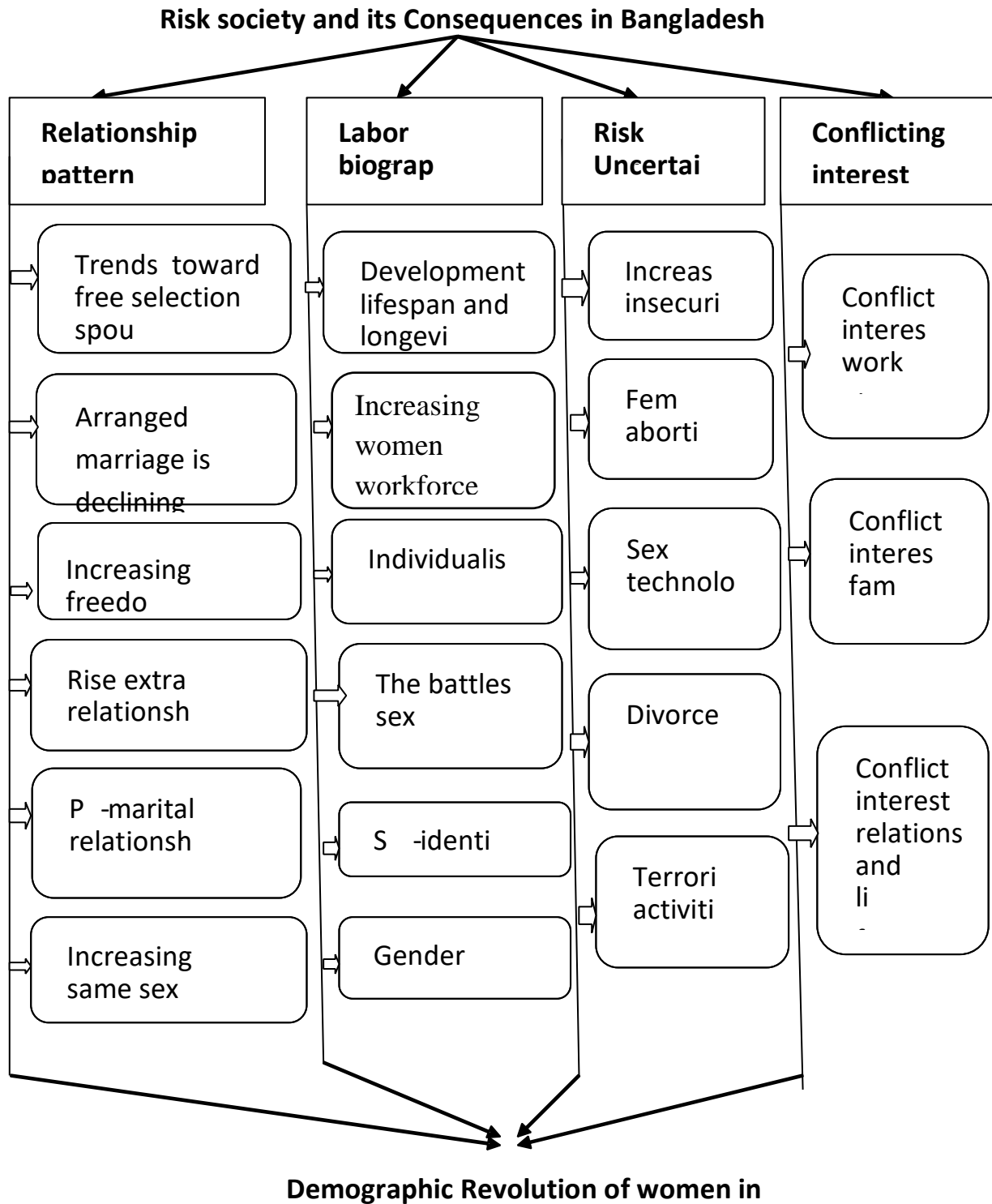


Figure 3: Beck's modernity and consequences and conceptual framework in Bangladesh.



Two paces were selected for the purposes of research out of which one is Joynag Road, Bakhsibazar and the other one is Mohon Chan lane, New market, Dhaka. Data has been collected from a total of 200 respondents through the interview and google response form. After the data collection, the data is converted and clearly analyzed. Actually, the study was conducted for the rural women among them, 10% of the respondents are a businessman and their own workshop. On the other hand, 13% of the respondents are involving in government jobs. From total respondents, 6% of respondents are teachers from nearer school and college. Basically, besides them, 3% of respondents consider them as a local leaders. As we wanted to present the challenging issues for a woman worker, most of the respondents were female workers. Globalization helped women changing their demographic profile in many ways. Most of the respondents have their mobile phone and only 4.5% of respondents don't use a mobile phone. They use their phone in various perspectives such as- in the workplace, talking, listening to music, watching videos, and so on. They are connected with different social networks. Somehow, almost 57.3% of respondents are involved with the virtual social network and most of the respondents are involved with it frequently. Only 4.8% of respondents are never connected with any kind of virtual social network. Surprisingly almost all the respondents think that education is the most important element for us. Globalization has a multifaceted impact on our education. Globalization affects education likely students around the world are more connected with each other help earning a higher education, easy education materials, books, and provide the ability of friendship. Respondents think that female education faces a problem and due to these different obstacles demographic revolution of women is hindered. From the view of respondents, significant problems are poverty, ignorance, traditional thought, early marriage, lack of security, gender discrimination, and lack of educational opportunity. A good portion of 39.1% of respondents thinks that early marriage hinders women's education. This study shows 18.2% of respondents think that the traditional thought of people in our family and society hinders women's education. False concepts like women don't need higher education still work in our society. Due to globalization and reflexive modernity, women can now participate in the labor force is believed by 35.5% of the respondents. Besides, 17.3% and 16.4% of respondents think that fertility decline and the declining mortality rate is decreasing day by day due to globalization and reflexive modernity. The globalization process not only impacts positively upon our life but also has some negative impacts. Day by day due to its negative outcome, we are facing controversial issues. The challenging outcome of globalization and reflexive modernity are

followed privacy and security, trafficking, lost own cultural identity, jobs becoming more temporary, climate change, and others 23.6% of respondents think that, globalization system is very much challenging for our society in case of facing security and privacy safety. Women, at least, faced one of these problems once in their personal life. They don't feel secure in their personal life. Globalization and the networks are creating an impact in such a way that we can't keep our personal life personal anymore. 20.9% of respondents consider globalization and reflexive modernity as a threat to our own cultural identity. Women are forced to decline their own identity. They can't choose between the right and wrong decisions. Relationship pattern is influenced the most by globalization and reflexive modernity. Selection of a spouse, the rise of extra-marital relationship, pre-marital sexual relationship, acceptance of same-sex detection is significant.

A total of 38.2% of respondents agree that the globalization process and reflexive modernity are influencing us in selecting a free spouse. Moreover, 23.6% of respondents think that the rise of extra-marital relationships impacts relationship patterns. Reflexive modernization system no longer binds women within domestic work; it also inspires them to participate in many works except domestic works. Women's employment and being self-dependent brought out many changes in their life. 40% of Respondents think that this self-dependency and making their own earning source make the rise of individualism among them whereas 29.1% of respondents think that it developed their life span. Moreover, the labor market biography is creating self-identity for them both in their family and society. Women are getting concerned about their equity. When these factors can be seen collectively in our society, only then the women's demographic revolution can be implemented. Over reflexivity is creating mental illness in many ways. Competitive thought creates hopeless, no demand for life, feeling weak, an attempt to suicide, and anxiety among them. Our family pattern is imbalanced because of over reflexivity. This imbalanced situation is impacting our children negatively. 23.6% of respondents think that it is creating continuous sickness. 31.8% of respondents think that it is hindering their mental growth as well as absence in school, weakness, and hopeless problems are created.

So, a woman has to cope with many challenges to live in this modern society. But working women will have to face more challenges. The number of working women is increasing in Bangladesh day by day but their safety and security issues can't be ensured yet. Though it's realistic the truth is

working women have to handle both their office and family single-handedly. Now a woman has to join a job for different reasons. 25% of Respondents think that at present women are working to generate income for the family beside another 25% of respondents think that women are joining different jobs to gain economic freedom. 35% of respondents think that women are engaging in the working field to become self-dependent moreover they are participating to contribute to the family business, creating job opportunities for others. Women don't get any help from their superior in the working field. Though 75% of women confessed to getting help from their superior, 25% of women claimed that their superior can't accept their participation. In case of support from colleagues, 65% of respondents think that they get support whereas 35% of the respondents don't think so. A few family members might accept women's participation in the working field but all the members never accept their participation. But this scenario is getting changed over time. Every working woman has to work 8-9 hours a day besides managing domestic or household work and this work doesn't include any working period or salary. A total of 35% of respondents get some leisure from working but this time is also engaged in other work such as reading books and magazines, sewing, watching TV, gardening, moving around relatives and so many. Our social system can't show enough respect for women's work yet that they deserve. That's why women working wage is not evaluated accurately. Even now, salary discrimination between males and females can be seen. Though it has been reduced in official works but in low-level works, the discrimination can be seen very badly. 70% of respondents think that their income is primary for the family whereas 30% of respondents think that their income is secondary. Still now Government is unable to provide a sound working environment for working women. A working woman has to face too many problems in her life such as dual responsibility, lack of logistic support, policy-making problems, lack of coordination, lack of essential manpower, etc. Some differences can be seen between a working woman and a non-working woman. 80% of respondents think that working mothers live in more tension and anxiety than a household working mother. 75% of respondents think that their position in the family and society is more respected since they have started earning. But 25% of respondents decline this. 95% of respondents think that society accepts women working outside the home are easier now than 5-6 years ago. A working woman has to work both physically and mentally. But 90% of women are engaged in physical work. Differences can be seen in a woman's salary satisfaction. They feel more tired and depressed while working. Unfortunately, a working woman faces a lot of social restrictions in our society such as socially

neglected, insecure. 80% of respondents think that working mothers are more expert and informed about the outside world than household working mothers. Working women suffer from many stress-related diseases because of their work such as- hypertension, obesity, diabetes, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, etc. In different cases, in spite of having the interest to change the job, women can't because of social barriers.

## **Conclusion**

In this paper, three of the famous theories are applied to analyze the current condition of women in Bangladesh. Many symptoms of demographic revolution in women's life are observed. Among them, the key symptoms are increasing uncertainty, gender equality, love marriage, women empowerment, and so on. Women have begun to understand their legal rights. Considering the circumstances in Bangladesh, the scenario for the last fifteen years, and the scenario now is different enough for women. Educational rights and security for women were very few in the past time. But now the truth is currently a broad number of women get the opportunities to study in school, college and university. They are conscious of their rights. On the contrary, a lot of negative symptoms of demographic revolution are laid in society such as increasing insecurity, the rise of the separation rate, pre-marital relationship, and extra-marital relationship. Divorce is widely blamed for women's demographic revolution. In the future, the comparison between traditional women and employed women will be analyzed along with the multi-cultural differences. The risks of modern women are investigated in this paper. Solutions of these risks can be discussed. The scenario of rural women is also not considered. SWOT analysis can also be done under these circumstances.

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