



Accounting and Reporting Systems of Government Entities in Bangladesh

Governance and Legal Framework of Accounting and Reporting Systems of Government Entities in Bangladesh

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Abstract

This research explores the legal basis and administrative framework of government accounting and reporting systems for the general government sector in Bangladesh. The administrative and legal framework for government accounting and reporting, as well as its nature, effectiveness, and potential in the digital era, have become the important focus of accountants. Efficient and effective accounting and reporting systems focus on transparency and accountability of the Government. To conduct this study, the researcher used primary data. For collecting primary data, 120 respondents from C&AG, CGA, NBR and Bank officials were surveyed through the structured questionnaire with a five-point Likert scale and 'yes/no' dichotomous responses. Besides the questionnaire survey, three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and five Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted. However, the major findings of the research are that a strong legal and governance framework for accounting and reporting general government entities can ensure accountability, transparency, and value for money. The findings of the research will be helpful for stakeholders as well as policymakers to identify the legal and administrative frameworks and their duties and responsibilities in the field of government accounting and reporting systems in Bangladesh.

Key Words: Accountability, Governance, Government Accounting, Reporting Framework.

1. Introduction

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the prime source of governance and is used as the base of government accounting and reporting systems in Bangladesh. This Constitution has empowered the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of Bangladesh to investigate any financial matter of the Republic without question (Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, GOB, 2017). To clarify the power and functions of C&AG relating to government accounting and reporting systems, there is another law named the C&AG Additional Function Act, 1974. Sections 4-6 of the law clearly define the legal framework and governance of Bangladesh's Public Financial Management (PFM). However, these frameworks do not clarify government accounting and reporting systems of public money and resources. However, the financial rules adopted on April 27, 1937, in Bengal that had been in effect from 1938 in British India are still in force in Bangladesh. These rules have been applied as the basis for government accounting, reporting and auditing systems. These rules are not functional in many cases of accounting and reporting government financial events at this time in Bangladesh (Shil & Chowdhury, 2021, Hussain, 1994).

It should be noted that there is no framework for accounting and reporting development budget at that time. There also needed a governance framework for managing foreign-aided projects in the development process of Bangladesh. For the logical reason stated above, there is no specified governance policy in government accounting, reporting and auditing to handle government financial transactions. After the independence, according to the rules of procedures (rules no. 223, 235, 238 and 239), general principles and governance of keeping and managing government accounts have been vested to the parliamentary standing committee, namely (a) Committee of Public Accounts, (b) Committee of Estimates and (c) Committee of Undertaking. The said committees are now overseeing the financial matters of the Government (Islam et al., 2004).

In 2002, as per the reform strategy of the National Implementation Committee Of Administrative Restructuring (NICAR), the former Accountant General (AG) post was restructured as the Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA) instead of 20 regional accounting office's 8 Divisional Comptroller

of Accounts (DCA) offices, 56 district Accounts and Finance Offices (DAFO) and 542 Upazilla Accounts and Finance Offices (UAFO) were created for overseeing the accounting and audit matters of the general governmental entities of Bangladesh (Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, 2022). Article 87 of the Constitution of the Republic has described the governance and legal framework of financial matters of the general Government. This Article mentioned that 87 (1) An annual financial statement, also known as a statement of the Government's estimated receipts and expenditures for the year, is required to be presented to Parliament for each fiscal year. (2) The annual financial statement will identify expenditure on revenue account from other expenditures and will separately display: (a) the amounts required meeting expenditures charged by or under this Constitution upon the Consolidated Fund; and (b) the amounts required to meet other expenditures proposed to be made from the Consolidated Fund. Additionally, Article 131 of the Constitution has stated the governance framework of accounting and reporting as; the Republic's Public Accounts shall be maintained in the format and manner determined by the Auditor General, subject to the President's approval (Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, GOB, 2017). However, as the Constitution and other relevant Laws and Regulations do not clarify the appropriate governance and legal framework for accounting and reporting systems, Preparing Annual Finance Accounts (AFA) and disclosure requirements in the AFA of general government entities in Bangladesh, therefore, the matter is needed an in-depth investigation for exploring the whole gamut of the problem.

2. Review of Literature

The governance and legal framework of accounting and reporting government financial events is necessary to evaluate the performance of general government entities in Bangladesh. These frameworks are also helpful to test the validity of elements that are presenting financial statements to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Government (Sobhan, 1983). According to Account Code Volume-I, General Principles and Method of Accounts, there are four main divisions of government accounts such as; Revenue, Capital, Debt and Remittance. However, this document does not describe the process of accounting and reporting government financial

events to the Annual Finance Accounts (Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, 1983). This document also described there are three types of administrative bodies for accounting and reporting government transactions, e.g. (a) Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA) for civil accounting, (b) Comptroller General of Defence Finance (CGDF) for defence accounting and (c) Finance Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer (FACAO), Railway (Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, 1983). Over and above, a Public Financial Management specialist opined that the current governance and legal frameworks do not identify the treatment of accounting events of general government entities in preparing Annual Finance Accounts (AFA) namely; ways and means, permanent debt, floating debt, state's provident fund, savings certificates, postal saving certificates, civil deposit, personal deposit, renewal reserve fund and remittances among various departments (Hakeem, 2013). Currently, the government entities of Bangladesh are using integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++) software to account for and report financial events. Although this system performs well, it has no legal and governance framework for measuring its effectiveness (Kuddus, 2023).

Due to the absence of appropriate governance and legal framework for accounting and reporting, currently, the Government of Bangladesh is partially using the Public Expenditure and Accountability Framework (PEFA) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) to serve the above-mentioned purposes (Kristensen et al., 2019). It is a matter of question that, using this framework, Bangladesh achieved a score of D+ (A to D, being A being the highest) in Performance Indicator-29 (PI-29) named Annual Financial Report. Combined use of national and international standards, their inability to compare revenue with the budget, and the reports submitted for external audit more than two years after the fiscal year's end are the main causes of this low score. Therefore, the PFM Action Plan's Component 10 is dedicated to establishing a contemporary internal audit function and enhancing the quality and timeliness of government-wide in-year and year-end reporting (Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, 2020). Under this component, thorough planning, a solid governance and legal framework, and intensive capacity-building initiatives will create the foundation for improved accounting and reporting systems. This will contribute to the Government's in-year and year-end reporting

being of higher quality and being completed on time (Kristensen et al., 2019).

According to Akbar Ali Khan, the governance framework of the government accounting and reporting system in Bangladesh is rule-based. The government entities of Bangladesh may fail to present financial statements when there is no democratic government in the state. His research also showed that after the independence (in the 52 years of history), a long time, i.e. 12 years and 7 months, the parliamentary Government was absent in Bangladesh. At that time, the internal efficiency and accountability of the Government suffered much. There were numerous audit objections and no punitive actions were taken for the fraudulent transactions due to the absence of Parliamentary control (Khan, 2022). However, the government accounting and reporting framework needs to be noticed by academic teaching in Bangladesh. Because the innovations and reforms in Public Financial Management (PFM) are taking place worldwide. To grasp the most advanced knowledge of accounting and reporting as part of PFM, the academics' intellectual and analytical contributions to the accounting and reporting system of Bangladesh's general government entities still need to be improved. Even though effective collaboration between academics and decision-makers is necessary for well-informed, fact-based, and world-class policymaking (Chowdhury, 2022). So, the study's main objective is to find out the legal framework and governance functions among Bangladesh's public financial and administrative bodies for efficient and effective implementation of government accounting, reporting and auditing activities. This study also aims to bring practical and new knowledge of governmental accounting and reporting systems to academia to equip learners with innovative and effective Public Financial Management.

3. Research Methods and Materials

This research is generally exploratory type and descriptive (Khan, 2019). This is an explorative study because it explores the nature of government financial transactions, relevant laws and governance applied for accounting and reporting government revenue-type and business-type transactions. This study revealed how governmental financial transactions are classified, the relevant laws and regulations applied to account for the transactions and how the administrative framework for accounting and reporting has been designed.

This study was conducted mainly based on primary data. Structured questionnaires, Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) have been used for collecting field data and information. For the questionnaire survey, a structured questionnaire was prepared and pre-tested by the respective field of study experts, such as one academician, two audit and accounts officers and one C&AG official. One hundred and thirty (130) questionnaires were surveyed in different Chief Accounts and Finance Office (CAFO) situated at HishabVaban, Dhaka, Divisional Comptroller of Accounts (DCA), Rajshahi office, District Accounts and Finance Office (DAFO) Chapainawabganj and Upazilla Accounts and Finance Office (UAFO), Mohanpur, Rajshahi. Three (3) FGDs were conducted to collect qualitative data, one in Bangladesh Bank (BB) and another two in the CGA office, Segun Baagicha, Dhaka and DAFO Chapainawabganj. Each FGD consisted of Six (6) members from the respective offices of the officials directly working on the government accounting and reporting systems. Five (5) KIIs were conducted with the different accounts, audit officials, and BB officials to obtain more insight into the matter. The sample was selected purposively as the government offices maintain confidentiality to disclose information.

Additionally, there are no rules for collaborating to provide data and information for academic research (Patton, 1999). The total sample size was determined for the study with the consensus of logic shown by Ding et al (1995). They argued that 120-150 samples are enough for the qualitative study (Ding et al., 1995). However, after collecting qualitative data, it was furnished as per the theme and objectives of the research questions. Qualitative data were analyzed using the rule of thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). From the survey data, 10 questionnaires were rejected for having some valid reasons. Finally, 120 questionnaires were selected for descriptive analysis and interpretation to get research outcomes.

4. Thematic Analysis of Data and Information Derived from Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Financial administration is an integral part of public financial management. For this reason, it is sometimes called Government is Finance (Lall, 1976). Additionally,

it is worth mentioning that finance is the fuel for the engine of public administration. In particular, money is the first requisite for the execution of any policy and plan of the Government (Patwary, 1989). Despite having diversified administrative structures in banks, the basic structure of governmental relationship with banks has been elaborated from the information of the FGD:

The Ministry of Finance is the mother body of all banking/financial activities of the Government. Bangladesh Bank (BB) plays a role as a banker to the Government. From the total of 9 branches of BB, 8 branches are doing government treasury functions except the Mymensingh branch. On the other hand, Sonali Bank's (SB) head office is the agent of the (BB). In the case of SB, it has two wings, namely the treasury and non-treasury branches. Of the treasury branch of SB, some have played only as the receipt branch, and some branches have both roles as receipts and payments. Horizontally, the Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA) has the role of the government accountant and the paymaster. CGA has three tiers of field offices: DCA, DAFO and UAFO (FGD 1, 2 and 3, CGA, BB, Dhaka and DAFO, Chapainawabganj, 2021).

The following extracts from the FGD vividly describe the banking administrative structure and government functions relating to accounting and reporting systems in Bangladesh.

All receipts made by government entities are deposited to the treasury single account (TSA), which has been given a code number of 0001. Besides these TSA, there are 100 different accounts of the Government with BB. However, SB receives a 2 percent commission for government receipts and payments. The Government can take a loan from the BB in the name of overdraft current as ways and means up to Tk. 6000 crore. If and when the necessary Government can take a loan from the BB, that must be adjusted within 90 days to deal reverse repo rate. The reverse repo rate is 4 percent (KII 3, FGD 1 and 3, CGA and BB, Dhaka and Chapainawabganj, 2021).

One Key Informant Interviewee describes the governmental administrative structure from an expenditure-controlling point of view. He pointed out that the core structure and functions of financial administration in Bangladesh are as follows.

For the expenditure control mechanism, government

administrative structure can be categorized as budgetary central Government, extra-budgetary Government, Constitutional bodies and public corporations (PC)/state-owned enterprises (SOE). Regarding budgetary and extra-budgetary government organizations, respective ministries/division heads are responsible for accounting and reporting the funds provided as grants from the Parliament. If the organizations are Constitutional bodies, the fund provided to them is appropriation, and the CAFO of the respective bodies are responsible for accounting and reporting. In the case of the Supreme Court, the registrar general of the organization is responsible for accounting and reporting as charged expenditures. However, expenditures of the lower court are provided as grants to the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, and the respective ministry is responsible for accounting and reporting of the funds. On the other hand, funds for PC and SOE are provided as grants in aid. The funds of SOE are accounted for and reported as per the commercial accounting systems under the jurisprudence of the respective ministerial regulations (KII 1 and 4, C&AG and CGA official, Dhaka, 2021 and 2022).

Other Key Informants' Interviewee put his view about the ease of using methods, accounting and reporting purposes, category of transactions of various government organizations and its financial and administrative process. He articulated that:

Government organizations are of four types. These are core organizations, statutory public authority, statutory local authority and state-owned organizations. Accounting and reporting methods for governmental financial management are predominantly cash-based. However, the modified cash basis approach is also used as supplementary for accounting and reporting various governmental contingent receipts and payments. Administrative functions for preparing the Appropriation Account are for the CAFO of the respective ministry, and administrative responsibility for preparing the Finance Account is for the CGA (KII 2 and 5, DCA, Rajshahi and UAFO, Mohanpur Upazilla, 2021).

The financial administrative structure for government accounting and reporting is diversified in many ways. The administrative structures are the accounting office, banks, revenue generation office, i.e. National Board of Revenues (NBR) and constitutional administration. In accounting administration, important functions in the office are pre-audit or internal control. For pre-audit or internal control purpose, the administrative set-up has been developed in the flow in the manner that, at first, the auditor verify the bill and then this bill is verified by the accounts supper and lastly, the said bill is verified by the audit and accounts officer for the final payment (KII 3, DAFO, Chapainawabganj 2021).

5. Results and Discussion

A semi-structured questionnaire was prepared and surveyed to examine respondents' views on governance and legal as well as the administrative authority/authorities responsible for governmental accounting and reporting systems. Data have been furnished in the following table for statistical analysis.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

Respondents Types	Frequency	Percent
Audit and Accounts Officers	14	11.67
Auditors	70	58.33
Tax Inspector	6	5.00
Bank Officials	28	23.33
Ministry of Planning	2	1.67
Total	120	100

Source: Field Data, 2021

From Table 1, it can be described that of the total respondent selected for the study from different sample units, 11.67 percent, i.e. 14 are audit and accounts officers, 58.33 percent, i.e. 70 are from the auditors, 5 percent, i.e.

a number of 6 are tax inspector, 23.33 percent, i.e. 28 from the banks' officials of which 14 are from Bangladesh Bank, and 14 are from Sonali Bank and approximately 1.67 percent, i.e. 2 respondents have been selected from Ministry of Planning officials as they are involved in designing Annual Development Plan and much other policy related with governmental public financial management.

Detailed analysis relating to the legal framework and governance of government accounting and reporting has been furnished in the following table and passages:

Table 2: Cross Tabulation of Respondents' Perceptions for Governance and Administrative Structure of Governmental Revenue-Type Transactions

Respondent Types	Ministry of Finance		Ministry of Planning		LGRD		C&AG		CGA		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Audit and Accounts Officer	2	14.28	1	7.14	0	0.00	3	21.42	8	57.14	14	100
Auditors	10	14.28	3	4.28	1	1.42	24	34.28	32	45.71	70	100
Tax Inspector	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	33.34	4	66.66	6	100
Bank Officials	2	7.14	2	7.14	0	0.00	10	35.71	14	50.00	28	100
Ministry of Planning	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100	0	0.00	2	100
Total	14	11.66	6	5.00	1	0.83	41	34.16	58	48.33	120	100

Source: Field Data, 2021

Table 2 shows that five types of respondents are fully or partly involved in governmental accounting and reporting systems in Bangladesh. Of the five fields mentioned above, audit and accounts officers and auditors fully govern and mechanize governmental accounting and reporting processes. The comparatively lower and middle-lower tiers of officials from the offices mentioned above were selected because of some confidential matters of the higher officials.

While investigating their perceptions about categorizing, accounting and reporting the governmental revenue-type financial transactions, it was seen that 57 percent of the total audit and accounts officers expressed their opinion that the responsibilities of accounting and reporting governmental revenue-type transactions are for CGA. From the same office, 21.42 percent of respondents think the function is for C&AG. It is a matter of thought that 0.00 percent of respondents said there is no role of the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry in that regard as it is the prime administrative body for local Government. On the other hand, a very limited number of respondents that is 7.14 percent and 14.28 percent respondents express their view that the said functions relating to government accounting and reporting are for the Ministry of Planning (MoP) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), respectively. As thought, the MoF is the mother body of all government public financial management. Still, in accounting and reporting functions, they give approval and directions to the line ministries and departments.

Auditors, as the study's respondents, have put their opinion in the manner that, at maximum, 45.71 percent of auditors think the accounting and reporting governmental revenue-type activities are for CGA. Subsequently, 34.28 percent of auditors think this function is for the C&AG office. Additionally, 1.42 percent, 4.28 percent and 14.28 percent of auditors reveal that the activities are for the LGRD ministry, Ministry of Planning and MoF. From the respondents, 6 samples were selected from the NBR officials from the position of inspector of taxes. From the selected sample, 66.66 percent of officers think that governmental accounting and reporting functions

for revenue-type activities are for CGA. In that case, the second representative respondents present their views that the function is for the C&AG office, and an insignificant portion, i.e.0.00 percent, respondents showed that LGRD, MoP and MoF have no rule in this field.

Both BB and SB maximum, such as 50.00 percent respondents, for the Bank officials, evaluated that the accounting and reporting of revenue-type activities are for CGA. Approximately 35.71 percent of respondents also express their views that C&AG office is responsible for these functions. LGRD ministry has no role in the matter. MoP and MoF have the same value, i.e. 7.14 percent of respondents think the responsibility is for them. Lastly, officials selected from the MoP have shown differently that all responsibility for accounting and reporting government revenue-type activities is for C&AG. The other four bodies, namely, CGA, LGRD, MoP and MoF, have no function regarding this financial event.

Table 3: Cross Tabulation of Respondents’ Perceptions for Governance and Administrative Structure of Governmental Development-Type Transactions

Respondent Types	Ministry of Finance		Ministry of Planning		LGRD		C&AG		CGA		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Audit and Accounts Officer	2	14.28	1	7.14	0	0.00	3	21.42	8	57.14	14	100
Auditors	8	11.42	2	2.85	2	2.85	25	35.71	33	47.14	70	100
Tax Inspector	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	33.33	4	66.67	6	100
Bank Officials	1	3.57	1	3.57	0	0.00	11	39.28	15	53.57	28	100
Ministry of Planning	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100	0	0.00	2	100
Total	11	9.16	4	3.34	2	1.66	43	35.83	60	50.00	120	100

Source: Field Data, 2021

Data from the accounting office in Table 3 shows that a higher number of, i.e. 57.14 percent, accounts and audit officer responses on accounting and reporting functions of government development-type activities is for CGA. The subsequent higher respondents, i.e. 21.42 percent disclosed their views of the functions of C&AG. No respondents, i.e. 0.00 percent said that LGRD has no function. Only 7.14 percent of respondents agree that this function is for MoP. The third largest number of respondents, i.e. 14.28, reveals that the function is for MoF. On the other hand, 47.14 percent of auditors think that accounting and reporting government-type activities are for CGA. Of the total respondents from the auditor, 35.71 percent have shown their opinion that this responsibility is for C&AG. 2.85 percent of auditor thinks that the task mentioned earlier is for LGRD and MoP, respectively. However, 11.42 percent of auditors believe this task is for MoF as the mother body of governmental financial administration. Analysis shows that the highest proportion, i.e. 66.67 percent of tax inspectors from the NBR office, reveals their opinion that this function is for CGA, and 33.33 percent agreed that this responsibility is for C&AG. Interestingly, no response is mentioned in favour of LGRD, MoP and MoF about the function of government accounting and reporting process in Bangladesh. Like other respondents, the highest number, i.e. 53.27 percent of bank officials, think that accounting reporting functions are for CGA. After this figure, the second highest number of bank officials' i.e.39.28 percent expressed their opinion that this function is for C&AG, but LGRD has no responsibility on this matter. Respondents of the said field think alike, i.e., 3.57 respondents think this function is for MoP and MoF. Finally, only 2 respondents were selected from the MoP, and 100 percent

of respondents think that the said responsibility is for C&AG. No respondent has been found, i.e. 0.00 percent of respondents disclose their views that no responsibility has been going on the CGA, LGRD, MoP and MoF.

Table 4: Respondents perceptions on the statements of governance and administrative structure for government accounting and reporting systems

Particulars	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Constitutional Mandate	102	85.00	5	4.16	5	4.16	5	4.16	3	2.50	120	100
General Financial Rules	105	87.50	6	5.00	4	3.33	4	3.33	1	0.84	120	100
Relevant Laws and Regulations	80	66.67	30	25.00	5	4.16	3	2.5	2	1.66	120	100
Delegation of Financial Power	100	83.33	15	15.50	5	4.17	0	0.00	0	0.00	120	100
Account Code	110	91.66	10	8.34	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	120	100

Source: Field Data, 2021

To measure the agreement level of the selected respondents about the governance and administrative framework for governmental accounting and reporting systems in Bangladesh, the researcher has investigated five important aspects of the Constitutional and legal frameworks. The above table 1.4 shows that 85 per cent, i.e. 102 respondents, strongly agree that there must be an efficient and effective financial administrative structure as per the Constitutional mandate for accounting and reporting governmental financial events as they play the role of the trustees/agents of the Government. In the same statement, only 4.16 percent and 2.5 percent of respondents put their opinions as agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree, respectively.

While investigating the opinion on the application of General Financial Rules to form financial governance and administrative structure for accounting and reporting governmental financial events, it was seen that 87.50 percent, i.e. 105 respondents, strongly agreed with the statement. The legal, governance, and administrative structures should exist for planning, developing, and prescribing governmental financial management-related activities. Subsequently, a very lower proportion of respondents, namely 5 percent, 3.33 percent and 0.85 percent respondents, agreed, neutral, disagreed and strongly disagreed, respectively.

In surveying the study, it was tried to get information about the availability of laws and regulations for designing the financial, administrative structure and governance framework for accounting and reporting systems in Bangladesh. The above-furnished table shows us that 66.67 percent, i.e., 80 respondents, assert that the relevant laws and regulations are enough to deal with governmental accounting reporting functions effectively and efficiently. But 40 respondents, i.e. 33.33 percent have been divided in their stance as separated 25 percent agree, 4.16 percent are neutral, 2.50 percent disagree, and 1.66 percent strongly disagree.

Delegation of financial power is an important tool for regulating and governing government financial matters. While judging the respondents' perceptions on the said matter, 83.33 percent revealed that this tool has clearly defined the administrative framework and financial governance of the governmental revenue and developmental-type activities. On the other hand, no respondents, i.e. 0.00 percent, disagreed and strongly disagreed position. But 15.50 and 4.17 percent of respondents said they were in the position of agree and neutral, respectively.

Account Code is the basis for governmental accounting and reporting systems. In this document, Volume-I describes the principles and methods of accounting, administrative framework and governance of the financial matter. At the same time, it asks to provide the statements' perceptions that the prevailing methods and principles are enough

for accounting and reporting governmental financial statements. The highest number of respondents, i.e. 91.66 percent disclose their views that the systems are in a very strong position. At the same time, 8.34 percent of respondents also responded that the document is in an agreed position. No respondents were found against or neutral in the statements, i.e. 0.00 percent of respondents were neutral, disagree and strongly disagree, respectively.

From the thematic analysis and descriptive statistics furnished above, it is found that the governance and legal framework for accounting and reporting financial transactions are quite similar to the framework used by the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh. The Constitutional Mandate, General Financial Rules, Relevant Laws and Regulations, Delegation of Financial Power and Account Code are the Legal and Operational framework of the government accounting and reporting system in Bangladesh (Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, 1972). The study results also reveal that, these frameworks have not clearly defined the elements and format of financial statements namely, Annual Finance Accounts (AFA) and Annual Appropriation Accounts (AAA), reporting mechanism donor aided fund, keeping accounts with Bangladesh Bank and reconciliation process of them with CGA. Additionally, the study result has disclosed that the Ministry of Finance is the mother body dealing with the financial matters of the Government. At the same time, the OCGA plays a role as the government accountant and paymaster. So, the findings of the study can minimize the debate relating to the administrative authority of keeping and managing government accounts because some government authorities/ministries/departments demand that they have their own accounts section and accounting functions should be maintained by their respective accounts.

6. Conclusions

Strong governance and legal framework are necessary for ensuring accountability and transparency in public financial management. On the other hand, financial administration is required to attain the maximum welfare of the citizenry of a country. For efficient and effective implementation of these welfare activities, the Bangladesh government has maintained constitutional and executive branch support financial administrative

structure. This administrative categorization was done because of the differentiation of their operating costs. Operating costs for the constitutional bodies are termed as non-vote-able/charged expenditures, and operating costs for the executive branches are termed as vote-able/non-charged expenditures.

The Ministry of Finance, controller, and auditor general act as the nation's watchdog so that public money is spent for authorized purposes. The Constitution, accounts codes, general financial rules, treasury rules and auditing principles are meant to regulate public funds.

Bangladesh's government accounting systems are designed to prepare a budget to serve the purpose of parliamentary control of expenditure before the ministry exercised 1983 financial delegation power. As per the delegation of financial power in 1983, all but 27 items of financial power were vested in the ministries/departments.

Now accounts and audit administration execute their activities independently. Tax administration works as per the laws passed in the Parliament. Government budget administration prepares passes and implements with the help of the resources of the budget wing of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Planning prepares short-term, long-term, and perspective plans with the support of the National Economic Council and the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

The appropriate legal and governance framework as well as the financial administrative structure protect the government assets and resources from wastage by preparing the budget, getting the budget passed by the legislature, implementing the budget, treasury management and through proper accounting and audit with the due economy, efficiently and effectively. Moreover, the key limitation of the study is that it was conducted only in Dhaka and Rajshahi region's accounting and audit offices with only one hundred twenty respondents due to time and budget constraints. So, the future study can be extended to review the appropriateness of the current legal and governance framework of government accounting and reporting in ensuring transparency and accountability in Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

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