

**Thesis Report  
On**

**“Green Banking Practices and Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in  
Bangladesh.”**

**Submitted by:**

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**Submitted to:**

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Submitted for the partial fulfillment of the degree of  
Bachelor of Business Administration



**Sonargaon University (SU)  
147/1 Green Road, Panthapath, Tejgaon, Dhaka**

**Date of Submission: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2026**

**Thesis Report  
On  
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**Supervised by:**

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**Date of Submission: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2026**

## **Letter of Transmittal**

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2026

To  
**Md. Shahbub Alam**  
Assistant professor  
Department of Business Administration  
Faculty of Business  
Sonargaon University

**Subject:** Submission of Thesis Report

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to submit my thesis entitled “**Green Banking Practices and Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh.**” as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of the BBA program.

This study explores the implementation of green banking initiatives and examines their impact on the financial performance of selected commercial banks in Bangladesh. I have attempted to incorporate relevant theoretical knowledge, empirical data, and analytical insights to ensure the quality and reliability of the research.

I sincerely hope that this report will meet your expectations and provide meaningful insights into the subject matter. I would be grateful for your valuable feedback and suggestions.

Thank you for your guidance and support throughout the preparation of this thesis.

Sincerely

---

**Rokeya Islam**  
ID: BBA2303030130  
Program: Bachelor of Business Administration  
Major: Finance  
Semester: Spring-2026  
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## **Declaration of Student**

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Green Banking Practices and Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh.**” is an original work carried out by me under the supervision of **Md. Shahbub Alam**. This thesis has not been submitted previously, either in whole or in part, to any other institution or university for the award of any degree or qualification. All sources of information used in this study have been properly acknowledged through appropriate references.

I take full responsibility for the authenticity and accuracy of the work presented in this thesis.

Sincerely

---

**Rokeya Islam**

ID: BBA2303030130

Program: Bachelor of Business Administration

Major: Finance

Semester: Spring-2026

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## **Letter of Authorization**

This is to certify that **Rokeya Islam**, bearing **ID: BBA2303030130**, a student of Department of Business Administration, Sonargaon University, has been authorized to conduct research on the topic “**Green Banking Practices and Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh.**” The student has permission to collect relevant data from various sources, including bank officials, customers, and published materials, strictly for academic purposes. The information collected will be used solely for research and will be treated with confidentiality.

We request all concerned authorities to provide necessary cooperation and assistance to facilitate the successful completion of this research.

---

**Md. Shahbub Alam**

Assistant Professor

Department of Business Administration

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## **Acknowledgement**

First and foremost, I express my deepest gratitude to Almighty Allah for granting me the strength, patience, and perseverance to successfully complete this thesis.

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Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge all the authors, researchers, and institutions whose published works, reports, and data have been used as secondary sources in this study. Their contributions have provided a strong theoretical and analytical foundation for my research.

I am also thankful to my friends and classmates for their cooperation, encouragement, and moral support during the preparation of this thesis. Their assistance and motivation helped me overcome various challenges throughout the research process.

Finally, I express my deepest gratitude to my beloved family members for their unconditional love, continuous encouragement, and unwavering support. Their patience and belief in me have been a constant source of inspiration.

## **Abstract**

The concept of green banking has gained significant attention in recent years as financial institutions increasingly recognize their responsibility toward environmental sustainability and sustainable economic development. This study aims to examine the relationship between green banking practices and the financial performance of commercial banks in Bangladesh, with a specific focus on City Bank PLC, Eastern Bank PLC, and Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC.

The primary objective of this research is to evaluate how the adoption of environmentally sustainable banking practices influences key financial performance indicators. Green banking practices considered in this study include online banking services, paperless transactions, green financing, investment in environmentally friendly projects, energy-efficient operations, and the promotion of sustainable business policies. These initiatives are expected to reduce environmental impact while simultaneously enhancing operational efficiency and profitability.

To achieve the objectives of the study, a mixed-method research approach has been employed, combining both qualitative and quantitative data. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires distributed among bank employees and customers, along with informal interviews to gain deeper insights into green banking implementation. Secondary data were gathered from annual reports, sustainability reports, Bangladesh Bank guidelines, and other relevant publications related to the selected banks.

The analysis of the collected data reveals that green banking practices have a positive and significant impact on the financial performance of commercial banks. The findings indicate that banks adopting green initiatives experience improved cost efficiency, enhanced corporate image, increased customer satisfaction, and better risk management. Additionally, green financing and environmentally responsible investments contribute to long-term profitability and sustainable growth.

The study concludes that green banking practices not only contribute to environmental protection but also play a vital role in improving the financial performance and competitive advantage of banks. Based on the findings, it is recommended that commercial banks strengthen their green initiatives, invest in advanced technologies, and increase awareness among stakeholders. Policymakers and regulatory authorities should also take necessary steps to promote and enforce green banking policies more effectively

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## List of Acronyms

|             |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>PLC</b>  | Public Limited Company                   |
| <b>ESDD</b> | Environmental and Social Due Diligence   |
| <b>ESRM</b> | Environmental and Social Risk Management |
| <b>ERM</b>  | Enterprise Risk Management               |
| <b>EBL</b>  | Eastern Bank Limited                     |
| <b>IBBL</b> | Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited           |
| <b>UNEP</b> | United Nations Environment Programme     |
| <b>MSME</b> | Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise      |
| <b>GCF</b>  | Green Climate Fund                       |
| <b>IFC</b>  | International Finance Corporation        |
| <b>NPL</b>  | Non-Performing Loans                     |
| <b>ROI</b>  | Return on Investment                     |
| <b>ROA</b>  | Return on Asset                          |
| <b>ROE</b>  | Return on Equity                         |
| <b>NIM</b>  | Net Interest Margin                      |
| <b>RBV</b>  | Resource-Based View                      |
| <b>NRBV</b> | Natural Resource-Based View              |

# **Chapter-One**

## **Introduction**

## 1.1 Background of the Study

In recent decades, the global financial system has experienced significant transformation. Traditionally, financial institutions evaluated their success primarily through profitability and financial growth. However, modern economic systems now emphasize a broader concept known as the Triple Bottom Line, which focuses on Profit, People, and Planet. This concept suggests that organizations should not only aim for financial success but also consider their social responsibilities and environmental impacts.

Environmental sustainability has become one of the most critical challenges of the 21st century. Climate change, global warming, deforestation, pollution, and resource depletion have forced governments, corporations, and financial institutions to rethink their strategies and operational frameworks. As financial intermediaries, banks play a significant role in directing capital toward economic activities. Therefore, banks have a strong influence on whether economic growth supports environmental sustainability or contributes to environmental degradation.

In this context, the concept of **Green Banking** has emerged as an important strategy for promoting sustainable development. Green Banking refers to the adoption of environmentally friendly practices by financial institutions and the financing of projects that reduce environmental risks and promote sustainable economic growth. Through green banking practices, banks can reduce their own environmental footprint while also encouraging customers and businesses to adopt environmentally responsible activities.

For a country like Bangladesh, the importance of green banking is particularly significant. Bangladesh is considered one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Rising sea levels, frequent cyclones, floods, river erosion, and extreme weather conditions pose serious

threats to the country's economic stability and social welfare. These environmental challenges directly affect industries, agriculture, infrastructure, and financial systems.

Recognizing these risks, the Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of the country, introduced **Green Banking Guidelines in 2011**. These guidelines encouraged banks to integrate environmental considerations into their lending decisions and operational processes. Since then, the banking sector has gradually adopted environmentally responsible practices, such as digital banking services, paperless operations, renewable energy financing, and environmental risk assessment in lending activities.

Over time, Bangladesh Bank has further strengthened these initiatives by introducing **Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) guidelines**, sustainable finance policies, and a **Sustainability Rating system** to evaluate banks based on their environmental and social performance. By 2024–2025, green banking in Bangladesh had evolved from a voluntary initiative into a strategic component of the banking sector's long-term sustainability and risk management framework.

According to the **Bangladesh Bank Sustainability Rating 2024**, several commercial banks have made significant progress in adopting sustainable banking practices. Among them, **City Bank PLC**, **Eastern Bank PLC (EBL)**, and **Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC (IBBL)** have demonstrated strong commitment toward green finance and environmentally responsible banking operations.

Therefore, understanding how green banking practices influence the **financial performance of commercial banks** has become an important area of academic and practical research.

## **1.1 Profile of the Selected Banks**

To analyze the relationship between green banking practices and financial performance, this study focuses on three leading private commercial banks in Bangladesh. These banks have been recognized for their sustainability initiatives and innovative banking strategies.

### 1.1.1 City Bank PLC

City Bank PLC is one of the oldest and most prominent private commercial banks in Bangladesh. Established in 1983, the bank has grown significantly in terms of assets, customer base, and technological innovation. In recent years, City Bank has positioned itself as a leader in sustainable banking practices.

According to the **Bangladesh Bank Sustainability Rating 2024**, City Bank secured the **top position among commercial banks** due to its strong commitment to sustainable finance and environmental responsibility. The bank has adopted several green initiatives, including:

- Digital banking services such as **CityTouch** to reduce paper usage
- Financing renewable energy projects such as solar power
- Promoting environmentally responsible lending policies
- Energy-efficient office infrastructure

City Bank has also committed to achieving **Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2050** and became the first Bangladeshi bank to join the **UNEP FI Net-Zero Banking Alliance**, an international initiative promoting climate-friendly financial systems.

### 1.1.2 Eastern Bank PLC (EBL)

Eastern Bank PLC is another leading private commercial bank in Bangladesh known for its innovation and commitment to sustainable finance. Established in 1992, the bank has consistently focused on responsible banking practices and technological advancement.

EBL is widely recognized as a pioneer in **climate risk assessment and sustainable finance** within the Bangladeshi banking sector. The bank established a **Sustainable Finance Unit** to ensure that environmental and social risks are properly evaluated before financing projects.

In 2024, Eastern Bank reported that **35.24% of its total term loan disbursement was directed toward Green Finance**, including investments in:

- Renewable energy projects
- Energy-efficient industries
- Environmentally friendly manufacturing
- Waste management facilities

This demonstrates a significant shift in the bank's credit strategy toward environmentally sustainable investments.

### **1.1.3 Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC (IBBL)**

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC is the largest private commercial bank in the country operating under **Islamic Shari'ah principles**. Established in 1983, the bank follows profit-sharing investment mechanisms rather than interest-based lending.

In recent years, Islami Bank has integrated **green banking principles with Islamic ethical finance**, which emphasizes social justice, environmental responsibility, and ethical investment.

According to recent reports, Islami Bank achieved **22.50% Green Term Investment disbursement** during the 2023–2024 period, which significantly exceeds the **5% green finance target set by Bangladesh Bank**.

The bank has invested in environmentally sustainable sectors such as:

- Solar energy projects
- Eco-friendly industries
- Waste recycling projects



- Sustainable agriculture financing

These initiatives demonstrate how Islamic banking principles can align with modern sustainability goals.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Although green banking has gained increasing importance, there is still an ongoing debate regarding its **financial impact on commercial banks**. Many banks receive recognition and awards for their sustainability efforts, but questions remain about whether these initiatives truly improve financial performance.

One major concern relates to the **cost of implementing green banking technologies**. For example, advanced digital platforms such as **CityTouch** and **EBL Skybanking** require significant initial investment. These systems involve high capital expenditure for software development, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and staff training.

While digital banking eventually reduces operational costs by minimizing paper use and physical infrastructure, the **initial investment may temporarily increase the bank's cost-to-income ratio**.

Another challenge involves the **credit risk associated with green projects**. Many environmentally sustainable projects are implemented by **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. These businesses often face financial constraints and operational risks, making them more vulnerable to loan default compared to large corporate borrowers.

Additionally, regulatory requirements have become more complex. Bangladesh Bank has strengthened its **Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) guidelines**, requiring banks to conduct detailed **Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD)** before approving loans for certain industries.

While these regulations promote responsible lending, they also increase administrative work and operational costs for banks.

Therefore, an important research problem arises:

**Do green banking practices improve the financial performance of commercial banks, or do they create additional financial burdens?**

This study attempts to address this question by analyzing the relationship between green finance initiatives and key financial indicators such as profitability, efficiency, and return on investment.

### 1.3 Rationale of the Study

This research is particularly relevant in the current economic and environmental context of Bangladesh.

First, Bangladesh is preparing for its **graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status**. As the country integrates more deeply into the global financial system, sustainability standards are becoming increasingly important. International investors and financial institutions now prioritize environmental, social, and governance (ESG) compliance when providing financial support.

Second, banks with strong sustainability performance have better access to **international climate finance**. Organizations such as the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, the **World Bank**, and the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** often provide funding to financial institutions that demonstrate commitment to environmentally responsible practices.

Third, green banking practices contribute to **brand reputation and customer trust**. Customers are becoming more environmentally conscious and often prefer financial institutions that promote sustainable development. Therefore, green banking initiatives can strengthen a bank's market position and customer loyalty.

Finally, green banking helps banks manage **long-term financial risks**. Industries that heavily pollute the environment may face strict regulations or closure in the future. By evaluating environmental risks before providing loans, banks can reduce the probability of **non-performing loans (NPLs)** and protect their financial stability.

## 1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine whether green banking practices contribute to improved financial performance in commercial banks in Bangladesh.

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the growth trend of green finance in selected banks from **2020 to 2025**.
2. To evaluate the role of **digital banking and paperless operations** in reducing operational costs.
3. To compare the **Return on Assets (ROA)** and **Return on Equity (ROE)** of banks with strong sustainability performance.
4. To identify the major **challenges and barriers** faced by banks in implementing green banking practices.
5. To examine the relationship between **green financing and profitability** of commercial banks.

## 1.5 Research Questions

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions are formulated:

1. How has the **Sustainability Rating system introduced by Bangladesh Bank** influenced the investment behavior of commercial banks?

2. Is there a **positive relationship between green finance investments and bank profitability**?
3. Do digital and paperless banking operations significantly reduce operational costs over time?
4. What are the main challenges faced by banks in implementing green banking initiatives?

## **1.6 Key Concepts and Definitions**

To better understand the study, several important concepts related to green banking are explained below.

### **Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM)**

ESRM refers to a framework used by banks to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks associated with financing projects. Before approving loans, banks evaluate whether the borrower's activities could negatively impact the environment or society.

### **Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD)**

ESDD is a detailed investigation conducted by banks to ensure that borrowers comply with environmental regulations and social responsibility standards before receiving financial support.

### **Green Finance**

Green finance refers to financial investments that support environmentally sustainable projects, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, sustainable agriculture, and pollution control.

## Net-Zero Banking Alliance

The Net-Zero Banking Alliance is a global initiative that encourages banks to align their lending and investment portfolios with the goal of achieving **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**.

### 1.7 Example of Green Finance Disbursement (Illustrative Table)

| Bank                          | 2022 Green Finance<br>(BDT Billion) | 2023 Green Finance<br>(BDT Billion) | 2024 Green Finance<br>(BDT Billion) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| City Bank PLC                 | 18.5                                | 22.3                                | 26.8                                |
| Eastern Bank PLC              | 15.7                                | 20.4                                | 24.6                                |
| Islami Bank<br>Bangladesh PLC | 21.2                                | 25.8                                | 30.1                                |

The table shows the increasing trend of green finance investment among selected banks in Bangladesh.

### 1.9 Scope of the Study

This research focuses on the **green banking practices and financial performance** of three selected commercial banks in Bangladesh: City Bank PLC, Eastern Bank PLC, and Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC.

The study covers the period from **2019 to 2025**, analyzing financial reports, sustainability reports, and Bangladesh Bank guidelines related to green banking.

## 1.10 Limitations of the Study

Despite careful analysis, the study has several limitations:

1. **Data availability limitations**, as the complete audited reports for 2025 may not be available at the time of research.
2. **Limited sample size**, as the study focuses only on three banks.
3. **External economic factors**, such as inflation, interest rate changes, and global economic conditions, may influence financial performance alongside green banking initiatives.
4. It is difficult to **isolate green banking practices as the sole factor affecting profitability**.

## **CHAPTER-TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

## 2.1 Introduction

The concept of green banking has emerged as a critical component of sustainable finance, integrating environmental considerations into banking operations and financial decision-making. In recent years, financial institutions have shifted their focus from purely profit-oriented activities to a broader framework that includes environmental and social responsibility. This chapter reviews existing literature on green banking practices and their impact on financial performance, combining both global and Bangladeshi perspectives. It also highlights theoretical foundations and identifies research gaps relevant to this study.

## 2.2 Concept and Evolution of Green Banking

Green banking refers to environmentally responsible banking practices that aim to reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainable economic development (**Jeucken, 2001**). According to **Bihari (2010)**, green banking involves the adoption of eco-friendly initiatives such as digital banking, paperless transactions, and financing environmentally sustainable projects.

The concept gained global attention after increasing concerns about climate change and environmental degradation. Financial institutions are now recognized as key players in directing funds toward sustainable sectors (**Thompson & Cowton, 2004**).

In Bangladesh, green banking initiatives gained momentum after the introduction of Green Banking Policy Guidelines by Bangladesh Bank in 2011, which required banks to integrate environmental risk management into their operations (**Bangladesh Bank, 2011**).

## 2.3 Dimensions of Green Banking Practices

Green banking practices can be categorized into several key dimensions:

### 2.3.1 Green Financing

Green financing involves providing loans and investments for environmentally friendly projects such as renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture (**Rahman et al., 2013**). Studies show that green financing contributes to long-term profitability by reducing environmental risks and attracting sustainable investments.



### 2.3.2 Digital and Paperless Banking

Digital banking reduces paper usage and operational costs while improving efficiency and customer convenience (**Ullah, 2013**). Online banking, mobile banking, and electronic transactions are widely recognized as effective green initiatives.

### 2.3.3 Energy Efficiency and Green Infrastructure

Banks adopt energy-efficient technologies such as solar-powered branches and green buildings to reduce operational costs and carbon emissions (**Masukujjaman & Aktar, 2014**).

### 2.3.4 Environmental Risk Management (ERM)

Environmental risk management ensures that banks assess environmental impacts before financing projects. This reduces the likelihood of financial losses due to regulatory penalties or environmental damages (Hossain et al., 2016).

## 2.4 Measurement of Financial Performance

Financial performance is commonly evaluated using profitability and efficiency indicators. The most widely used indicators include:

- Return on Assets (ROA): Measures how efficiently assets generate profit
- Return on Equity (ROE): Measures returns to shareholders
- Return on Investment (ROI): Evaluates investment efficiency
- Net Interest Margin (NIM): Measures interest income performance

According to **Lalon (2015)**, these indicators are essential in assessing whether green banking contributes to financial success.

## 2.5 Theoretical Framework

### 2.5.1 Resource-Based View (RBV)

The Resource-Based View suggests that firms achieve competitive advantage through unique internal resources (**Barney, 1991**). Green banking practices can be considered strategic resources that enhance efficiency and reputation.

### 2.5.2 Natural Resource-Based View (NRBV)

**Hart (1995)** extended RBV by emphasizing environmental sustainability. NRBV argues that firms adopting eco-friendly strategies gain long-term competitive advantages.

### 2.5.3 Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholder theory (**Freeman, 1984**) states that organizations must satisfy the interests of all stakeholders. Green banking helps banks meet expectations of customers, regulators, and society, improving corporate image and trust.

## 2.6 Empirical Review

### 2.6.1 Global Studies

Several international studies highlight a positive relationship between green banking and financial performance. **Jeucken (2001)** found that sustainable banks tend to perform better in the long run due to improved risk management and reputation.

However, some studies argue that green investments involve high initial costs, which may reduce short-term profitability (**Thompson & Cowton, 2004**).

### 2.6.2 Studies in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, **Ullah (2013)** found that green banking practices significantly improve operational efficiency and reduce costs. Similarly, **Rahman et al. (2013)** identified a positive relationship between green financing and bank profitability.

**Islam and Das (2013)** reported that although banks are adopting green practices, challenges such as lack of awareness, high implementation costs, and technological limitations still exist.

**Masukujjaman and Aktar (2014)** emphasized that regulatory support from Bangladesh Bank plays a crucial role in promoting green banking practices.

### 2.6.3 Comparative Insights

Studies suggest that private commercial banks in Bangladesh adopt green banking practices more rapidly than other financial institutions. Additionally, Islamic banks integrate green banking with ethical principles, which may influence their financial outcomes differently (**Lalon, 2015**).

## 2.7 Research Gap

Despite extensive research on green banking, several gaps remain:

- Limited comparative studies focusing on specific banks like City Bank, Eastern Bank, and Islami Bank Bangladesh
- Lack of recent data reflecting digital transformation in green banking
- Insufficient analysis of individual green banking components and their direct financial impact
- Limited research on long-term vs short-term financial effects

These gaps justify the need for the current study.

## 2.8 Summary

This chapter reviewed the existing literature on green banking practices and financial performance. The findings indicate that green banking contributes positively to operational efficiency, profitability, and sustainability. However, challenges such as high costs and lack of awareness remain significant barriers. Theoretical frameworks such as RBV, NRBV, and Stakeholder Theory support the adoption of green banking practices. The identified research gaps provide a strong foundation for conducting this study.

**CHAPTER-THREE**  
**CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND**  
**HYPOTHESES**

### 3.1 Introduction to the Banking Sector in Bangladesh

The banking sector is the primary pillar of the Bangladeshi financial system, playing a critical role in the nation's industrialization, trade, and overall economic development. Since independence, the industry has transitioned from a small, underdeveloped system into a competitive and diversified sector. Today, commercial banks dominate this landscape by mobilizing savings into productive investments across the SME, agricultural, and industrial sectors.

However, the sector currently faces a dual reality: while digital innovations like online banking and ATMs have improved efficiency, banks must also navigate rising non-performing loans (NPLs) and intensifying competition. This has necessitated a shift toward sustainability, leading to the emergence of "Green Banking" as a core survival and growth strategy.

### 3.2 Detailed Profile of the Selected Banks

To analyze the intersection of sustainability and finance, this study focuses on three leading private commercial banks recognized for their innovation and commitment to the "Triple Bottom Line"—Profit, People, and Planet.

#### **City Bank PLC: The Pioneer of Strategic Sustainability**

City Bank PLC, established in 1983, is one of the oldest and most technologically advanced private commercial banks in Bangladesh. It has transformed from a traditional lender into a global sustainability partner.

**Sustainability Leadership:** In 2024, the bank secured the top position in the Bangladesh Bank Sustainability Rating due to its robust commitment to environmental responsibility.

**Operational Greening:** The bank pioneered the "City Touch" digital platform, which significantly reduces paper consumption and the environmental footprint of physical banking.

**Green Investment Strategy:** City Bank actively finances renewable energy projects (e.g., solar power) and has modernized its office infrastructure to be energy-efficient.

**Global Climate Alignment:** It was the first Bangladeshi bank to join the UNEP FI Net-Zero Banking Alliance, committing to zero carbon emissions by 2050.

**Financial Growth in Green Finance:** Its green finance disbursement rose from BDT 18.5 billion in 2022 to BDT 26.8 billion in 2024.

#### **Eastern Bank PLC (EBL): Innovation in Climate Risk Management**

Founded in 1992, Eastern Bank PLC is recognized for its sophisticated approach to climate risk and sustainable finance.

**Risk Governance:** EBL established a specialized Sustainable Finance Unit to ensure that environmental and social risks are evaluated before any loan approval.

**Aggressive Credit Shifting:** By 2024, approximately 35.24% of its total term loan disbursements were directed toward Green Finance.

**Diverse Sustainable Portfolio:** The bank focuses on energy-efficient industries, environmentally friendly manufacturing, and urban waste management facilities.

**Investment Trends:** EBL's green investments grew steadily from BDT 15.7 billion in 2022 to BDT 24.6 billion in 2024.

#### **Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC (IBBL): Ethical-Environmental Synergy**

As the largest private commercial bank in Bangladesh, IBBL operates under Shari'ah principles, focusing on ethical investment and social justice.

**Synergistic Values:** The bank integrates green banking with Islamic finance, viewing environmental protection as an ethical mandate.

**Regulatory Performance:** During 2023–2024, IBBL achieved a 22.50% Green Term Investment disbursement, significantly exceeding the 5% target set by the central bank.

**Key Investment Sectors:** IBBL's green portfolio is heavily weighted toward solar energy, waste recycling, and sustainable agriculture.

**Volume Leadership:** Among the three banks, IBBL holds the highest volume of green finance, reaching BDT 30.1 billion in 2024.

### 3.3 Conceptual Framework of the Study

The conceptual framework examines how Green Banking Practices (Independent Variables) influence the Financial Performance (Dependent Variable) of commercial banks.

#### **The Role of Bangladesh Bank (The Regulator)**

The central bank acts as the catalyst by providing the Green Banking Guidelines (2011) and the Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) framework. It monitors progress through sustainability ratings and reporting requirements.

#### **Independent Variables: Green Banking Practices**

**Operational Activities:** Reducing paper usage, adopting energy-saving equipment, and promoting digital channels like mobile banking to eliminate branch visits.

**Financing Activities:** Providing loans for eco-friendly projects, including renewable energy (solar/wind), biogas, and green buildings.

**Environmental Risk Assessment:** Conducting Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) to ensure borrowers comply with environmental standards.

#### **Dependent Variables: Financial Performance**

**Profitability and Efficiency:** Measured through Return on Assets (ROA), Return on Equity (ROE), and the cost-to-income ratio.

**Long-term Stability:** Reducing Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) by avoiding environmentally hazardous industries that may face future closure.

### 3.4 Research Hypotheses

Based on the challenges identified—such as high initial costs for digital infrastructure and the credit risks of MSME green projects—the following hypotheses are formulated:

**H1:** There is a significant positive relationship between green finance disbursement and the long-term profitability (ROA/ROE) of commercial banks.

**H2:** The adoption of digital and paperless banking significantly reduces operational costs over time, despite high initial capital expenditure.

**H3:** Rigorous Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) reduces the likelihood of non-performing loans (NPLs) and improves asset quality.

**H4:** Banks with higher Sustainability Ratings gain a competitive advantage through enhanced brand reputation and access to international climate finance.

### 3.5 Challenges and Barriers to Implementation

The expansion of green banking in Bangladesh is not without significant hurdles:

**Cost Implications:** Implementing advanced platforms like City Touch or Skybanking requires massive initial investment in software, cybersecurity, and staff training.

**Awareness Gaps:** Many customers remain unfamiliar with digital services and still prefer traditional, paper-based banking methods.

**Credit Risks:** Green projects are often spearheaded by MSMEs, which face higher operational risks and financial constraints compared to large corporations.

**Standardization Issues:** There is currently a lack of standardized reporting, making it difficult to compare the effectiveness of green initiatives across different banks.

### 3.6 Summary of the Chapter

This chapter has detailed the institutional profiles of the selected banks and established a conceptual link between sustainability and financial success. It highlights that while green banking involves high initial costs and complex risks, it is a strategic necessity for long-term survival in Bangladesh's climate-vulnerable economy.



# **CHAPTER-FOUR**

## **DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

## **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a comprehensive analysis and interpretation of the data collected for the purpose of this study. The analysis is based on primary data gathered through a structured questionnaire survey conducted among 30 employees of selected commercial banks in Bangladesh. The study focuses on three leading banks—The City Bank Limited, Eastern Bank Limited, and Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited—which have been actively engaged in green banking initiatives. Respondents were selected from various departments to ensure a diverse and representative perspective on the research topic.

The main objective of this chapter is to examine the implementation of green banking practices and to evaluate their impact on the financial performance of the selected banks. The findings of this chapter aim to provide meaningful insights into how environmentally sustainable practices are integrated within banking operations and how they contribute to overall financial outcomes.

### **4.1.1 Objectives of Data Analysis**

The primary objective of the data analysis is to assess the level of awareness, adoption, and effectiveness of green banking practices among the selected commercial banks. This section aims to identify patterns, trends, and variations in responses related to environmental initiatives and sustainable financial practices.

In addition, the analysis seeks to evaluate the relationship between green banking activities and financial performance indicators such as cost efficiency, risk management, and profitability. By doing so, it provides a clearer understanding of whether environmentally responsible practices contribute positively to the operational and financial success of banks.

### **4.1.2 Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation**

To ensure a systematic and meaningful interpretation, the collected data have been carefully organized, classified, and analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques. Frequency distribution and percentage analysis are applied to summarize the data in a clear and structured manner, allowing for easy comparison across different categories.

Furthermore, the results are presented through both tabular and graphical formats, including tables, pie charts, and bar diagrams. These visual tools enhance the clarity and readability of the findings and assist in identifying key trends and relationships within the data. The combined use of statistical and graphical methods ensures that the analysis is comprehensive, logical, and easily understandable.

## 4.2 Respondent Profile Analysis

### 4.2.1 Department Distribution

Most respondents belong to General Banking (26.67%), followed by Credit/Loan (20%) and IT (16.67%). Smaller proportions were from Foreign Exchange and Risk Management (13.33% each), and others (10%).

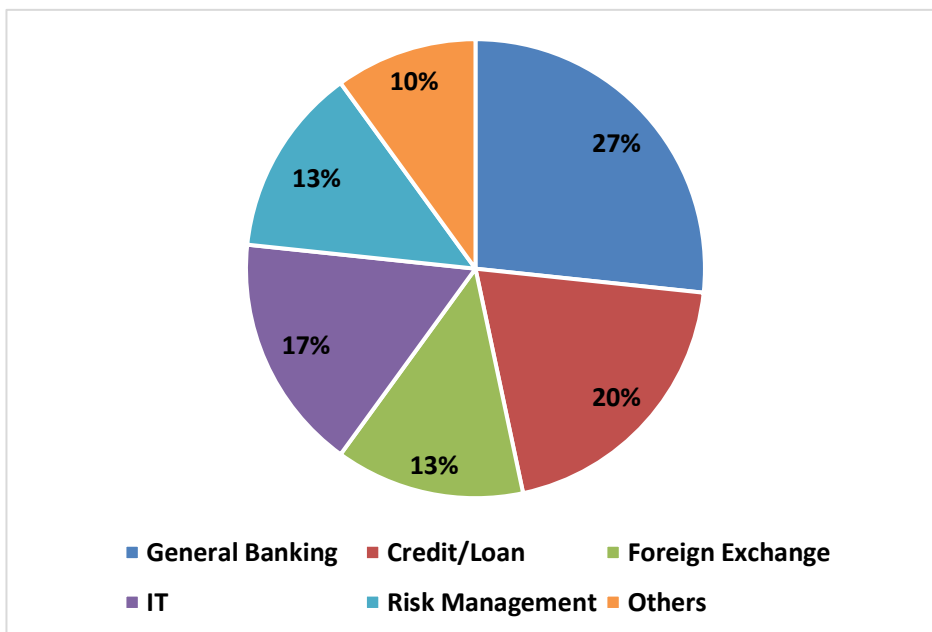
#### Data Analysis & Result

| Department       | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| General Banking  | 8         | 26.67%     |
| Credit/Loan      | 6         | 20%        |
| Foreign Exchange | 4         | 13.33%     |
| IT               | 5         | 16.67%     |
| Risk Management  | 4         | 13.33%     |
| Others           | 3         | 10%        |
| Total            | 30        | 100%       |

#### Graph Presentation

##### Section A: Respondent Information (n = 30)

##### Department



##### Interpretation:

This distribution indicates that responses are well spread across operational and technical departments, ensuring a balanced perspective on green banking practices.

#### 4.2.2 Position of Respondents

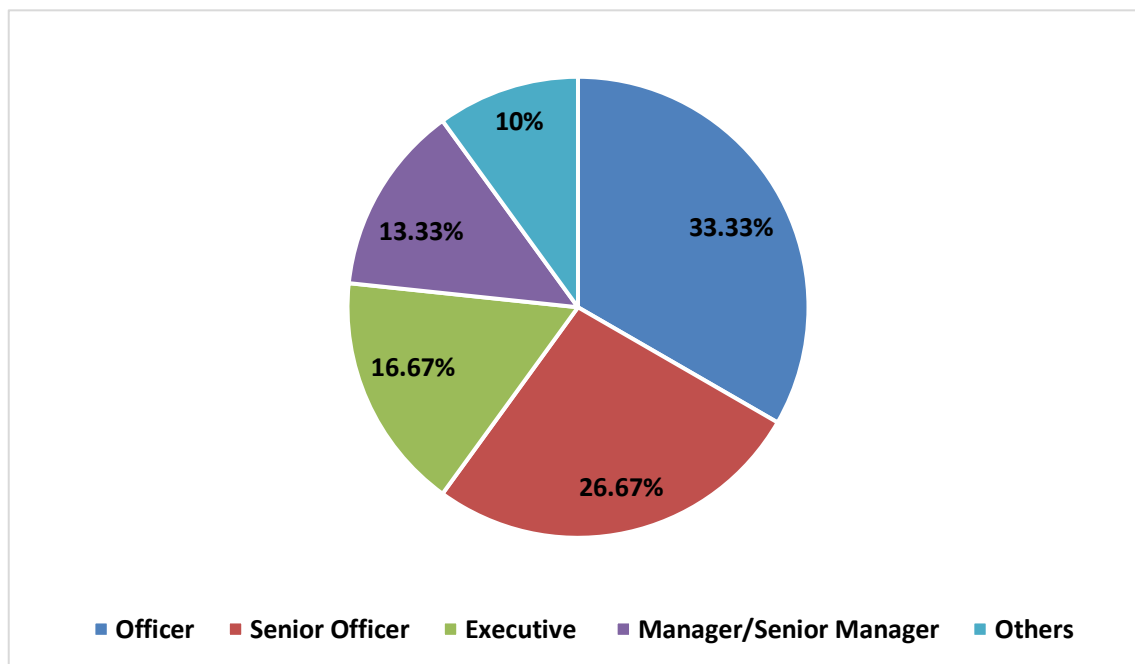
Most respondents were Officers (33.33%), followed by Senior Officers (26.67%), Executives (16.67%), and Managers (13.33%). This distribution indicates that the data is primarily driven by employees actively involved in day-to-day banking operations.

#### Data Analysis & Result

| Position of Respondents | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Officer                 | 10        | 33.33%     |
| Senior Officer          | 8         | 26.67%     |
| Executive               | 5         | 16.67%     |
| Manager/Senior Manager  | 4         | 13.33%     |
| Others                  | 3         | 10%        |
| Total                   | 30        | 100%       |

#### Graph Presentation

##### Position



##### Interpretation:

The dominance of mid-level employees suggests practical insights into daily banking operations and implementation of green practices. This indicates that most responses are based on direct, hands-on experience. Their involvement in routine activities provides a realistic picture of how green banking is applied in practice. This also enhances the reliability of the findings in reflecting actual workplace practices.

#### 4.2.3 Experience in Banking Sector

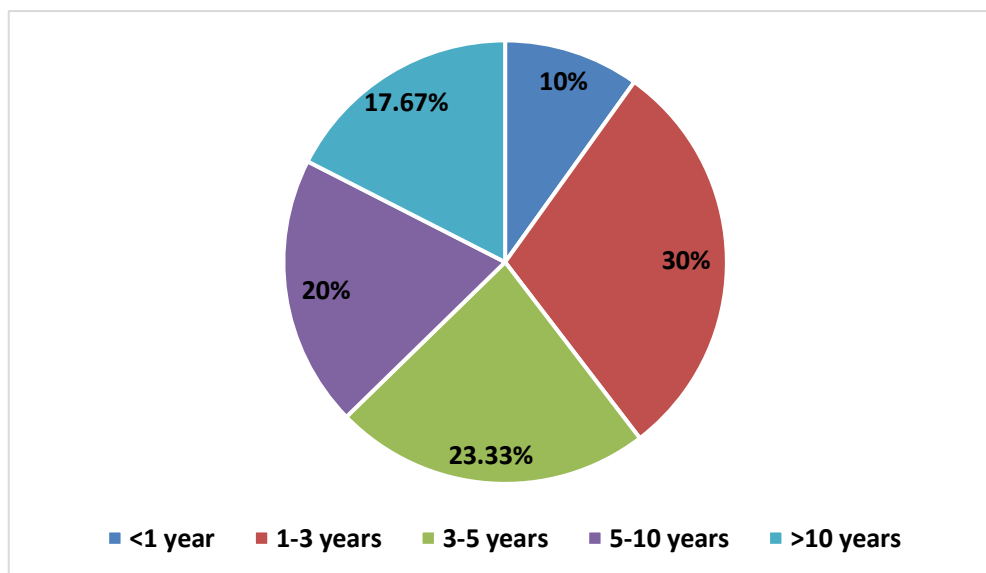
Most respondents have 1–3 years of experience (30%), followed by 3–5 years (23.33%) and 5–10 years (20%). This distribution indicates that most respondents are relatively early to mid-career professionals in the banking sector.

#### Data Analysis & Result

| Category   | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| <1 year    | 3         | 10%        |
| 1-3 years  | 9         | 30%        |
| 3-5 years  | 7         | 23.33%     |
| 5-10 years | 6         | 20%        |
| >10 years  | 5         | 17.67%     |
| Total      | 30        | 100%       |

#### Graph Presentation

##### Experience



##### Interpretation:

This indicates that respondents have sufficient experience understanding banking operations while also being adaptable to modern green banking practices. This balance enables them to provide both practical and forward-looking perspectives on green initiatives. As a result, their responses contribute to a more comprehensive and reliable analysis of the study.

### 4.3 Green Banking Policy and Awareness

A significant majority of respondents (76.67%) agreed or strongly agreed that their banks have a clearly defined green banking policy. Similarly, 70% indicated that employees are well informed about green banking guidelines.

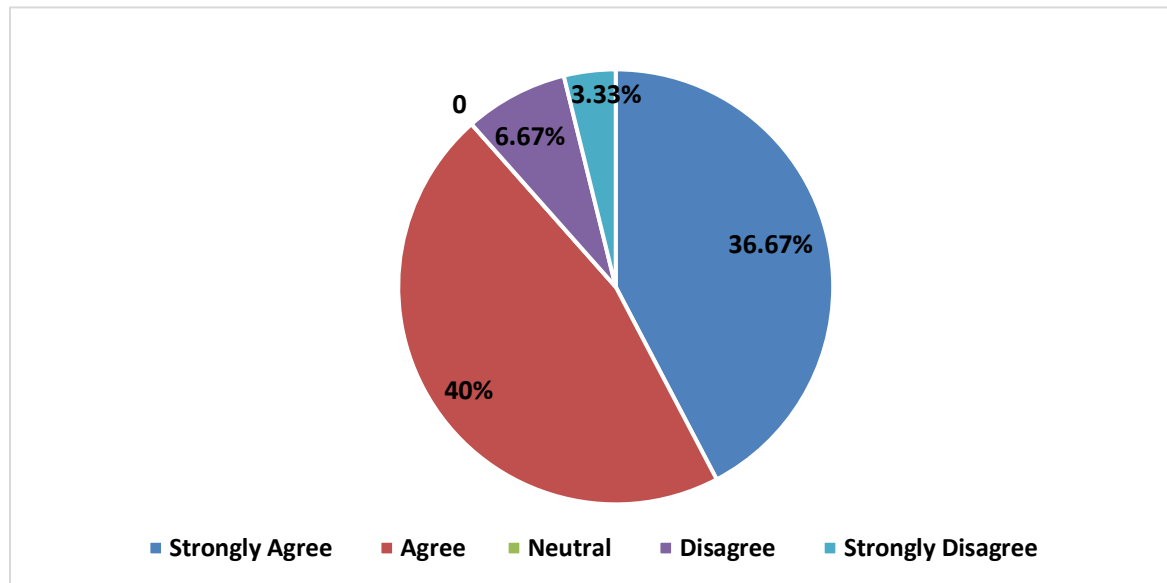
However, only 63.33% agreed that adequate training is provided, while some respondents remained neutral or disagreed.

#### Data Analysis & Result

| Response          | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Strongly Agree    | 11        | 36.67%     |
| Agree             | 12        | 40%        |
| Neutral           | 4         | 13.33%     |
| Disagree          | 2         | 6.67%      |
| Strongly Disagree | 1         | 3.33%      |
| Total             | 30        | 100%       |

#### Graph Presentation

##### Section B, (Green Banking Policy & Awareness): Clear Green Banking Policy Exists



#### **Interpretation:**

This suggests that while policies exist and awareness is relatively high, there is room for improvement in training and knowledge dissemination.

## 4.4 Green Financing Practices

The analysis shows that 86.66% of respondents agreed that their banks promote financing for environmentally friendly projects. Additionally, most respondents indicated that environmental risk assessment is frequently considered before loan approval.

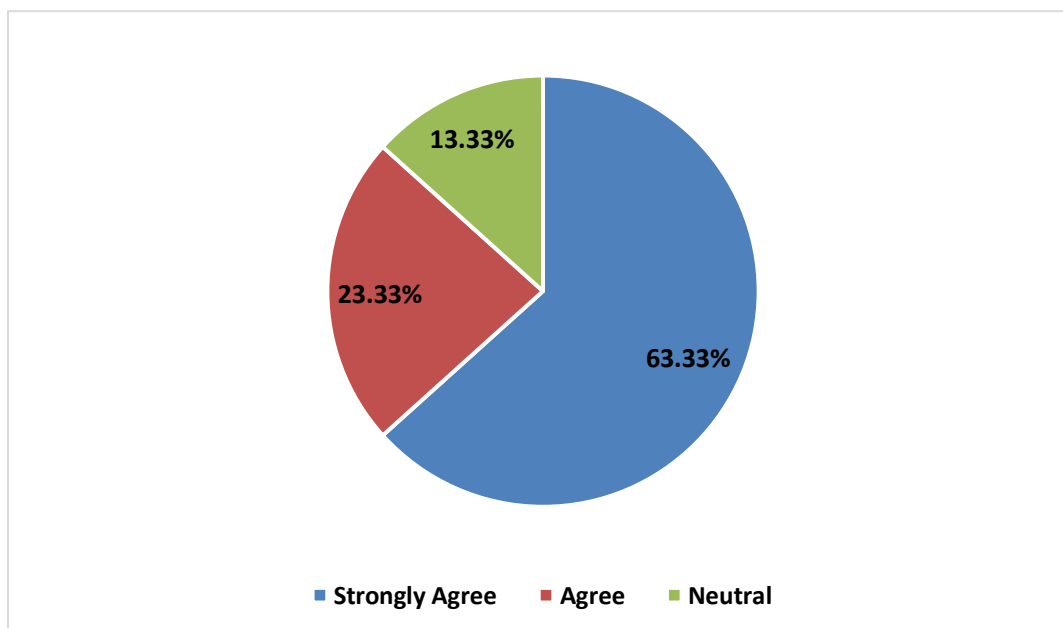
### Data Analysis & Result

| Response          | Frequency | Percentage  |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Strongly Agree    | 19        | 63.33%      |
| Agree             | 7         | 23.33%      |
| Neutral           | 4         | 13.33%      |
| Disagree          | 0         | 0           |
| Strongly Disagree | 0         | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>30</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### Graph Presentation

Section C, (Green Financing Practices):

Promotes Green Financing



### **Interpretation:**

These findings indicate strong integration of environmental considerations into lending practices, aligning with the guidelines of Bangladesh Bank. This reflects that banks are increasingly incorporating sustainability criteria in their credit appraisal processes. It also suggests improved compliance with regulatory expectations and growing awareness of environmental risk management in financial decision-making.

## 4.5 Digital and Eco-Friendly Operations

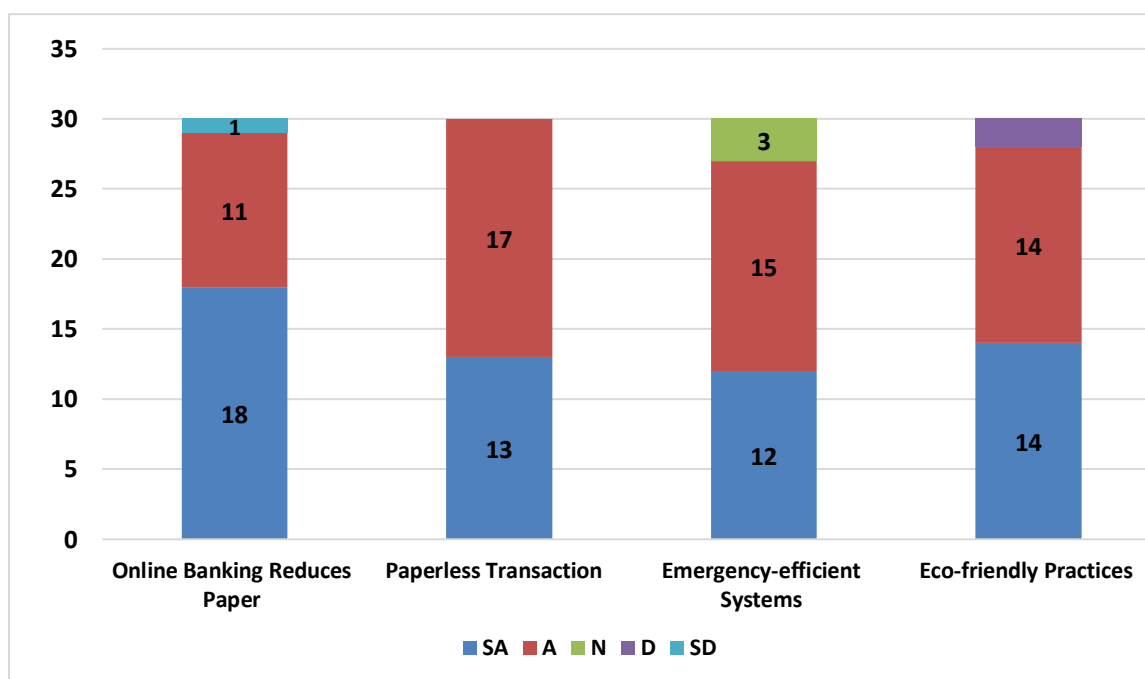
Most respondents (80%) confirmed strong adoption of digital banking and paperless practices, with slightly lower but still positive support for energy-efficient systems.

### Data Analysis & Result

| Question                     | SA | A  | N | D | SD |
|------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|
| Online Banking Reduces Paper | 18 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1  |
| Paperless Transaction        | 13 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| Emergency-efficient Systems  | 12 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 0  |
| Eco-friendly Practices       | 14 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 0  |

### Graph Presentation

Section D, (Digital & Eco-Friendly Operations):



### **Interpretation:**

Digital banking is the most widely implemented green banking initiative. It reduces paper use, lowers resource consumption and emissions, and improves banking efficiency by making services faster, easier, and more cost-effective.



## 4.6 Impact on Financial Performance

The findings clearly indicate a positive perception of the impact of green banking on financial performance:

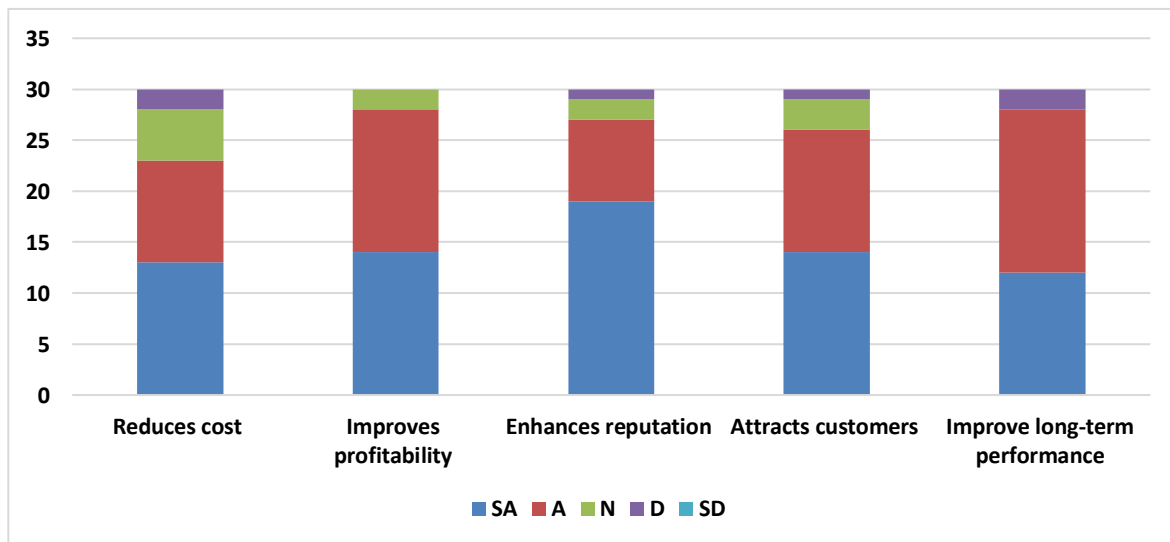
- 76.67% believe green banking reduces operational costs
- 76.67% believe it improves profitability
- 80% agree it enhances the bank's reputation
- 73.33% believe it attracts more customers
- 76.67% agree it improves long-term financial performance

### Data Analysis & Result

| Question                      | SA | A  | N | D | SD |
|-------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|
| Reduces cost                  | 13 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 0  |
| Improves profitability        | 14 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 0  |
| Enhances reputation           | 19 | 8  | 2 | 1 | 0  |
| Attracts customers            | 14 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 0  |
| Improve long-term performance | 12 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 0  |

### Graph Presentation:

Section: E (Impact on Financial Performance)



### Interpretation:

These results strongly support the hypothesis that green banking practices positively influence the financial performance of commercial banks. The findings show that sustainable banking improves efficiency, reduces costs, and strengthens reputation, leading to higher profitability and long-term stability.

## 4.7 Risk Management and Compliance

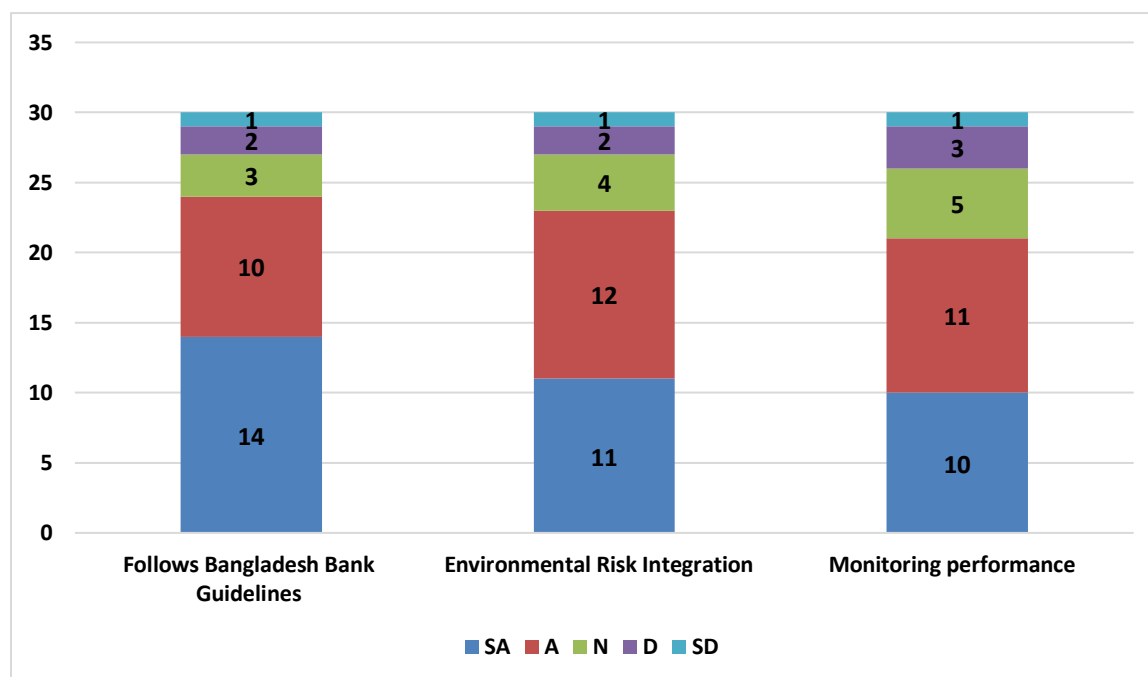
A significant majority (80%) agreed that banks follow green banking guidelines set by Bangladesh Bank. Additionally, environmental risk is increasingly integrated into credit risk management, and performance monitoring mechanisms are in place.

### Data Analysis & Result

| Question                           | SA | A  | N | D | SD |
|------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|
| Follows Bangladesh Bank Guidelines | 14 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1  |
| Environmental Risk Integration     | 11 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 1  |
| Monitoring performance             | 10 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1  |

### Graph Presentation

#### Section F, (Risk Management & Compliance):



#### Interpretation:

This reflects a structured approach toward environmental risk management and regulatory compliance in the banking sector.

## 4.8 Challenges of Green Banking

Despite positive findings, several challenges were identified:

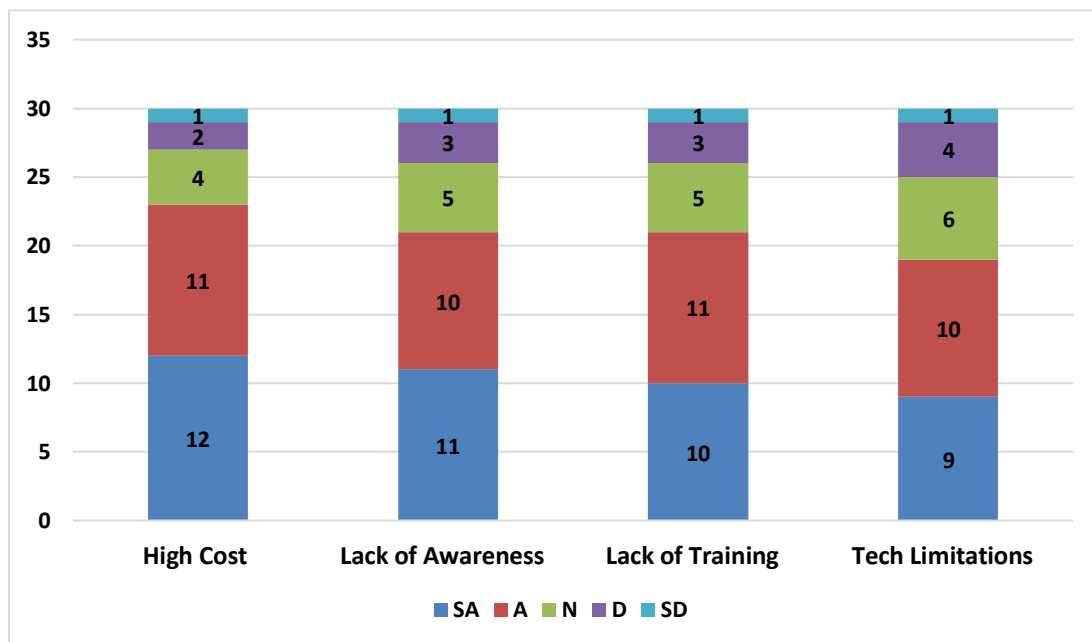
- 76.67% indicated high implementation cost as a major barrier
- 70% highlighted lack of customer awareness
- 70% pointed to insufficient employee training
- 63.33% mentioned technological limitations

### Data Analysis & Result

| Question          | SA | A  | N | D | SD |
|-------------------|----|----|---|---|----|
| High Cost         | 12 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 1  |
| Lack of Awareness | 11 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1  |
| Lack of Training  | 10 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1  |
| Tech Limitations  | 9  | 10 | 6 | 4 | 1  |

### Graph Presentation

#### Section G, (Challenges of Green Banking)



#### **Interpretation:**

These challenges indicate that while green banking is progressing, financial, technical, and knowledge-related barriers still hinder full implementation.

## 4.9 Future Outlook of Green Banking

Most respondents expressed optimism about the future:

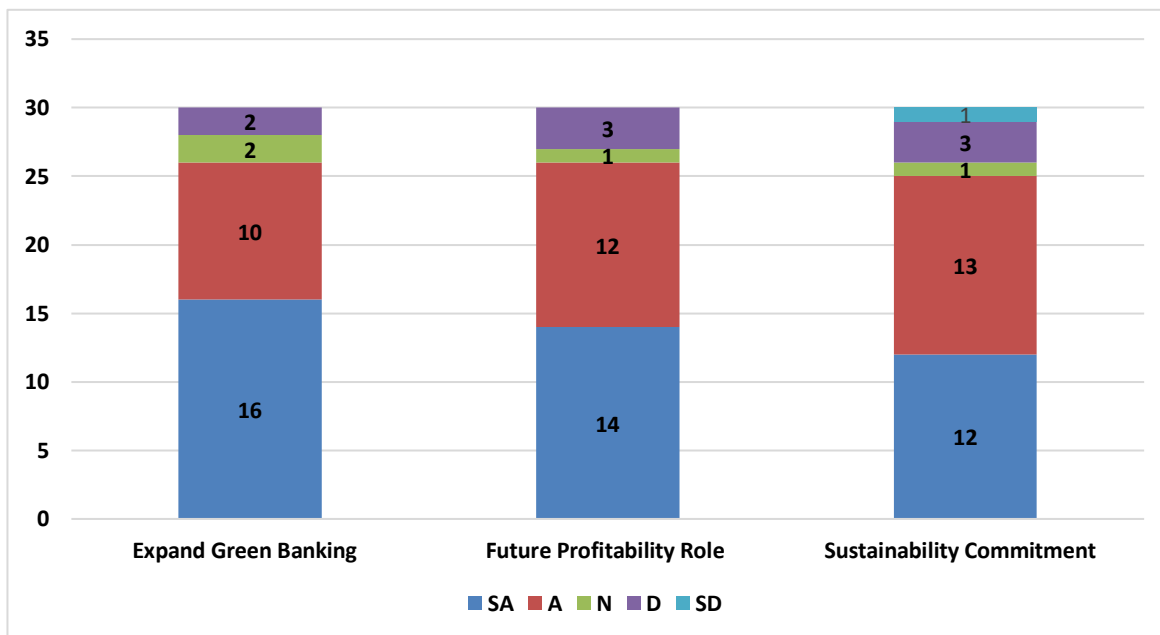
- 80% believe banks will expand green banking initiatives
- 80% believe green banking will play a key role in future profitability
- 80% believe banks are committed to sustainability goals

### Data Analysis & Result

| Question                  | SA | A  | N | D | SD |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|
| Expand Green Banking      | 16 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 0  |
| Future Profitability Role | 14 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 0  |
| Sustainability Commitment | 12 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 1  |

### Graph Presentation

#### Section H, (Future Outlook)



#### Interpretation:

This suggests a strong commitment from banks toward long-term environmental sustainability and financial growth.

## 4.10 Summary of Findings

- The overall findings of this study can be summarized as follows:
- Green banking practices are widely adopted across commercial banks in Bangladesh, indicating a growing commitment to sustainable banking operations.
- Digital banking is the most prominent initiative and plays a key role in reducing environmental impact through paperless transactions and improved operational efficiency.
- Green financing is steadily gaining importance, with banks increasingly supporting environmentally friendly projects and sustainable investments.
- There is a strong positive relationship between green banking practices and the financial performance of commercial banks, showing that sustainability initiatives also contribute to profitability and efficiency.
- Regulatory support from Bangladesh Bank serves as a major driving force in promoting and guiding the implementation of green banking activities.
- Banks are gradually integrating environmental risk assessment into their credit evaluation and lending decisions.
- Awareness of environmental sustainability is increasing among banking professionals, although it is not yet fully uniform across all levels.
- Energy-efficient systems and eco-friendly operational practices are being adopted, but their implementation is still less extensive compared to digital banking initiatives.
- Despite these developments, challenges such as high implementation costs, limited awareness among stakeholders, inadequate employee training, and infrastructural limitations continue to hinder full-scale adoption.
- Overall, the findings suggest that while green banking practices are progressing positively, there is still significant scope for further improvement and expansion in the banking sector of Bangladesh.

## **CHAPTER-FIVE**

# **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

## 5.1 Introduction

This chapter serves as a comprehensive roadmap for the study, detailing the systematic framework employed to investigate how green banking practices influence the financial performance of commercial banks in Bangladesh. A robust research methodology is essential for maintaining the integrity of the study, as it ensures that data collection, analysis, and interpretation are conducted in a logical, reliable, and valid manner. Within this chapter, the researcher provides transparency regarding the research design, nature of data, selection of sample banks, and the specific variables chosen for analysis. By clarifying these procedural steps, the study establishes a foundation upon which the subsequent empirical findings can be evaluated and replicated by other researchers.

## 5.2 Research Design

The research design adopted for this study is primarily **quantitative**, as it relies on the objective measurement of numerical data to examine the financial implications of environmental initiatives. To provide a holistic view, the study combines **descriptive and analytical research designs**.

- **Descriptive Design:** This aspect is utilized to portray a clear picture of the current state of green banking in Bangladesh. It highlights trends in green finance and the specific sustainability initiatives undertaken by the selected banks, allowing for an overview of the industry's evolution.
- **Analytical Design:** Moving beyond simple description, the analytical component seeks to evaluate the functional relationship between green banking variables and core financial indicators such as profitability and efficiency. This allows the researcher to determine the extent to which sustainable practices impact the bottom line.

Furthermore, the study employs a **longitudinal approach**. By analyzing data over a seven-year period from 2019 to 2025, the research captures the long-term trends and shifts in the banking sector, offering a more nuanced understanding than a simple cross-sectional study would provide.

## 5.3 Nature of Data

The data utilized in this research is exclusively **secondary in nature**, meaning it consists of information that has been previously collected, processed, and published by authorized entities. The choice of secondary data is particularly suitable for financial research because it offers a high degree of reliability and cost-effectiveness while remaining easily accessible for longitudinal analysis. In the context of the Bangladeshi banking sector, financial performance and green banking activities are strictly monitored and reported, ensuring that the secondary data is both standardized and authentic. All data points collected are **quantitative**, comprising financial figures, calculated ratios, and percentages that represent the banks' green finance portfolios and overall performance.

## 5.4 Sources of Data

To ensure a rigorous and balanced analysis, data has been meticulously gathered from multiple credible sources. These sources are categorized as follows:

### 5.4.1 Primary Sources (Published Reports)

- **Structured Questionnaire Survey**

The survey method constitutes the primary data collection technique in this study. A well-structured questionnaire is developed to obtain quantitative data from employees of the selected commercial banks, namely The City Bank Limited, Eastern Bank Limited, and Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited.

The questionnaire is designed in a systematic manner to ensure clarity, relevance, and ease of response. It consists mainly of closed-ended questions, including Likert-scale statements (e.g., strongly agree to strongly disagree), which allow for efficient quantitative analysis. A few multiple-choice questions are also included to capture specific operational practices.



- **Annual Reports:** These serve as the cornerstone of the data collection process, providing audited financial statements, balance sheets, and profit and loss accounts of the selected banks.
- **Sustainability Reports:** These reports are specifically examined to extract data regarding the banks' environmental risk management, green products, and internal "green" operations.
- **Central Bank Publications:** Reports and guidelines from the Bangladesh Bank are used to cross-reference sustainability ratings and gather statistical data on the broader green finance landscape in the country. These sources are considered the gold standard for academic credibility in the region.

#### 5.4.2 Secondary Sources (External Literature)

- **Academic Journals and Research Papers:** These are consulted to provide theoretical grounding and to compare the study's findings with existing empirical evidence.
- **Official Bank Websites:** These are utilized to obtain the most recent updates, news releases, and digital banking statistics that may not yet be reflected in annual reports.
- **Governmental and Regulatory Circulars:** These provide the legal and policy framework within which the selected banks operate, ensuring the analysis is grounded in current regulatory reality.

### 5.5 Sample Selection

The study focuses on three prominent private commercial banks: **City Bank PLC**, **Eastern Bank PLC (EBL)**, and **Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC (IBBL)**. The selection of these specific institutions is **purposive**, meaning they were chosen based on their established leadership in sustainability and their significant involvement in green finance initiatives. These banks are recognized as top-tier institutions in Bangladesh and have consistently demonstrated a commitment to sustainable banking. By selecting banks that are actively engaged in these practices, the study can more accurately measure the impact of green variables on financial performance.

## 5.6 Study Period

The investigation covers a significant seven-year duration, spanning from **2019 to 2025**. This timeframe was intentionally selected to capture the most recent developments in the banking sector and to observe trends both before and after the central bank's increased emphasis on sustainability. While the study aims for the most current data, it acknowledges that complete figures for the year 2025 may be limited, in which case the analysis relies on the latest interim or quarterly information available at the time of the research.

## 5.7 Variables of the Study

To establish a clear relationship, the study identifies specific independent and dependent variables:

- **Independent Variable (Green Banking Practices):** This variable is quantified through indicators such as the total volume of green finance, the level of investment in renewable energy projects, and the degree of digital banking adoption. These metrics serve as a proxy for the bank's commitment to environmental sustainability.
- **Dependent Variables (Financial Performance):** These are measured using standardized financial indicators, specifically **Return on Assets (ROA)**, **Return on Equity (ROE)**, and **Operational Efficiency**. These ratios are the industry standard for assessing the profitability and management effectiveness of financial institutions.

## 5.8 Methods of Data Collection

Data collection was executed through a **systematic review of published documents**. The researcher carefully scrutinized the annual and sustainability reports of City Bank, EBL, and IBBL to extract specific data points related to both financial figures and environmental initiatives. Furthermore, central bank reports were analyzed to gather information on policy compliance and sustainability benchmarks. To maintain accuracy, the data was organized into structured tables and charts, facilitating a smoother transition into the analysis phase and minimizing the risk of error.

## 5.9 Data Analysis Techniques

The study employs a variety of statistical and analytical tools to process the collected information:

- **Descriptive Analysis:** Used to illustrate general trends in green finance across the study period.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Conducted to identify similarities and differences between the three selected banks regarding their green and financial performance.
- **Ratio Analysis:** Specifically targeting ROA and ROE to provide a clear picture of profitability.
- **Trend Analysis:** Employed to track the growth trajectory of green initiatives and their subsequent influence on financial outcomes over the seven-year period.

## 5.10 Reliability and Validity of Data

To ensure the academic rigor of the study, maintaining data reliability and validity was a priority. Reliability is achieved by sourcing data from audited annual reports and authoritative central bank publications, which are subject to strict regulatory oversight. Validity is ensured through the selection of research variables and analytical techniques that are widely accepted in existing financial literature. By using multiple sources to cross-check information, the study significantly reduces the margin for error.

## 5.11 Ethical Considerations

Since this research is based entirely on publicly available **secondary data**, it does not involve direct interaction with human subjects, thereby minimizing ethical risks such as breach of confidentiality. However, the study maintains strict **academic integrity** by properly acknowledging and citing all sources of information to avoid plagiarism. The data is used solely for academic purposes, ensuring that no information is misrepresented or manipulated to suit a specific narrative.

## **5.12 Limitations of the Methodology**

Every study has inherent limitations that must be acknowledged for a balanced interpretation of the results. Firstly, the reliance on secondary data means the study is bound by the quality and detail provided in the original reports. Secondly, the sample size of three banks may limit the ability to generalize the findings to the entire Bangladeshi banking sector. Finally, the study acknowledges the difficulty in isolating the impact of green banking from other external factors, such as economic inflation, regulatory shifts, and general market conditions, which also influence financial performance.

## **CHAPTER-SIX**

# **RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

## 6.1 Recommendations

- Enhance green financing initiatives by increasing investments in environmentally sustainable projects such as renewable energy, energy-efficient industries, and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- Develop and implement comprehensive green banking policies aligned with national and international environmental standards to ensure consistency across operations.
- Strengthen digital banking services (e-banking, mobile banking, paperless transactions) to reduce carbon footprints and operational costs.
- Increase awareness among customers and stakeholders about green banking products and environmental sustainability through campaigns and educational programs.
- Invest in advanced information technology (IT) systems to monitor, measure, and report environmental impacts and green performance effectively.
- Establish dedicated green banking units or departments within banks to oversee sustainability initiatives and ensure proper implementation.
- Introduce incentives such as lower interest rates or flexible terms for customers adopting green projects or environmentally friendly practices.
- Conduct regular training and development programs for employees to enhance knowledge and skills related to green banking and sustainability practices.
- Improve risk management frameworks by incorporating environmental and climate-related risks into credit risk assessment and decision-making.
- Strengthen internal monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of green banking practices and their impact on financial performance.
- Collaborate with regulatory bodies and other financial institutions to share best practices and promote sustainable banking across the industry.
- Encourage transparency by publishing detailed sustainability or green banking reports to build trust and accountability.
- Expand green product offerings, including green loans, green bonds, and sustainable investment options.
- Promote energy efficiency within bank operations by adopting renewable energy sources, reducing energy consumption, and implementing waste management practices.

## 6.2 Conclusion

The study on green banking practices and financial performance of City Bank, Eastern Bank, and Islami Bank provides significant insights into the growing importance of sustainability in the banking sector. By analyzing the green initiatives and financial outcomes of these banks, several key findings emerge.

**Firstly**, the study highlights that the adoption of green banking practices contributes positively to the overall financial performance of commercial banks. Banks that actively engage in environmentally responsible activities tend to enhance their corporate image, attract environmentally conscious customers, and improve long-term profitability.

**Secondly**, effective implementation of green banking initiatives—such as green financing, digital banking services, and energy-efficient operations—has helped reduce operational costs and environmental impact simultaneously. These practices not only support sustainability but also improve efficiency and competitiveness.

**Thirdly**, the role of regulatory guidelines and institutional commitment is crucial in promoting green banking. The selected banks have demonstrated varying degrees of compliance and innovation in adopting green policies, which directly influence their financial outcomes.

**Lastly**, technological advancement and strategic investment in sustainable projects have enabled these banks to improve transparency, risk management, and decision-making processes, ultimately strengthening their financial position.

**In conclusion**, the findings of this study confirm that green banking is not only an environmental responsibility but also a strategic approach to achieving sustainable financial performance. City Bank, Eastern Bank, and Islami Bank have shown that integrating green practices into core banking operations can lead to improved efficiency, reduced risks, and enhanced profitability. As environmental concerns continue to grow, banks must further strengthen their commitment to sustainability to remain competitive and contribute to long-term economic and environmental well-being.

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- [4.] [www.islamibankbd.com](http://www.islamibankbd.com)
- [5.] [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)



## Appendices

### **Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire (Bank Employees)**

Survey on Green Banking Practices and Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh – City Bank, Eastern Bank, and Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.

This survey is part of a thesis titled “**Green Banking Practices and Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh.**” Your responses will remain confidential and used only for academic purposes. Thank you for your valuable contribution.

#### **Section A: Respondent Information**

##### **Department**

- General Banking
- Credit/Loan
- Foreign Exchange
- IT
- Risk Management
- Others

##### **Your Position**

- Officer
- Senior Officer
- Executive
- Manager / Senior Manager
- Others

##### **Experience in Banking Sector**

- Less than 1 year
- 1–3 years
- 3–5 years
- 5–10 years
- More than 10 years

#### **Section B: Green Banking Policy & Awareness**

**The bank has a clearly defined green banking policy.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Employees are well informed about green banking guidelines.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**The bank provides training on green banking practices.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Top management actively supports green banking initiatives.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Section C: Green Financing Practices**

**The bank promotes financing for environmentally friendly projects.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Environmental risk assessment is considered before loan approval.**

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

**The bank discourages financing of environmentally harmful projects.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Green loans contribute to sustainable development.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Section D: Digital & Eco-Friendly Operations**

**The bank promotes online banking to reduce paper usage.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Paperless transactions are widely practiced in the bank.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Energy-efficient systems are used in bank operations.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**The bank uses eco-friendly office practices (waste reduction, recycling).**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Section E: Impact on Financial Performance**

**Green banking reduces operational costs.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

- Strongly Disagree

**Green banking improves profitability.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Green practices enhance the bank's reputation.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Green banking attracts more customers.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Green banking improves long-term financial performance.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

#### **Section F: Risk Management & Compliance**

**The bank follows Bangladesh Bank's green banking guidelines.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Environmental risk is integrated into credit risk management.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**The bank regularly monitors green banking performance.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Section G: Challenges of Green Banking**

**High cost of implementation is a major barrier.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Lack of customer awareness affects green banking adoption.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Lack of employee training is a challenge.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Technological limitations hinder green banking practices.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

### **Section H: Future Outlook**

**The bank plans to expand green banking initiatives.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Green banking will play a significant role in future profitability.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**The bank is committed to long-term sustainability goals.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree