SciencePG
Science Publishing Group

Social Security for Vulnerable Groups in Bangladesh on Government Perspective: Contribution of Research Leader

Md Nazirul Islam Sarker, Zhang Jie

School of Public Administration, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China

Email address:
sarker.scu@yahoo.com (Md N. I. Sarker)

Abstract: This paper examined to find out the extent of research on social security for vulnerable groups on the perspective of governance in Bangladesh. This study was done based on secondary data which was available on various renowned databases like web of science, science direct, springer link, banglajol and ideas. The great researchers in the field of social security for vulnerable group were found out by this study. Multiple matrices such as number of articles, amounts of periodical weights, citations etc were used to determine the top researcher. It also explored the mentionable contribution of the great researchers on social security especially for vulnerable groups on government perspective. The research findings will be helpful for researchers, students, public administrators, policy makers for designing further research, social security and safety net programs for vulnerable communities of developing countries.

Keywords: Government, Social Security, Vulnerable Groups, Retrieval, Database, Bangladesh

1. Introduction

The current population of Bangladesh is 164,398,873 as on April 12, 2017, based on the latest United Nations estimates. Bangladesh population is equivalent to 2.19% of the total world population. Bangladesh ranks number 8 in the list of countries by population. The population density in Bangladesh is 1266 per Km^2 (3,279 people per $mile^2$). The total land area is 147,000 Km^2 and 35.6% of the population is urban (58,746,319 people in 2017) and result 64.4% people are living in rural area [1]. Most of the rural people are vulnerable. The slum dwellers of urban area are also vulnerable people.

Vulnerable means able to be easily hurt, influenced, or attacked. It is for someone who is easily hurt or likely to succumb to temptation. Vulnerable person is the person whose feelings are so delicate that they can't withstand any criticism or pressure. Vulnerability is the degree to which a population, individual or organization is unable to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impacts of disasters. The most vulnerable people in the society are children, pregnant women, elderly people, malnourished people, and people who are ill or immune compromised, are particularly vulnerable when a disaster strikes, and social security. [2]

The group of people who has some specific characteristics that make it at higher risk of falling into poverty than others is considered as vulnerable group. The vulnerable people are facing long-term unemployed and high risk of losing their jobs. [3] The concept is relative and dynamic. Vulnerability in social context can be defined as the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard. It is most often associated with poverty, but it can also arise when people are isolated, insecure and defenseless for facing of risk, shock or stress. People differ in their exposure to risk as a result of their social group, gender, ethnic or other identity, age and other factors. It also vary in its forms like poverty, for example, may mean that housing is unable to withstand an earthquake or a hurricane, or lack of preparedness may result in a slower response to a disaster, leading to greater loss of life or prolonged suffering. On the other hand the resources available to individuals, households and communities to cope with a threat or to resist the impact of a hazard are not enough. Definitions of vulnerability and resilience vary within and across research traditions [4]. According to

disaster risk literature it is susceptibility to harm [5]. More specifically, vulnerability is the condition to suffer adverse effects when impacted by a hazard [6]. According to the development research community, it is a combination of sensitivity, exposure and response capacity [7]. The concept of sensitivity is closely related to the susceptibility in the disaster risk. It is the degree to which a system is likely to be affected by an internal or external disturbance. Exposure is the system in contact with or subject to a disturbance. Capacity of response is the system's ability to respond to or cope with the disturbance [8]. Vulnerability has *"two sides: an external side of risks, shocks and stress to which an individual or household is subject; and an internal side which is defencelessness, meaning a lack of means to cope without damaging loss. Loss can take many forms- becoming or being physically weaker, economically impoverished, and socially dependent, humiliated or psychologically harmed"* [9]. Vulnerability is an ex-ante measure of household's wellbeing and concerning about the future poor [10]. It evolved as a concept in the social sciences to help explain the impact of natural hazards on people's livelihoods and the implications for development interventions. The early theory on vulnerability evolved first, to explain how famines occur and second, as an alternative response to the purely hazard oriented perception of disaster risk in the 1970s [11]. Households are vulnerable if a shock is likely to push them below a predetermined welfare threshold (poverty line), so vulnerability is a result of the cumulative process of risk and response. So, the term distinguishes poverty and vulnerability is risk [12].

Social protection is a set of policies and systems which address poverty, vulnerability and exclusion to cope with major risks throughout the lifecycle. Within social protection policies and systems, nutrition-focused interventions or programs address the underlying determinants of young child and adolescent growth and development. This includes: food security, adequate feeding practices and care-giving resources at maternal, household and community levels; access to health services and a safe, hygienic environment; and specific nutrition goals and actions. It is a human right and a means for states to protect their most vulnerable citizens. Bangladesh's current social protection system is fragmented and ineffective in 2010 reaching just 35% of those living below the poverty line. As the Government of Bangladesh leads a significant reform of its National Social Security Strategy, harnessing the potential of social protection for nutrition is vital. Vulnerability can be determined by asking two questions such as to what threat or hazard are they vulnerable? and what makes them vulnerable to that threat or hazard? Counteracting vulnerability requires some matters like reducing the impact of the hazard itself where possible, building capacities to withstand and cope with hazards; tackling the root causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, poor governance, discrimination, inequality and inadequate access to resources and livelihoods. People's level of vulnerability can be determined through physical, economic, social and political factors and the extent of their capacity to resist, cope with and recover from hazards. Clearly, poverty is a major contributor to vulnerability. Poor people are more likely to live and work in areas exposed to potential hazards, while they are less likely to have the resources to cope when a disaster strikes.

Social security is condition where people get the right to social safety by entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality. Social security may also refer to the action programs of government intended to promote the welfare of the population through assistance measures guaranteeing access to sufficient resources for food and shelter and to promote health and well-being for the population at large and potentially vulnerable segments such as children, the elderly, the sick and the unemployed. Services providing social security are often called social services.

The first part of this paper describes the concept of vulnerability and social protection especially in Bangladesh. The second part describes idea of a clear-text search method. The third part describes retrieval keyword and search query for finding researchers. The fourth part describes the leading index figures to determine the search results based on indicators of processing that meet the conditions to become research leader. The fifth part of this paper describes the leader based on actual retrieval. The fifth part evaluated according to the evaluation criteria which previously determined.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the paper is to to find out the extent of research on social security for vulnerable groups on the perspective of governance in Bangladesh. It also found out the research leaders in the field of social security for vulnerable group in Bangladesh.

1.2. Research Ideas and Research Procedures

In this paper, information retrieval method was used for finding out the top level researcher and their contribution to social security for vulnerable groups. At first, top level journal publishers selected purposively on the basis of acceptability in the research community. Then, systematic and extensive literature review was done to find out the research leader on the basis of their contribution for improvement of vulnerability of people using reasonable keywords (Benmanhnia et al. 2015) [13]. The search results were systematically and carefully sorted on the basis of citation number.

2. Select the Database and Search Terms

A. Selection of the Databases
The research databases were carefully selected in

considering nature of research and research requirements. Some other key issues like political, social security research, and the leader of the particularity also considered selecting databases on the perspective of government. The select databases were multidisciplinary. The following points also considered for selecting databases.

a. Web of Science (SCI) from 1985 to present as multidisciplinary main database.
b. Science direct database as a source of research in an international arena.
c. Springer Link as a top level accepted research database.
d. Banglajol.info as the main research databases in Bangladesh.
e. Ideas as another main research database in agricultural and social science database in Bangladesh.

B. Selection of the search term

The search terms were selected on the consideration to the foregoing the concept of Social Security Research on vulnerable groups in Bangladesh on perspective of Government. The main search terms selected were: vulnerable groups, migrant workers, the elderly, the disabled, laid-off workers; social insurance, social security; government, institutional, system, institutional, legislative, and financial.

Retrieval formula was expressed as:

Web of Science: TS= (("VULNERABLE*"OR" *GOVERN*) AND ("SOCIAL GUARANT*" OR "SOCIAL SECURIT*" AND *BANGLADESH*"))

Science Direct: vulnerable+social+security+protection+governance+banglad esh

Springer Link: vulnerable AND social AND (security AND OR AND protection) AND governance AND Bangladesh AND (BANGLADESH)

Banglajol.info: vulnerable+social+security+protection+governance+banglad esh

Ideas.org: vulnerable+social+security+ governance+bangladesh

3. Evaluation of Leader

The following indicators were used to find out the research leader in the field:

Table 1. Indicators using for searching research leader.

Name of the indicators	Types of the indicators	Description of the Indicators	Note
Professional and technical level	Title case	Belong to doctors, masters, doctoral tutor or master tutor.	Leader in this regard should belong to at least the level of tutor
Theoretical research	The number of published articles	In recent years, the number of research articles published.	Whether the number of articles published in the forefront of the field.
	Article published Hierarchy	In recent years, domestic and foreign core journals published articles.	In the case of core journals published articles belong to the forefront of the field.
	Citation	The number of articles cited.	Research citations belong in the forefront of the field.
Social influence and practical value	Number of published monographs	The number of recently published research monograph	Whether the number of monographs published forefront in the field.
	Participation to the national key projects.	In recent years, he conducted the dominant national key research projects related to the number of times.	How often, continuity conducted the national key research projects related.
	Governance related research.	Government research experts in the field Indexed.	Whether it is among the State Department expert database.

4. The Study Leader Search Results

4.1. Web of Science Database

First, advanced Search option selected with all journals, national conferences, international conferences, newspapers, scholarly series published; belonging to the first round of search queries in the professional search module: TS= (("VULNERABLE*"OR" *GOVERN*) AND ("SOCIAL GUARANT*" OR "SOCIAL SECURIT*" AND *BANGLADESH*")). The results are follows:
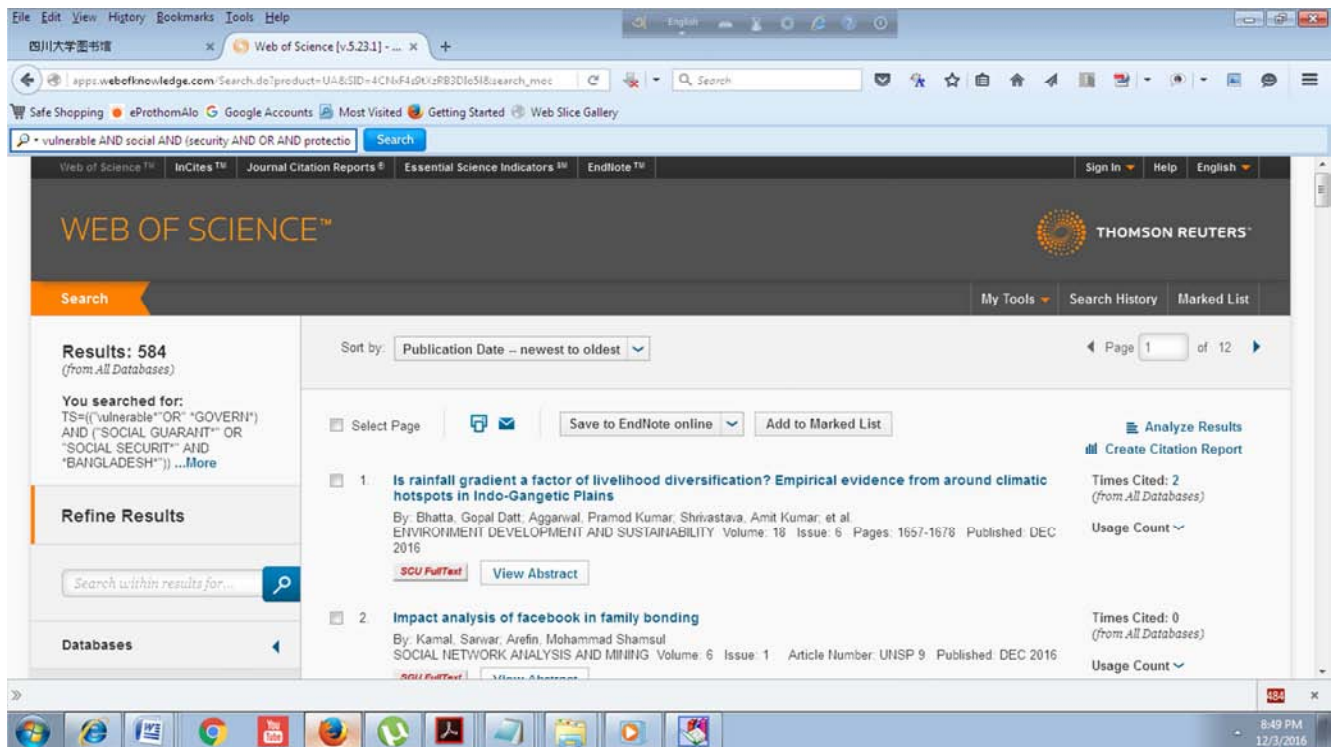
Figure 1. Showing the web of science with search criteria.

After first search 132373 items were obtained. Then items were sorted based on the term "Bangladesh" then 584 items were obtained. These items were sorted based on discipline "sociology, social issues, public administration, social work, Government law" then 227 items were achieved. After getting these result it was sorted based on citation number to find out the top level researcher of the field.

Table 2. The search results of top researcher of Bangladesh on vulnerable group in the perspective of government from web of science.

Researcher Name	No. of article citation	Sum of the times cited	H Index	Affiliation
Shahidur Rahman Khandaker	955	758	15	Senior Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank
Sonia Akter	298	249	9	Professor, Department of Economics, North-South University, Bangladesh
Farzana Islam	199	167	6	Professor, Department of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh
Chowdhury Emdad Haque	117	114	5	Professor, University of Manitoba (Bangladeshi citizen)
Sabina Faiz Rashid	44	44	3	Professor, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh

4.2. Springer Link Database

First, advanced search option was selected with all journals, national conferences, international conferences, newspapers, and scholarly series published; belonging to the first round of search queries in the professional search module:

Vulnerable AND social AND (security AND OR AND protection) AND governance AND Bangladesh AND (BANGLADESH)

The results are follows:

After first search 1296 items were obtained. Then items were sorted based on the term "Bangladesh" with sub-discipline "population" then 116 items were obtained. After getting these results, it was sorted based on citation number to find out the top level researcher of the field. The researcher was ordered according to their citation as follows

1. M. Rezaul Islam, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare & Research, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
2. K. M. Mamunur Rashid, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh
3. Sabina Faiz Rashid, School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh
4. AKM Ahsan Ullah, Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. University of Brunei Darussalam, Bandar Seri Begawan
5. Khurshid Alam, Equity and Health Systems, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), Bangladesh
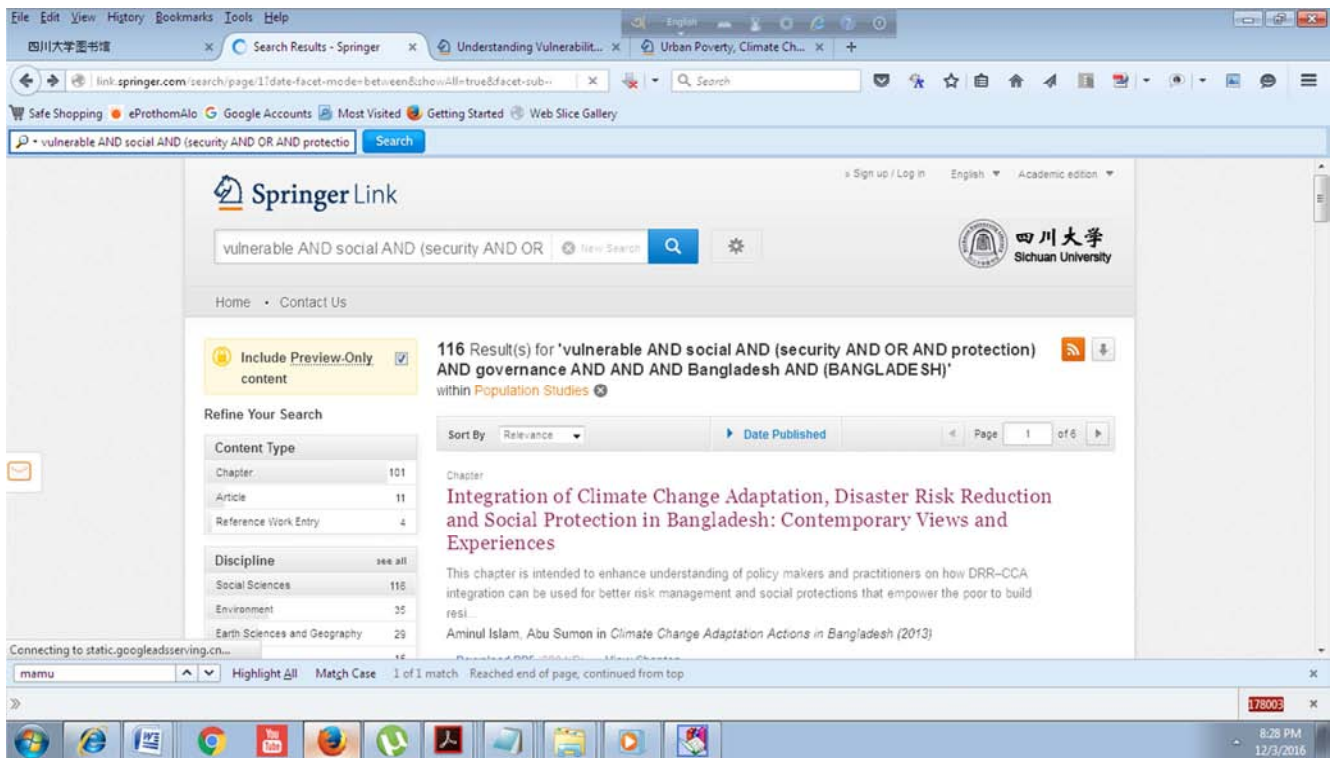
Figure 2. Showing the Springer Link with search criteria.

4.3. Science Direct Database

First, advanced search option was selected with all journals, national conferences, international conferences, newspapers, and scholarly series published; belonging to the first round of search queries in the professional search module: VULNERABLE+SOCIAL+SECURITY+PROTECTION+GOVERNANCE AND BANGLADESH
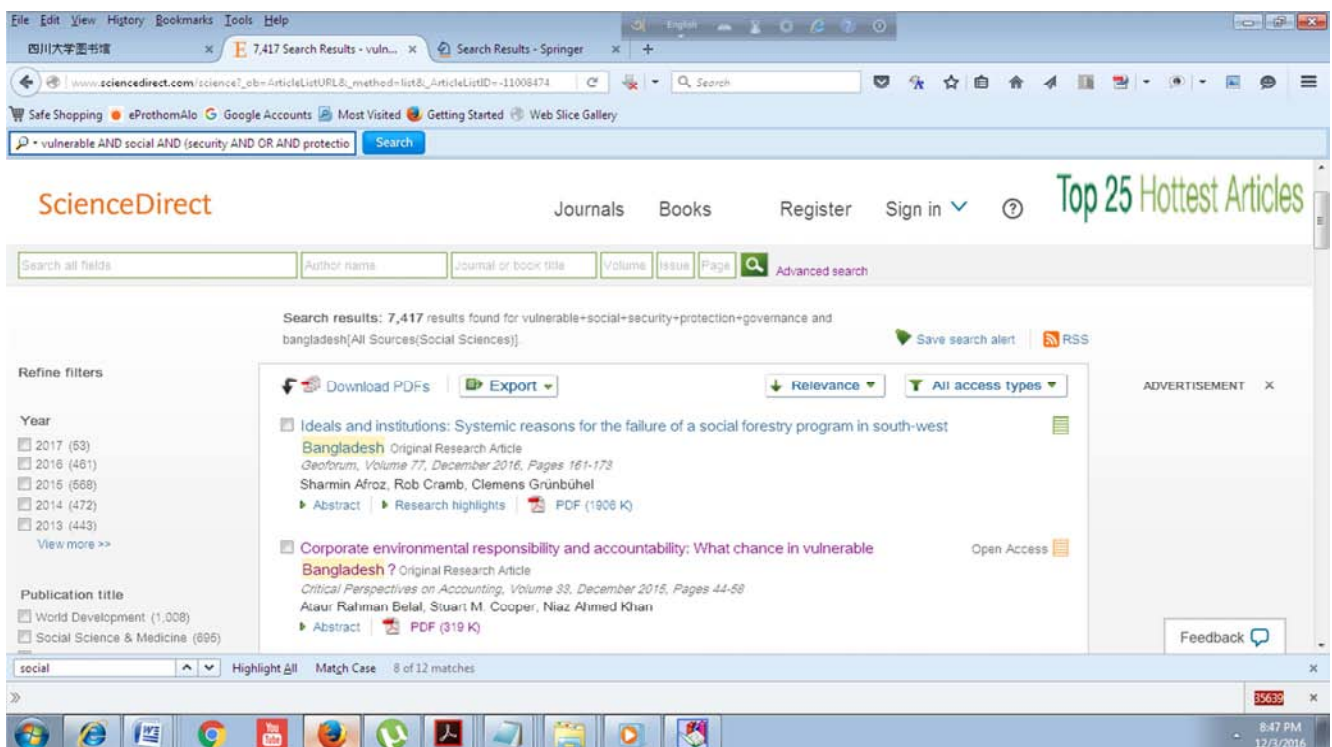

Figure 3. Showing the ScienceDirect with search criteria.

The results are follows:

After first search, 7417 items were obtained in advanced search option. Then items were sorted based on the term "Bangladesh" with sub-discipline "household, women, food, social" then 1592 items were obtained. After getting these results, it was sorted based on citation number to find out the top level researcher of the field. The researcher was ordered according to their citation as follows:

1. M. Rezaul Islam, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare & Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. Professor Naila Kabeer, professor of gender and development at the Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science.
4. Professor Simeen Mahmud, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
5. Professor Kaberi Gayen, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

4.4. Banglajol Database

Advanced search option was selected with all journals, national conferences, international conferences, newspapers, and scholarly series published; belonging to the first round of search queries in the professional search module:

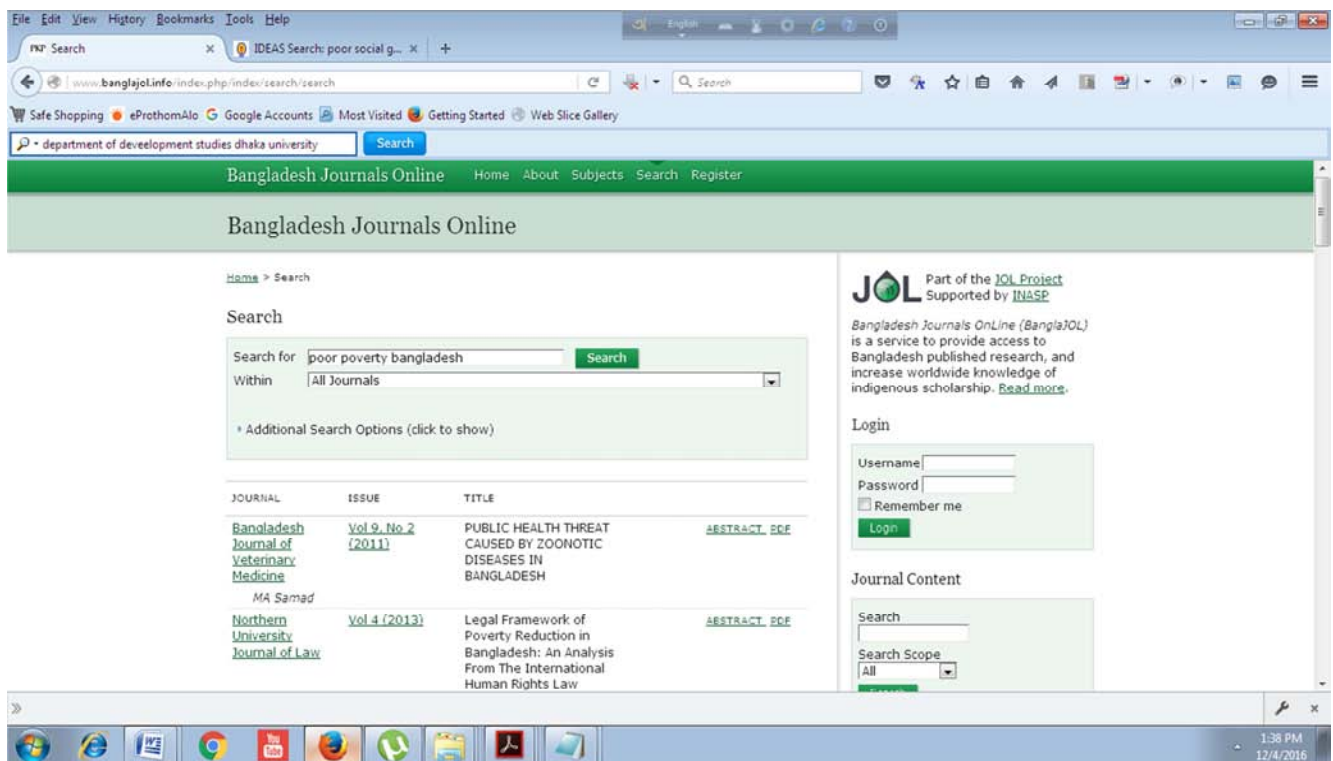VULNERABLE+SOCIAL+SECURITY+PROTECTION+GOVERNANCE+BANGLADESH

Figure 4. Showing the banglajol with search criteria.

After first search 64 items were obtained in advanced search option. Then items were sorted based on the term "Bangladesh" with sub-discipline "govern" then 37 items were obtained. After getting these results, it was sorted based on citation number to find out the top level researcher of the field. The researcher was ordered according to their citation as follows:

1. Abul Barkat, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. M Abul Kashem, Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh
3. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
4. Md. Abdus Sattar Mondol, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Economics, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh
5. Atiur Rahman, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

4.5. Ideas Database

Advanced search option was selected with all journals, national conferences, international conferences, newspapers, and scholarly series published; belonging to the first round of search queries in the professional search module:

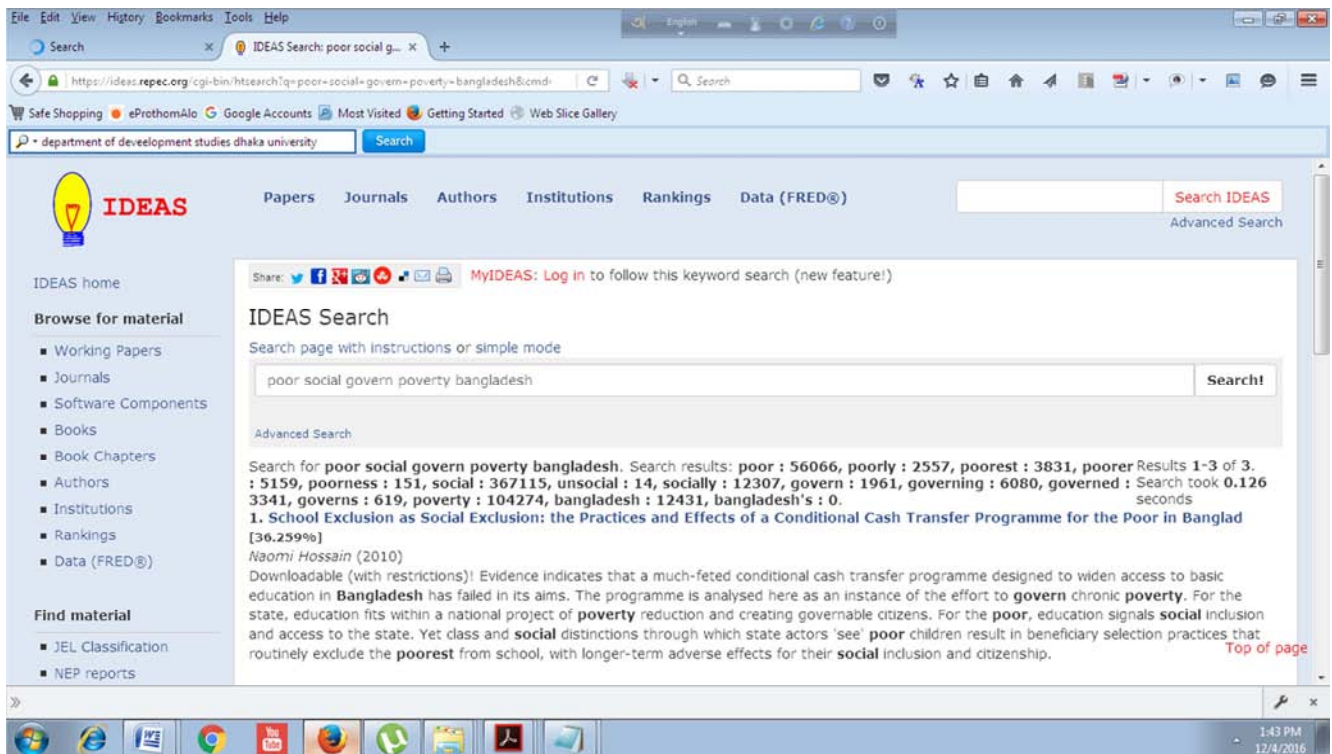POOR+SOCIAL+SECURITY+POVERTY+GOVERN+BANGLADESH

Figure 5. Showing the IDEAS with search criteria.

After first search 367115 items was obtained in advanced search option and got. Then items were sorted based on the term "Bangladesh" with sub-discipline "govern, poor, rural" then 23 items was obtained. After getting these results, it was sorted based on citation number to find out the top level researcher of the field. The researcher was ordered according to their citation as follows:

1. Md. Aminul Islam, Professor, Department of Agricultural Statistics, Bangladesh Agricultural university, Bangladesh
2. Md. Zulfiker Rahman, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Bangladesh Agricultural university, Bangladesh.
3. Rounak Jahan, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
4. Tamgid Ahmed Chowdhury, Professor, North South University, Bangladesh
5. Md. Hammadur Rahman, Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Bangladesh Agricultural university, Bangladesh

5. Researcher's Contribution and Government Initiative

The Government of Bangladesh focused on a safety net program for social security purpose. These Social Safety-Net Programs (SSNPs) were mainly based on temporary basis to cope with sudden vulnerabilities. It played an important role in promoting economic growth by: (i) helping create assets at individual, household and community levels; (ii) helping individuals and households protect their assets when various types of shocks occur; (iii) helping individuals and households to use their existing resources more effectively, and thereby helping them to cope with various types of risks; and (iv) directly raising economic growth rates by reducing inequity. Rasheed et al. (2016) reported that "*High salt consumption is an important risk factor of elevated blood pressure. In Bangladesh about 20 million people are at high risk of hypertension due to climate change induced saline intrusion in water*"[14]. Murshid et al. (2015) found that "*the interaction effect of microfinance and better economic status was significantly associated with domestic violence (9% increased probability). Experience of domestic violence was negatively associated with older age, higher education of the husband, and autonomy. In Bangladesh, microfinance participation may be associated with a higher probability of experiencing domestic violence for women with relatively better economic status, but not for the poorest of the poor*".[15] Mahmud et al. (2014) revealed that people perceived an increase in both the intensity of hazards and their vulnerabilities. The community was adopted to cope with the hazards though facing a number of socio-economic and location factors. They also applied other coping method related to food, shelter, water supply, sanitation, and health, communities etc [16]. Haque et al. (2012) observed that "*over 95 percent of the respondents reported that the heat during the summers had increased and 80.2 percent reported that rainfall had decreased compared to their previous experiences. Approximately 65 percent reported that winters were warmer than in previous years but they still experienced very erratic and severe cold during the winter for about 5-7 days, which restricted their activities with very destructive effect on agricultural production, everyday life and the health of people. The overall winters were*

warmer. Eighty point two percent, 72.5 percent and 54.7 percent survey respondents perceived that the frequency of water, heat and cold related diseases or health problems, respectively, had increased compared to five to ten years ago" [17]. Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) is one of the largest safety net programs assisted by the World Food Program (WFP). It is targeted at poor and vulnerable women in Bangladesh [18]. The ultimate goal of the program was to bring sustainable improvement to the lives of ultra-poor households [19]. Starting with assisting war, famine and flood victims in the early 1970s, the VGD program has evolved over time to focus on helping poor women graduate out of poverty. Currently about 750,000 women participants (about 3.75 million beneficiaries) from ultra-poor households receive a monthly food ration combined with a package of development services. The development package includes life skills and income generating skills training as well as a personal savings program and access to micro-credit/NGO membership. There are two different forms of VGD: Income Generating Vulnerable Group Development (IGVGD) and Food Security Vulnerable Group Development (FSVGD). IGVGD participants are provided with a monthly food ration of 30 kilograms of wheat/rice or 25 kilograms of fortified flour (atta) while FSVGD participants are provided with a cash support of Taka 100 along with 15 kilograms flour. VGD activities are run on a two years cycle, and participants can only participate for one cycle. At the end of the previous Country Program (CP) (2001-2006), the WFP Country Office in Bangladesh launched a New Country Program of VGD program for improving the nutritional status of women, children and adolescents through improved food consumption, education, skills development, livelihood diversification and risk mitigation [20].

6. Conclusion and Recommendation

The result of retrieval of information regarding to find out the research leader only based on some keywords and citation from research databases. Mr. Shahidur Rahman Khandaker, Sonia Akter, Farzana Islam, Chowdhury Emdad Haque, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Abul Barkat, Niaz Ahmed Khan, Atiur Rahman, Tamgid Ahmed Chowdhury with others were the top level researcher in the field of vulnerable group's social security research. The strength of databases especially the research databases of Bangladesh were not convenient for this research. The research databases of Bangladesh were not well equipped and not well richer.

Some policy implications to the target groups may mitigate future flood risks. The aid programs could intend to reach the transient poor rather always poor and provide the opportunities not only to the current poor but to those households that experience flood shocks. Social protection, social insurance or micro credit schemes for the landless households might motivate them to start small scale business or farming. Food for education policy already implemented in Bangladesh, which supposed to be monitored properly to enhance the efficiency of flooded households, hence reduces future risks [21].

It is recommended that further study on the same topic can be done in a large scale for searching actual leader with adding some new clues like research background, research status, contribution of researcher to this field, influence of research, technology transfer, technology adoption, research type, capacity etc. The findings emphasis that it is necessary to pay more attention to ensure effective study on this field based on qualitative and quantitative analysis.

References

[1] Worldometers (2017). http://www.worldometers.info/world-opulation/bangladesh-population/ retrieve on April 12, 2017.

[2] WHO (2002). Environmental health in emergencies and disasters: a practical guide. Geneva, Switzerland.

[3] Atkinson J (2000). European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Employment options and labour market participation, Luxembourg.

[4] Gallopi'n GC (2006). Linkages between vulnerability, resilience, and adaptive capacity. Glob. Environ. Chang. 16, 293–303.

[5] IPCC (2012). Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, New York.

[6] Janssen MA, Schoon ML, Ke, W, Börner K (2006). Scholarly networks on resilience, vulnerability and adaptation within the human dimensions of global environmental change. Glob. Environ. Chang. 16 (3), 240–252.

[7] Adger NW (2006). Vulnerability. Glob. Environ. Chang. 16, 268–281.

[8] Akter S, Mallick B (2013). The poverty–vulnerability–resilience nexus: Evidence from Bangladesh. Ecological Economics 96 (2013) 114–124.

[9] Chambers R (1989). Editorial Introduction: Vulnerability, Coping and Policy. IDS Bulletin 20 (2): 1-7.

[10] Alwang J, Siegel PB, Jørgensen SL (2001). Vulnerability: A view from different disciplines, Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0115, Washington, D. C.: World Bank.

[11] Birkman J (2006). Measuring vulnerability to promote disaster-resilient societies: Conceptual frameworks and definitions. In: J., Birkman (ed.) Measuring Vulnerability to Natural Hazards: Towards Disaster Resilient Societies. Tokyo: United Nations University Press, pp. 9-54.

[12] Chaudhuri S, Jalan J, Suryahadi A (2002). Assessing Household Vulnerability to Poverty from Cross-sectional Data: A Methodology and Estimates from Indonesia, Discussion paper no. 0102-52, Department of Economics, Columbia University, New York.

[13] Benmarhnia T, Deguen S, Kaufman JS, Smargiassi A (2015). Vulnerability to Heat-related Mortality: A Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Meta-regression Analysis. Epidemiology, 26 (6): 781-93.

[14] Rasheed S, Siddique AK, Sharmin T, Hasan AMR, Hanifi SMA, Iqbal M (2016). Salt Intake and Health Risk in Climate Change Vulnerable Coastal Bangladesh: What Role Do Beliefs and Practices Play? PLoS ONE 11 (4): e0152783. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0152783.

[15] Murshid NS (2015). Men's report of domestic violence perpetration in Bangladesh: Correlates from a nationally representative survey, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Advance online publication, doi: 10.1177/0886260515585544.

[16] Mahmud SH, Ali MS, Islam MMU (2014). Coastal hazards and community-coping methods in south-west coastal region of Bangladesh. International Journal of Surface and Groundwater Management. 01 (01): 01.

[17] Haque AM, Yamamoto SS, Malik AA, Sauerborn R (2012). Households' perception of climate change and human health risks: A community perspective. Environmental Health. 11 (1): 1.

[18] Sarker MNI (2016). Poverty of Island Char Dwellers in Bangladesh, Hamburg, Diplomica Publishing GmbH, Germany. http://www.anchor-publishing.com/e-book/318628/poverty-of-island-char-dwellers-in-bangladesh.

[19] Sarker MNI (2016). Causes and possible solutions of seasonal food insecurity (Monga) perceived by char dwellers in Bangladesh. International Journal of Ecology and Development Research, 1(1): 002-009.

[20] Sarker MNI, Ali MA, Islam MS (2015). Causes and possible solutions of poverty perceived by char dwellers in Bangladesh. International Journal of Natural and Social Sciences, 2(1): 37-41.

[21] Sarker MNI, Bingxin Y, Sultana A, Prodhan AZMS (2017). Problems and challenges of public administration in Bangladesh: pathway to sustainable development. International Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research, 2(1): 008-015.