



Historical Evolution of Sustainable Community Economic Development in Business and Economics

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ABSTRACT

Objective – Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED) has gradually changed overtime from production philosophy to the welfare ideology of assuring a better future for a resilient community in business and economics. SCED contributes to poverty alleviation, employment generation, sustainable community design, disaster control and resilience, biodiversity protection, and much more. The objective of this study is to conduct a literature review of this concept from the global and Bangladeshi perspective.

Methodology – Peer reviewed publications in English language were considered indexed on the Scopus and Web of Science database. The study designed 2 timelines of SCED concept evolution based on the information derived from the existing peer-reviewed publications.

Findings – Both timelines (global and Bangladeshi) were found interrelated on some points, especially the third phase of the global SCED connected with the first phase of Bangladesh's SCED timeline, immediately after the Liberation War.

Novelty - The study concludes that SCED is an ever-changing area of research and future research would reveal more sustainable features that would increase the sustainability and resilience of the business community.

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1. Introduction

Sustainable aspects in the Community Economic Development discipline or SCED has a long history in the world. However, the documented research in this area is relatively new (Haq et. al., 2021). After World War II, the SCED concept gained attention from academics to develop a theory of designing its work and contribution. The significance of this contribution is not limited to any field or discipline; instead, it has an interdisciplinary contribution worldwide.

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For example, in one popular research and scholarly publication database, Scopus, there are many papers of many disciplines, including Social Sciences, Economics, Econometrics, and Finance (See Appendix). From developed to the least developed countries, SCED's contribution cannot be denied. Moreover, universities offer academic courses of various durations and modes in Community Economic Development, including top-ranked universities such as Harvard University, MIT, and others (Haq et. al., 2021). Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED) is considered a growing field of study, so a historical timeline of this area of research is significant for unleashing new potentials in the future for the betterment of society and for implementing sustainable development goals on a local and global scale.

The transformation of the traditional CED concept into sustainable CED is relatively new, and was identified in research entitled "How Contract Farming in Poultry Industry Contribute to the Sustainable Community Economic Development of Bangladesh: A Literature Review" and "Why Bangladeshi Higher Educational Institutions Should Introduce Community Economic Development as a New Field of Study: Some Suggestions". In those papers, we connected different Sustainable Development Goals integration with the CED concept from a Bangladeshi perspective. In this paper, we present a historical evolution of Sustainable Community Economic Development from the beginning to the present time worldwide and from a Bangladeshi perspective.

Existing literature (Boothroyd & Davis, 1993; Wilson, 1996; Cummings, 2001; Markusen, 2004; Storper, 2005; Shaffer et. al., 2006) mention different timelines of the evolution of Sustainable Community Economic Development concept. However, a concrete timeline of this evolution is needed to see the historical review at a glance. SCED has had a significant impact in Bangladesh, which can be found in the relevant literature of different scholarly publications from various fields (Ahmad et. al., 2007; Baroi & Rabbani, 2011; Bhuiyan, 2011; Haq et. al., 2021; Hoq, 2012; Hossain et. al., 2015; Hassan & Renteria-Guerrero, 1997). Therefore, this study develops a timeline of this area of research by studying the existing literature. This timeline of the historical evolution of the Sustainable Community Economic Development provides an idea of what sort of works have been done so far and what is needed in the future to ensure a better future of the sustainable world.

The objectives of this study are to discuss the history of Sustainable Community Economic Development from a global and Bangladeshi perspective. This study was descriptive and discussed the existing literature published in journals indexed at Scopus and Web of Science database. The research questions were as follows:

1. RQ 1 - What is the historical timeframe of Sustainable Community Economic Development worldwide from the beginning to today?
2. RQ 2 - What is the historical timeframe of Sustainable Community Economic Development in Bangladesh from the beginning to today?

This descriptive research provides a timeline of Sustainable Community Economic Development from a global and Bangladeshi perspective that adds a new framework of explaining this area based on the evolution phase. This research work is expected to contribute to the value of future research in this area.

The study considers peer reviewed publications only to ensure the authenticity of the descriptive research. Researchers took words from our previous publications in this area with appropriate paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism. The paper followed the IMRAD style. The first chapter explains the problem background, problem statement, significance, objectives, research questions, and ethical consideration. The next chapter contains the methods of the descriptive study.

2. Methods

Relevant literature was considered in the course of conducting this descriptive research. We searched relevant peer reviewed articles on the Web of Science and Scopus using the following keywords "Community Economic Development", "History of Community Economic Development", "Community Economic Development in Bangladesh". Using the word "sustainable" before the words "Community Economic Development" was the researchers' own inclusion by relating different SDG contributions. For this reason, the researchers considered their 2 previous publications, and this inclusion has supported the literature from Anglin (2010) and Roseland (2000). Finally, the researchers divided the descriptive study which is discussed in the later parts of the study.

Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED) is a multifaceted and interdisciplinary discipline of study that covers all sorts of relevant community and economic aspects and promotes development. As discussed above, this is a relatively new and developing area of study which is the focus of many studies at the present time and is constantly being upgraded and reviewed to ensure the latest knowledge on SCED is known (Shaffer et. al., 2006).

Boothroyd and Davis (1993) coined the concept of Community Economic Development (CED) as a human centric system of human activity directed to meeting human wants that is determined by deliberate allocations of scarce resources by extending the local economy beyond marketplace transactions through increasing control, ownership of the local economy by people of the concerned community (Boothroyd & Davis, 1993).

According to Roseland (2000; p. 97), sustainable community economic development means emphasizing sustainable employment and economic demand management (EDM), including turning "wastes" into resources (e.g., recycling), improving efficiency concerning energy and materials, converting to greater reliance on renewable energy sources, increasing community self-reliance (e.g., food and energy production) and sustainable management of natural resources (e.g., community forestry).

According to Markusen (2004, pp. 265-266), Sustainable Community Economic Development agents should be highly skilled in relevant areas, show growth potential in different sectors, cluster spatially, cross-fertilize with other sectors, encourage community entrepreneurship, and match the potential SCED area in regional and community economic development.

Weissbourd and Bodini (2005) urge the need for a paradigm shift from deficiency-based to an asset-based approach in addressing the problems of disadvantaged communities through proper identification of poverty and creation of wealth, asset investment for resolving poverty, consideration of markets as the mechanism of asset investment and market activity and wealth maximization were positively correlated.

According to Shaffer et. al. (2006), Sustainable CED combines 6 interdisciplinary paradigms: space, decision making, rules/institutions, resources, society/culture and markets (2006, pp. 60-62).

Phillips and Pittman (2009) considered that the purpose of community development is to produce assets, and the purpose of economic development is to mobilize those assets. They considered a planned effort to build assets that increase the capacity of community residents to improve their quality of life related to individual, financial, physical and social capitals dimension (2009, p.10).

According to Anglin (2010), Sustainable CED addresses the growth of local economies, empowering communities, revitalizing downtowns, developing entrepreneurship, building leadership, and enhancing nonprofits.

Christensen and Phillips (2016, pp. 648-649) discussed CED within the sustainable food system. They recommend the significant relationships among actors are of paramount importance to achieving CED by focusing on the ability to work together, to resolve differences is also reflective of social capital in a community, and supportive decisions should be made to support suitable rewards and risk minimization at the individual level.

From the first author's previous papers(Haq et. al., 2021;Haq et. al., 2021), the study interacted with different SDG goals and targets with CED contributions of Bangladesh. This SDG interaction guided how CED can contribute successfully to making societies sustainable and self-sufficient.

The evolution of the SCED concept has evolved with the contribution of different scholars worldwide. In considering a theory for discussing this conceptual evolution, the study assessed" The Timeline-Important Event" model suggested by(Fernandez, A. A., França, K., Chacon, A. H., & Nouri, 2013)discussing different significant events in a timeline that has been supported by Champagne (2016)because it accumulated a significant amount of time in a phase. According to Shaffer et. al. (2006), the history of Sustainable Community Economic Development is over 100 years old. The study divided this timeline into 5phases based on the literature, and the following diagram as a conceptual framework was suggested by(Fernandez, França, Chacon, & Nouri, 2013;Anon, 2018;Azad et. al., 2016;Davidson, 2000;Deheija, Montgomery and Morduch, 2005;Dev et. al., 2002;Islam, 2015;Mahmud, 2008;Rostow, 1971).

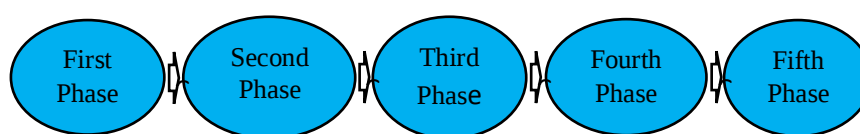


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the evolution of Global Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED)
Source: Author

3. Results and Discussion

In the first phase or the Early Phase (n.d.-1960), the SCED wasn't fully recognized. This phase was on an export base, in which policies focused on the production of goods to be exported from one region to another(Shaffer et. al., 2006; Melnyk, 1985; Tiebout, 1956; North, 1955;Coady, n.d.; Hoyt, 1933). In the pre-Keynesian capitalism period, many communities organized producer, consumer, and credit unions to foster community growth. Still, they were also seen as playing an important stabilizing role (ibid). The academic discussions of the 1950s and early 1960sconcerned unique differences and the link between rural and urban areas led to structural change models (ibid).

The second phase, or the Smokestack Chasing phase (1960-1970), previously mentioned by Boothroyd and Davis (1993)and Shaffer et. al. (2006)concluded that the source of growth was assumed in the industrial development of the locality to attract several industrial establishments, such as a mine, a railway, tourist attractions, a prison, a college, or a government agency. Shaffer et. al. (2006) referred to this as Smokestack Chasing. The role of the smokestack-chasing planner (e.g., business development officer or local politician) was to attract capital to the community by pointing out the advantages to the investors and the public sector promoters (ibid). This phase was criticized by Shaffer et. al. (2006)and Lotz (1977)because several communities had not produced the expected net benefits, and some existing businesses had been replaced (e.g., downtown merchants by suburban shopping centers). Others have experienced rising costs (e.g., rent and wages) and the resource destruction by newcomers in the community (e.g., fishing by mining). Lotz (1977)further argues that enterprises employed workers at low wages in Canada, which created an example of exploiting people, which was not acceptable.

The third phase, or the growth phase (1970-1980), recognized shortcomings of smokestack chasing. The growth promotion approach was becoming much more sophisticated (Boothroyd & Davis, 1993). The emphasis is on comprehensive planning for growth by involving all relevant private and public actors in setting targets, surveying opportunities, and developing a wide range of strategies (p.232). Specific strategies included increasing the pool of investment funds for local firms, development of incubators, technical

assistance for local firms, and revolving loan funds (Shaffer et. al., 2006). In this phase, community firms were assisted in increasing community exports by expanding markets, developing new products, or making better resources (Boothroyd & Davis, 1993). Additionally, import substitution (i.e., the replacement of imports with local community production) was also pursued at times, not to increase stability but further to accelerate the economy's growth (ibid). This phase focused on expanding and retaining existing businesses and entrepreneurship (Shaffer et. al., 2006; Eisinger, 1988; Elisinger, 1995; Bruyn, 1987).

Today's fourth phase, or the developing phase (1980 – 2000), focuses on cluster development which has its roots in agglomeration economies and ideas (Ramajo & Hewings, 2003; Thisse & Fujita, 2002). Indeed, the idea of cluster development has brought the idea of collaboration across communities to the forefront (Bradshaw & Blakely, 1999; Elisinger, 1995; Cumbers & MacKinnon, 2004; Eisinger, 1988; Porter, 2020). We maintain that this latest wave, at least, starts bridging economic growth and development with community development into community economic development (CED). This proposition is supported by research by Boothroyd and Davis (1993), MacIntyre (1998) and Bridger and Luloff (1999).

Name	Duration	Category	Evolution
First Phase	n.d.-1960	Early Phase	Producers Coops Consumers Coops Credit Union
Second Phase	1960-1970	Smokestack Chasing Phase	Industrial Development Urbanization
Third Phase	1970-1980	Growth Phase	Investment funds, Import Substitution, Entrepreneurship
Fourth Phase	1990-2000	Developing Phase	CED development, Resource Awareness, Telecom Innovation, Quick Capital Movement
Fifth Phase	2000-Present	Sustainable Development Phase	Sustainable and Resilient Community, Disaster Control, Contract Farming

Source: Author

Figure 2. Timeline of the evolution of SCED concept

Economic empowerment of community members was first discussed in this phase, which led to developing the next phase (Wilson, 1996). From the 1980s to 1990s, awareness has grown that local and national economies are increasingly threatened (if not already impacted) by the depletion and degrading of natural resource bases. These telecommunication innovations allow investment decisions to be handled more remotely. The capital moved unmanaged trade more quickly, and the systemic incapacity caused fiscal crises to do with less (Boothroyd & Davis, 1993).

The fifth or sustainable development phase (2000 – present) considers integrating the sustainable development concept with the CED concept to make the community more sustainable and resilient. Though the term "Sustainable Development" in CED was discussed (Boothroyd & Davis, 1993), the implementation and application have been found in this phase. According to Pelenc and Etxano (2021), SCED is derived from the "Strong Sustainability" wing of sustainable development area and literature from this phase largely considers this ideology that can be found in the contribution of promoting local food systems (IFAD, 2021), developing sustainable market systems for the community to strength local market and economy (Qu, 2019), patronizing and promoting local production systems for assessing sustainable community economic development (Marín - gonzález et. al., 2021; Pesch et. al., 2019; Winfree and Watson, 2017), producing renewable energy and waste management for the community environmental economic growth (Gjorgievski, Cundeva and Georgiou, 2021), sustainable occupational development in the community for economic development (Yang & Hu, 2021), political movement and sustainable system development (Wilson and Polter, 2020), physical, social and economic nexus development for sustaining better communities (Butler, 2021), disaster control through flood mitigation by involving local communities (Park, Shin and Lee, 2021) and arsenics is (Dey et. al., 2020), sustainable asset mobilization of the society and community (Zhan and Santos-Paulino, 2021), tourism development in assuring sustainable community economic development (Bagiada, 2015) and contract farming in employment generation for achieving SCED (Haq et. al., 2021). The evolution of SCED is described below:

The SCED concept is also quite significant in Bangladesh, and papers from different authors have contributed to the gradual development of this concept. The first phase of Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED) starts during the liberation war with the establishment of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Bangladesh received independence in 1971, and the history of SCED started during the liberation war 1971 through the inception of Gonoshasthya Kendra by Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, a community clinic providing treatment to injured freedom fighters. After liberation, BRAC (Building Resources across Communities) was established by Sir Fazlé Hasan Abed. In line with BRAC, some (NGOs) found with the focus on the activities that had traditionally been in the domain of the government agencies, and they followed a participatory approach that enabled them to deliver the services to targeted groups of the population much better than the hierarchically structured government agencies (ibid).

Zohir (2004) discussed the primary activities of NGOs in community economic development, which provide credit facilities to poor people, promote social intermediation and women empowerment (Balk, 1994), alliance formation with different organs of the government of Bangladesh (e.g., Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and foreign institutions (e.g., Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in delivering social service and iv)) and render commercial services (e.g., Aarong, a reputable chain store of BRAC). Through NGO activities, Bangladesh has connected well with the third phase of global Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED).

The emergence of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) created the second phase in 1976 through the inception of Grameen Bank by Nobel Laureate Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus. The primary reason was to pull the local community out of the poverty trap that resulted from the 1974 famine (Yunus, 1998; Muhammad Yunus, n.d.; Hassan & Renteria-Guerrero, 1997). With the success of Grameen Bank, many NGOs turned into MFI- NGOs and worked like Grameen Bank (Ahmed, 2009; Maïtrot, 2019). A significant contribution was found in women's empowerment in rural areas in promoting women's entrepreneurship (Afrin, Islam and Ahmed, 2010). Another reputed MFI-NGO is Proshika, who, in association with Practical Action Bangladesh, provided significant community development to blacksmiths and goldsmith communities of Bangladesh (Islam & Morgan, 2012). Kamruzzaman and Hakim (2016) note that the fishing communities in the Dhaleshwari River area of Bangladesh gained community development facilities with the help of

different local and global NGOs and MFIs. However, MFIs and NGOs were criticized by various scholars for concentrating too heavily on profitability and financial performance rather than community economic development. This prohibits Bangladesh from achieving sustainability in Community Economic Development and charging too much interest rate, which often negatively impacts borrowers (Beisland et. al., 2021).

The third phase (1994-present) began with the emergence of contract farming operations by corporate houses of Bangladesh with the hand of Aftab Bahumukhi Farms Limited in 1994 (Haq et. al., 2021). Later, other big conglomerates such as PRAN RFL Group, Kazi Farms Group joined gradually and made many rural areas sustainable in terms of financial and living arrangements. Contract farming removed the "interest" problem of MFI-NGOs by providing an agreement with the community about producing particular products, and the corporate house was committed to giving all sorts of logistic support (ibid). Whereas MFIs and NGOs activities are narrowly concentrated on poverty alleviation, education, or hunger problems only, contract farming simultaneously touches most of the SDGs and their targets by assuring sustainable community economic development (ibid). Furthermore, local people from remote areas where no NGOs or MFIs are based formed informal groups to protect themselves from natural disasters (Baroi & Rabbani, 2011), environmental conservation through promoting forest conservation (Nath, Jashimuddin and Inoue, 2016) and arsenicosis problems (Dey et. al., 2020). These informal communities have been thriving by reducing population problems and lowering the fertility rate in remote areas (Mahfuzur, 2018). A pictorial presentation is provided below:

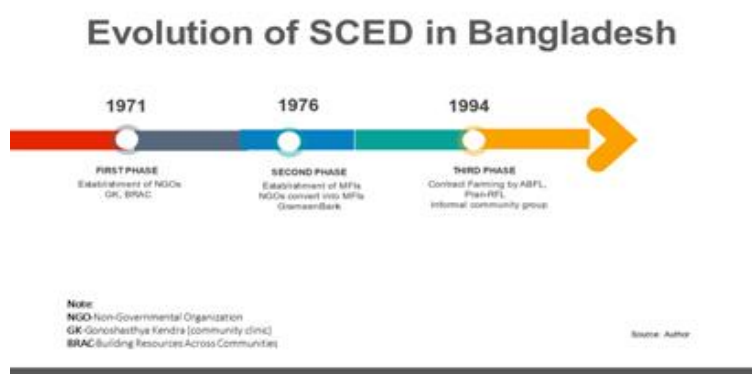


Figure 2: Evolution of SCED in Bangladesh

4. Conclusion

SCED is an academically significant field of study, and many universities worldwide offer courses related to it (Haq et. al., 2021). The historical timeline of the evolution of the concept of SCED could give a pictorial representation in the academic field. Further, these timelines could provide researchers with insight into what phase they should focus more on in advancing the concept. The managerial recommendations are on taking community economic developmental decisions in the production process of the organization. Managers should take more sustainable approaches in developing the community of different parts of the world. Further, community employment should focus more on the human development planning of the organization. The primary societal recommendation is portraying the SCED concept as a possible implication of applying SDG 11 in establishing sustainable communities. This study also focuses on the development of the concept of CED into SCED, covering another societal recommendation on SDG 8 and increasing employment in the community.

The study considered only published information available at different scholarly publications. Any unpublished information has not been taken into account. The study did not interview any local and global SCED agents, such as NGOs, MFIs and corporate houses. The study used 1theory to discuss the historical timeline of the SCED concept evolution. The literature review was descriptive and didn't consider any quantitative parameters to assess the literature, citations, and authors contributing in this field.

Future research should conduct in-depth interviews of different SCED stakeholders to identify the factors influencing the evolution of the concept. Future studies may also conduct focus group studies of SCED agents to make qualitative assessments of their intention to join in different sustainable community economic development projects.

Sustainable Community Economic Development (SCED) is an ever-changing area of study. These 2timelines (Global and Bangladeshi) provide researchers with an overall image of its evolutionary movement from the beginning of the concept to the sustainability assurance of the community and the world at large. The study concludes that, due to its ever-changing and diversified nature, further research is needed to make a significant contribution to establishing a sustainable and resilient community around the world.

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