

EFFECTIVENESS OF BANGLADESH-CHINA CULTURAL RELATIONS (1991-2017): IMPACT ON BANGLADESH

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Abstract

In the arena of international relations, Bangladesh and China have been enjoying a friendly relationship since the ancient past. Following this amity both the countries exchanged various politico-economic dealings for nourishing bi-lateral relations. Within the fold of diplomatic relations, both the countries exchanged various socio-cultural elements like education, food, sports, fine arts, music and theater, various cultural programs and so on. As a giant state, China is mostly supporting Bangladesh in the aforementioned fields, though Bangladesh also has significant contribution in the similar fields of China. The main objective of this research is to deliver a comprehensive study on the cultural exchanges between the countries, and a critical analysis of the problems brought under review by using quantitative research methodology. It is, therefore, necessary to explore the cultural exchanges that have taken place between Bangladesh and China during the time span (1991-2017). The objective also includes finding the challenges and extrapolating cultural influences in the public life of Bangladesh.

Key-words: Bangladesh-China Cultural Relations, Impact on Bangladesh, Chinese Culture, Cultural Components.

Introduction

The Relations between Bangladesh and China dated back to more than a thousand years and the relationships were cultivated through centuries by the blossoming bilateral trade activities and socio-cultural exchanges between the countries along the Southern Silk route and Water Silk route.¹ Following this friendship after the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, China gave recognition to Bangladesh in 1975 and formally established a

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diplomatic relationship with Bangladesh in 1976 by opening a consulate in this country. From the beginning of this politico-economic relationship, various cultural elements, as integral parts of the social and cultural lives of both of these people, were exchanged and disseminated between the people of both the countries. And since then, the relationship between the two countries has been running with a warm fold and it is developing day by day through their various bilateral dealings. The main objective of this research is to deliver a comprehensive study and critical analysis of the problems brought under review. It is, therefore, necessary to explore the cultural exchanges that have taken place between Bangladesh and China during the noted time span (1991-2017). The objective also includes finding out the challenges and extrapolating the cultural influence in the public life of Bangladesh.

Methodology of the Research

To conduct quality research, quantitative research methodology has been formulated to analyze the questionnaire survey responses and the literature review. In light of the realistic perception of International Relations theory, Cultural Diplomacy theory and Soft Power theory, this research has been conducted by following quantitative research methodology in conjunction with the study approach.² This will render the study useful through the collection of data from a variety of empirical materials, personal experiences, introspective opinions, observations and questionnaire surveys. For the questionnaire survey, three questionnaires were circulated to elicit the responses of the respondents.³ The researcher sent the questionnaires to 1540 faculty members, bureaucrats, administrators, NGO personnel, journalists, and security experts and 600 students from different educational institutions with different disciplines through e-mail, Facebook, WeChat and personal communication, among whom 624 valid responses were consulted during this study. The researcher concentrated basically on questionnaire survey and on the review of related literature. To gather the responses, the researcher formatted the questionnaire with *Likert Scale Questionnaire Method* and analysed the data using *SPSS*.

To organize this research, an excel software with a statistical review was also formulated. Furthermore, for this research, related governmental

and organizational reports, proceedings and dealings were used as valuable sources. To enrich this research work more, a good number of books, secondary sources like newspaper articles, and articles from different journals and encyclopedias were also consulted. Studying cultural relations between Bangladesh and China through Chinese culture, arts and amusements suffers from some limitations including language barrier, lack of communication, and time constraint. As one has little scope for direct observation of the whole Chinese cultural perspectives, it is necessary to consult many other Chinese documents.

Historical Legacies of Bangladesh-China Cultural Relations

Culture imitates the real scenario of a society including its norms, laws, customs, beliefs, arts and style of living. Therefore, focusing on the importance of cultural values, Bangladesh and China started developing their bilateral relation at the governmental level in 1978 through cultural agreements.⁴ In order to maintain a good cultural relationship, a significant number of cultural delegation exchanges had taken place from 1991 to 2017. The relationship experienced a great boost from 1976 to 1990. In this regard, the friendly relation of the people of these countries played a key role apart from the government level. Though the cultural relations at the governmental level were not mention worthy from 1991 to 2017 as compared to the political and economic relation, it created a long lasting friendly relationship unlike the past. In 1997 a group of cultural delegates paid a cultural exchange visit to China, and following this 18 other bilateral visits also happened between Bangladesh and China during the period. 97 Bangladeshis paid a visit to China in that year and in 1998, Hangzhou Youth Acrobatic team from China visited Bangladesh and showed various cultural events in Dhaka. Later, 7 more cultural groups from Bangladesh paid a friendly visit to China where 47 Bangladeshis attended as the participants of the programs.⁵ Both Bangladesh and China are interested to enhance this practice of cultural exchange between them. To make it fruitful, a cultural executive program under the bilateral cultural agreement was signed in 2002 and which was renewed in 2008 and later again in 2012.⁶ As an instance of cultural exchange, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Organization organized the China-Bangladesh Friendship and Brightness (Ophthalmic) Trip in 2010 to

strengthen their relations.⁷ Every year, some noted painters and scholars of China and Bangladesh make visits to each other's country and arrange some exhibitions also.

Annually, Bangladesh and China organize various cultural programs in Bangladesh and China. In 2015, *Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association* (Bangladesh China Moitree Somity) and Shilpokala Academy jointly organized a two day long "Chinese Culture Tour to South Asia 2015" at National Art Hall, Dhaka. 30 valuable and lucrative Chinese pictures were displayed at this exhibition.⁸ A huge number of Bangladeshi people of different ages enjoyed the exhibition program. Chinese mysticism, philosophy, nature and cultural theme are opted for the pictures. Foreign Minister H. Mahmood Ali and Cultural Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor from Bangladesh, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Ma Ming Kiang and several distinguished artists from both countries were present to the inaugural ceremony of the auspicious program. Bangladesh and China also arranged the exchange of performing art groups to celebrate their 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in the year of 2010.⁹

China as a great development partner regularly organises various socio-cultural programs in Bangladesh. Chinese people also participated in various socio-cultural programs held in Bangladesh. The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Cultural Counsellor and other officials join various national programs like Language day, National Independence Day, Pohela Boishakh, Basonto Boron and other cultural programs. People from China also frequently participated in those programs.¹⁰

To observe the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh-China diplomatic relationship, a team of 100 youths from Bangladesh was invited by China Youth Foundation and visited China from 25-29 May, 2015 to gather knowledge about Chinese education, culture, politics, flora and fauna. 'Nrittyanchal', a famous team of dancers from Bangladesh participated in the 4th China Xinxiang Dance Festival at Urumchi of Xinxiang- an autonomous province of China from July 20 to August 5, 2015. A cultural team of 40 members from Yunnan province of China visited Bangladesh on November 11-16, 2015 and performed respectively at Bangladesh Army Stadium and North South University. Besides these, the popularity of Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan and their movies are another example of the

influence of Chinese cinema and culture in Bangladesh. Additionally, Chinese parlor management and acupuncture technique have gained popularity among Bangladeshi people as socio-cultural elements.

As sports loving countries, Bangladesh and China engage themselves into various games and sports and always participate in various events like World Championship, Olympic and other competitions. Several Chinese games like Wushu, Ping-Pong (Table Tennis), Haozi and some other games have become familiar to the people of Bangladesh. Especially, Chinese acrobatic athletics is so familiar to the Bangladeshi people. As a symbol of cultural exchanges China provided expertise, technical and instrumental support to establish Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) which started its journey informally in 1950.¹¹ Later on, after the independence of Bangladesh, it arranged various national and international tournaments in various levels¹² and exchanged various sports delegation between themselves which brought great fame for Bangladesh.¹³ On the other hand, Bangladesh provided technical support to China to develop its cricket. Dr. Dipu Moni, former Foreign Minister mentioned it as *Cricket Diplomacy*.¹⁴ With the above mentioned discussion, sports loving Bangladeshi people also have great interest in Chinese Taekwondo which shows the strong bondage of cultural relationship between Bangladesh and China. Both the country exchanges football team, kite team and so on. Along with all these facilities, Bangladeshi sportsmen and sport teachers are getting opportunity to pursue higher studies in China in their respective fields.

Though the adopted food habit of Bangladeshi people is not familiar to China but Chinese food is very famous to the Bangladeshi people. To make Chinese foods familiar to the Bangladeshi people, Chinese authority of Bangladesh arranges Chinese food festival every year. In this regard, on November 3, 2015 Chinese Ambassador Mr. Ma Mingqiang attended the opening ceremony of the Chinese Food Festival in Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka and inaugurated the Chinese Food Festival and talked about Chinese food and reminisced the Chinese historical past.¹⁵ With all the initiatives taken by the Chinese authority and various Bangladeshi business community/Friendship Society of Bangladesh, Chinese foods are very popular to the Bangladeshi people. To fulfill the huge demand of the Bangladeshi people, there are 6500 registered hotels and restaurants are

still working in Bangladesh and among them 2000 Chinese restaurants and hotels are functioning in various parts of Bangladesh.¹⁶ With the registered organizations some other unregistered organizations are also working in Bangladesh. Every year, huge economic dealings are done in this sector and more than 2, 50,000 people are living on it.¹⁷ Due to the much popularity of Chinese food, Chinese cuisine has developed into Bangladeshi-style cuisine nearly in every district town of the country and people are very much fascinated with it.

Chinese Culture, Arts and Amusements: Impact on Bangladesh

As an emerging hegemonic power of contemporary world politics, China is proud of its great historical past. From the ancient periods, Chinese people have been contributing to build a prosperous civilization and still working to develop its social and cultural elements. At present, the Chinese culture with its world famous opera, traditional and classic music, movie generating historical elements and similar cultural ingredients, is contributing to expedite tremendous develop in its social and cultural fields. To examine the impact of Chinese culture on the public life of Bangladesh, this study has focused on several ideas including gender roles and their participation in Chinese cultural activity, amusements, food and sports. A number of bars and pie charts along with different tables and equations as shown bellow have focused on those Chinese cultural elements which have great influence on the Bangladeshi people and on Bengali culture. To find out about the Chinese cultural influences on the people of Bangladesh, the researcher used two questionnaires for the respondents. According to Q.1, 63.51% people were male, 36.29% were female and 0.20% did not mention their gender. Q.2 reflects the opinion of 73.44% male and 26.56% female. This group has retrospective experience about Chinese society and culture. The responses were critically reviewed and examined for analysis which is mentioned bellow:

Influence of Chinese Cultural Programs in Bangladesh

According to the Figure 1.1 mentioned below, 80.04% respondents have enjoyed Chinese cultural programs at least once in a lifetime and many of them have regular run-through with great enjoyment. Among the rest, 19.96% respondents are still not familiar with Chinese cultural

components. They need favorable participations to exchange the cultural elements for which Chinese envoys are working.

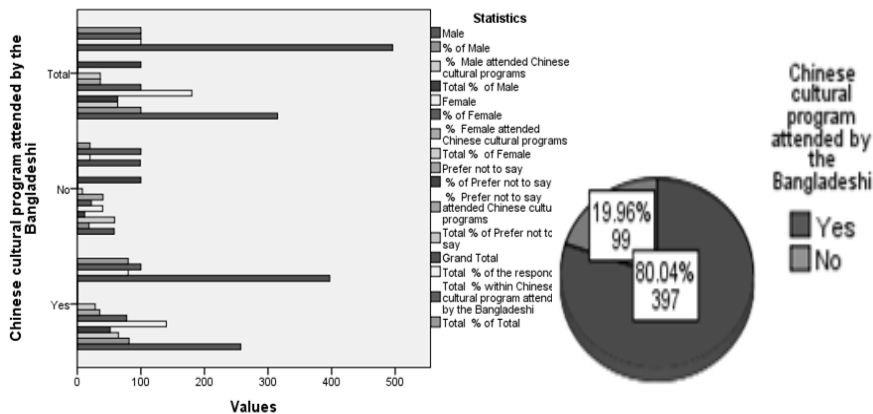


Figure 1.1: Chinese cultural programs attended by the Bangladeshi

The respondents who participated in the Chinese cultural occasions had different cultural attachments and they had also enjoyed many diverse cultural events. Among them in the question-1, there are 56.68% who liked Chinese movies and 25.44% who enjoyed Chinese songs. This shows a great Chinese cultural influence to the peoples of Bangladesh. 10.33% of the respondents were fascinated with Chinese dance while 4.06% of the respondents preferred Chinese folklore. Only the remaining 3.27% of the respondents supported all the above option. Above data shows Chinese cultural events are very much attractive to the people of Bangladesh and they are friendly to adopt it.

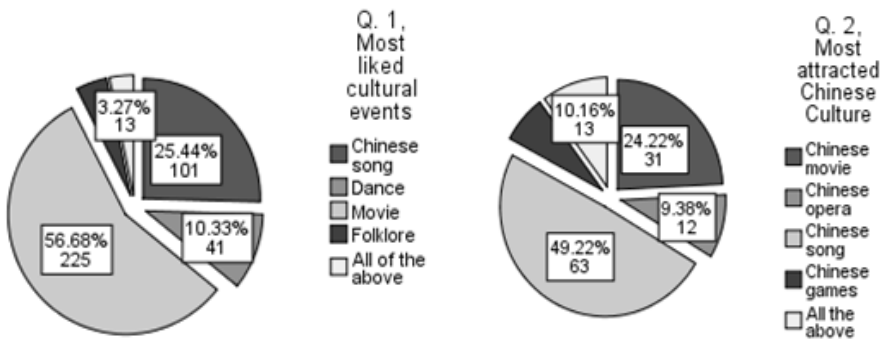


Figure 1.2: Percentage distributions of the respondents by Chinese cultural events

Among the respondents (Figure 1.2) in the question.2, 10.16% of the

respondents were fascinated with different cultural ingredients like Chinese movie, Chinese Opera, songs and sports. Among them, 49.22% were interested in Chinese songs while 24.22% of the respondents mentioned that they loved Chinese movie. Only 9.38% of the respondents were fascinated with Chinese Opera and 7.9% of the respondents enjoyed Chinese sports and other cultural elements.

Table 1.1: Most liked cultural events

			Most liked cultural events					Total
			Chinese song	Dance	Movie	Folklore	All of the above	
Gender of the respondent	male	Count	73	27	138	7	11	256
		% within Gender of the respondent	28.5%	10.5%	53.9%	2.7%	4.3%	100.0%
		% within Most liked cultural events	72.3%	65.9%	61.3%	41.2%	84.6%	64.5%
		% of Total	18.4%	6.8%	34.8%	1.8%	2.8%	64.5%
	Female	Count	28	14	87	10	2	141
		% within Gender of the respondent	19.9%	9.9%	61.7%	7.1%	1.4%	100.0%
		% within Most liked cultural events	27.7%	34.1%	38.7%	58.8%	15.4%	35.5%
		% of Total	7.1%	3.5%	21.9%	2.5%	0.5%	35.5%
Total		Count	101	41	225	17	13	397
		% within Gender of the respondent	25.4%	10.3%	56.7%	4.3%	3.3%	100.0%
		% within Most liked cultural events	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	25.4%	10.3%	56.7%	4.3%	3.3%	100.0%

The responses to question-1 and question-2 showed some dissimilarity in terms of their choice of Chinese culture. According to the answer of question-1, the most preferred cultural event was the movies because many Chinese movies are available in Bangladesh through dish Channel, online (YouTube, You Khuu, Google etc.) and CD disk. It was surprising that they were not well aware of Chinese songs and opera. On the other hand, those respondents who paid a visit in China or lived within Chinese society and taught in Chinese institutions, they had different point of views than

those of the respondents who did not visit China. In the questionnaire-2, the respondents considered Chinese songs as favorite cultural components. By following the questionnaire survey, the correlation between the choice of the respondents and their most liked cultural events is presented:

From the above mentioned table, it can easily be noticed that the Bangladeshi people have great fascination for Chinese culture and amusements. There is a question behind that fascination. The question is “why did they feel fascinated to Chinese cultural elements?” Regarding that question, there were a variety of answers from the respondents. According to them, Bangladeshi people loved the Chinese cultural elements due to some noteworthy characteristics. The following figure will show the causes of the fascination of the Bangladeshi people with Chinese culture:

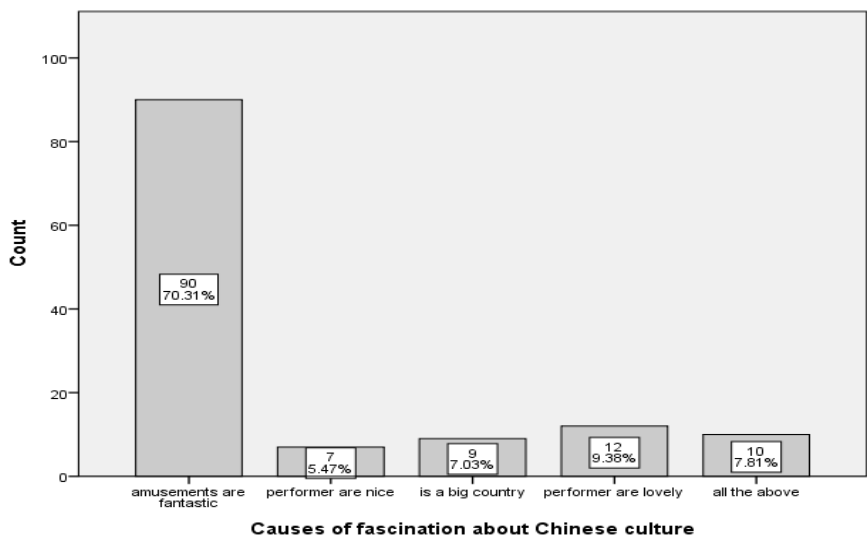


Figure 1.3: Causes of fascination about Chinese culture

Among the respondents (Figure 1.3), 70.31% were enthusiastic about Chinese culture for its fantastic amusement facilities while 7.81 % were concerned about the high performance of the amusement staffs along with their fantastic participations and their love for China as a big country. It was interesting to know that 5.47% of the respondents liked Chinese performers’ specialty while 9.38% were in favor of good looking performers and 7.03% had a passion for China as a big country.

From the discussion above, it seems clear that, the people of

Bangladesh are enjoying the cultural elements of China along with its flora and fauna. The table (Table 1.2) shown below indicates the infrequent (34%) participation of the Bangladeshi people in Chinese culture though the participation was sometimes found to reach 47.8%. A small percentage of the respondents (15.3%) mentioned that the participation was occasional while 2.9% stated that they participated only for once. These data give us a clear perception of the limited opportunity of Bangladeshi people who would like to attend and enjoy the Chinese cultural programs.

Table 1.2: Nature to attend of Chinese cultural events by Bangladeshi peoples

			Nature to attend of cultural events				Total
			Frequently	Sometimes	Occasionally	Only once	
Gender of the respondent	Male	Count	77	121	42	8	248
		% within Gender of the respondent	31.0%	48.8%	16.9%	3.2%	100.0%
		% within Nature to attend of cultural events	58.8%	65.8%	71.2%	72.7%	64.4%
		% of Total	20.0%	31.4%	10.9%	2.1%	64.4%
	Female	Count	54	63	17	3	137
		% within Gender of the respondent	39.4%	46.0%	12.4%	2.2%	100.0%
		% within Nature to attend of cultural events	41.2%	34.2%	28.8%	27.3%	35.6%
		% of Total	14.0%	16.4%	4.4%	0.8%	35.6%
Total	Count	131	184	59	11	385	
	% within Gender of the respondent	34.0%	47.8%	15.3%	2.9%	100.0%	
	% within Nature to attend of cultural events	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	34.0%	47.8%	15.3%	2.9%	100.0%	

The table mentioned above surprisingly shows the frequent attendance

of Bangladeshi people in Chinese cultural events. Participants both from the males (64.4%) and the females (35.6%) comment satisfactorily about the nature of their participations in Chinese cultural events. It also indicates that Bangladeshi people are almost habituated to Chinese cultural elements of various aspects. It is found that 77.3% Bangladeshi people are familiar with Chinese cultural elements and many of them had great faith in it. This provides us with an understanding of the prodigious influences of Chinese cultural element on the people of Bangladesh.

The views from the Bangladeshi students who completed their graduation in China provide us more insights about Chinese social and cultural components that they are missing badly in Bangladesh. Among the respondents (Figure 1.4), 21.88% remarked on the Chinese social security management while 8.59% focused on Chinese food and 7.81% talked about Chinese amusements. Among the respondents, 59.38% were happy with the Chinese food, amusements, education system and its social security management. The respondents mentioned that they are still missing all the elements of Chinese culture in Bangladesh. They urge their government and policy makers to develop their own country by following the social and cultural model of China.

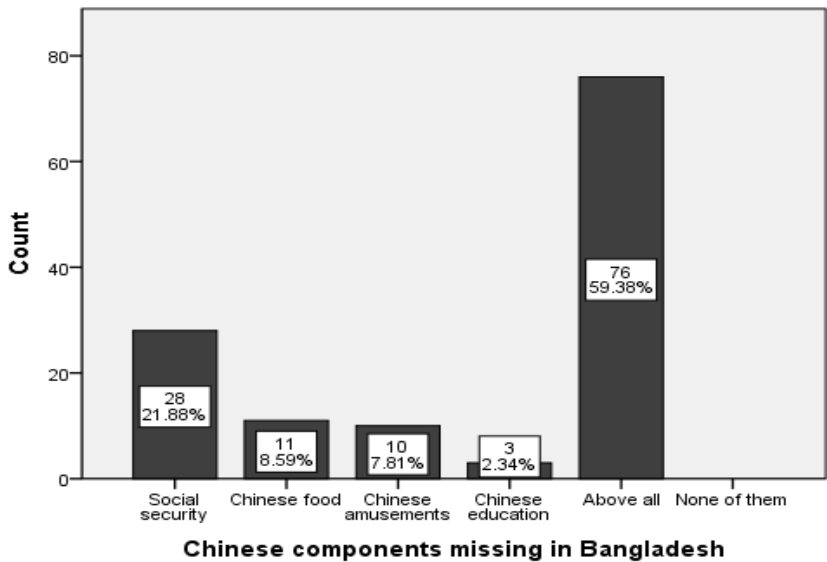


Figure 1.4: Chinese components missing in Bangladesh

To find out the answer to policy making, a question needs to be

answered. The question is whether the Chinese culture is influencing Bangladeshi culture or not. In this regard, different opinions and perspectives were found (Figure 1.5). Most of the respondents (84.04%) replied that Chinese culture is influencing Bangladeshi culture a lot while 12.12% of the respondents provided their answers as no. A small percentage of the respondents (3.84%) were not sure about whether Chinese cultural elements are influencing Bangladeshi culture.

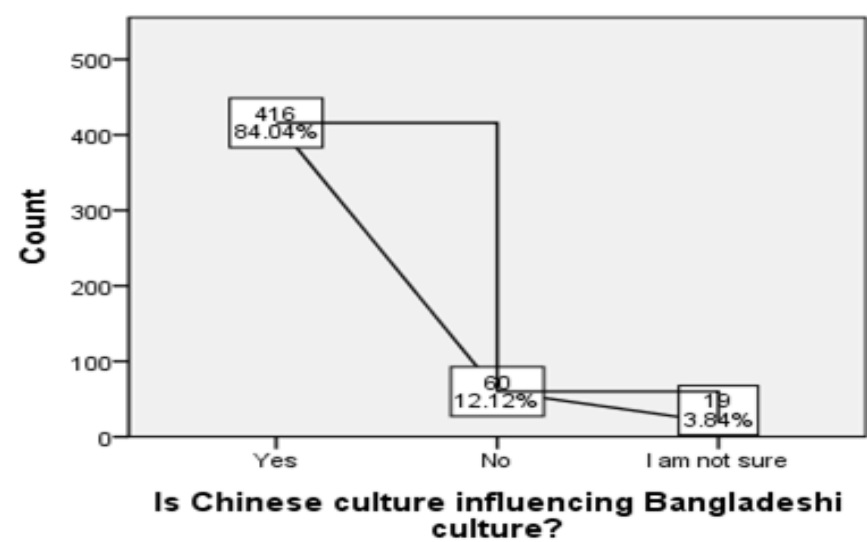


Figure 1.5: Influence rate of Chinese culture in Bangladesh

The table mentioned below (Table 1.3) indicates the Chinese cultural components which are influencing Bangladeshi culture. Chinese cultural elements include Chinese food items, amusements, parlor and literature which are influencing Bangladeshi culture a lot. Among the respondents, 69.4% mentioned that they have enjoyed Chinese food items while 8.5% talked about Chinese amusements, and 3.8% talked about Chinese parlor system and its importance in Bangladesh. A small percentage of the respondents (1.6%) informed about Chinese literature especially Chinese philosophy and literary documents. 16.7% of the respondents stated that all the elements mentioned above were responsible for the influence of China on Bangladeshi culture.

Table 1.3: Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture

			Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture					Total
			Food	Amusements	Parlor	Literature	All of the above	
Gender of the respondent	Male	Count	181	18	8	2	54	263
		% within Gender of the respondent	68.8%	6.8%	3.0%	0.8%	20.5%	100.0%
		% within Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture	61.4%	50.0%	50.0%	28.6%	76.1%	61.9%
		% of Total	42.6%	4.2%	1.9%	0.5%	12.7%	61.9%
	Female	Count	114	17	8	5	17	161
		% within Gender of the respondent	70.8%	10.6%	5.0%	3.1%	10.6%	100.0%
		% within Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture	38.6%	47.2%	50.0%	71.4%	23.9%	37.9%
		% of Total	26.8%	4.0%	1.9%	1.2%	4.0%	37.9%
	Prefer not to say	Count	0	1	0	0	0	1
		% within Gender of the respondent	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
		% of Total	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Total	Count		295	36	16	7	71	425
	% within Gender of the respondent		69.4%	8.5%	3.8%	1.6%	16.7%	100.0%
	% within Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total		69.4%	8.5%	3.8%	1.6%	16.7%	100.0%

So, it is important to mention here that the connection between the two nations via cultural exchanges and frequent visits can enhance their social and cultural relations.

Chinese Food

Chinese foods are very familiar to the people of Bangladesh. In the urban areas (city area), not even 30% Bengali people could be found who have not enjoyed Chinese food at least once in a lifetime. Though Chinese food is costly, its taste and nutrition fascinated the people. There are more than 2000 Chinese restaurants in Bangladesh and more than 2, 50,000 people involved with the business of Chinese food and stuffs. Due to the quality of this delicious cuisine, people make frequent visits to various Chinese restaurants for having their food and enjoying with great enthusiasm. So, the question of which food items people like gets spontaneous response. According to the questionnaire survey, there are 86.23% people who like Chinese foods. Only 13.36% people dislike and 0.40% speaks about other food stuff which are shown in the bar chart given below (Figure 1.6). The above data gives us strong evidence of how much the Bangladeshi people like Chinese food. It bears high Chinese influences on daily life according to the food habit, and day by day this influence is rising.

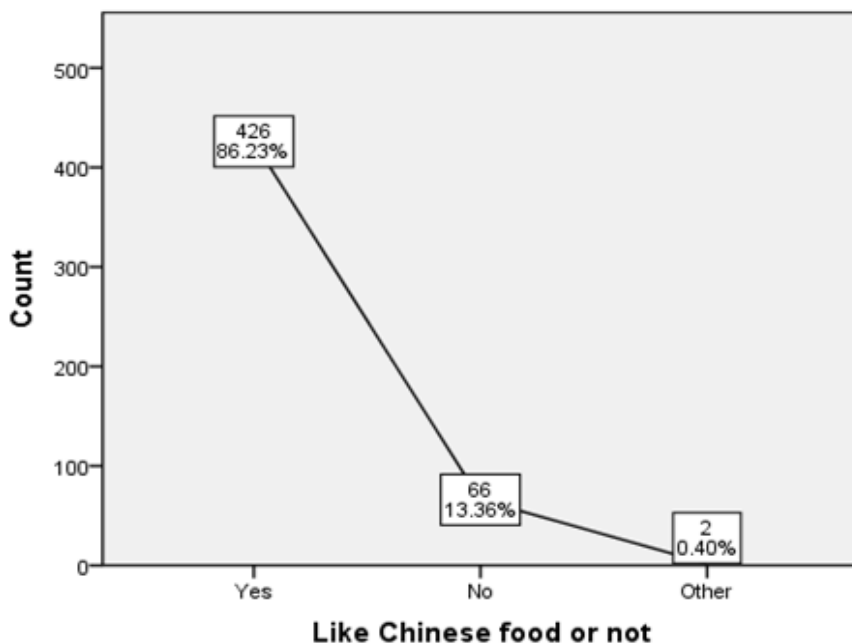


Figure 1.6: Percentage of Chinese food choice

Following the male-female ratio, a chart is shown below (Table 1.4) by focusing on their responses. According to the chart, the females were

more fascinated with Chinese food than the males and their penchant for Chinese food is increasing day by day.

Table 1.4: Response of Chinese food choice

		Like Chinese food or not			Total
		Yes	No	Other	
Gender of the respondent	Male	266	46	1	313
	Female	159	20	1	180
	Prefer not to say	1	0	0	1
Total		426	66	2	494

From the data mentioned above (Figure 1.7), it seems clear that the people of Bangladesh have a very positive attitude to Chinese food. Most of the respondents reported that they liked Chinese cuisine along with its food items. Among them, 37.96% were very fond of soup while 26.16% preferred noodles, and 20.60% were in favor of fried rice. Only 6.02% informed that they liked delicious curry dish. It is notable that 9.26% of the respondents enjoyed all the Chinese foods including soup, noodles, fried rice and Chinese curry items.

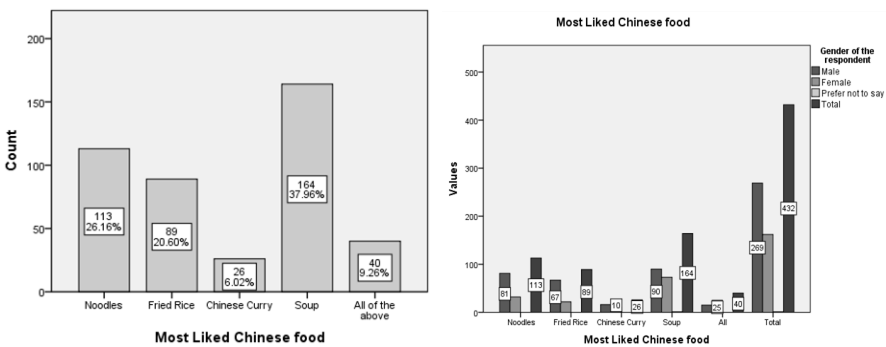


Figure 1.7: Most liked Chinese food

With a long tradition and great heritage, China is now emerging as the greatest economic power in the contemporary world. Nowadays, it is not surprising to consider China a world leader along with its economic and scientific advancements. With Chinese economic and political advancements, the respondents experienced high cultural values of Chinese society which are missing in their own country, Bangladesh. Among the respondents (Table 1.5), 59.38% were in favor of Chinese education, food, amusement and social security system while 21.88%

focused on the social security of China. 8.99% of the respondents appreciated only the Chinese food while 7.81% liked Chinese amusements only, and 2.34% noticed only the Chinese education system. The data mentioned above prove that 100% of the respondents were positive about the social and cultural systems of China and its influence on Bangladeshi society.

By the analysis of the questionnaire and descriptive correlation, existing Chinese cultural programs in Bangladesh and the extent of participations of Bangladesh in Chinese culture are shown in the following table (Table 1.5):

Table 1.5 Case Processing Summary of Cultural Components

	Cases				
	Valid		Missing		Total
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N
Gender of the respondent:					
Chinese cultural program attended by the Bangladeshi	496	99.6%	2	0.4%	498
Most liked cultural events	397	79.7%	101	20.3%	498
Nature to attend of cultural events	385	77.3%	113	22.7%	498
Is Chinese culture influencing Bangladeshi culture?	495	99.4%	3	0.6%	498
Cultural component influences Bangladeshi culture	425	85.3%	73	14.7%	498

According to the correlation opted in the table, among the respondents, Bangladeshi people who attended Chinese cultural programs at least once in a life are 99.6% and who liked Chinese cultural events are 79.7%. Among the respondents, 99.4% ascertain about Chinese influence on them which is also influencing Bangladeshi culture (85.3%) all together.

Chinese Games

Like the Chinese language, several Chinese games are familiar to the people of Bangladesh. In the daily amusement, Wushu, Ping-Pong (table tennis), playing card, mahjong (haozi) played a significant role in the lives

of the people of Bangladesh. Both males and females enjoyed various Chinese games actively or via satellite and TV media. Among the respondent's (Figure 1.8), 56.9% mentioned that Bangladeshi people enjoy playing the famous ping-pong (Table Tennis) game while 19.7% of the respondents supported playing Wushu. 11.6% of the respondents preferred playing cards while 5.9% of the respondents were in favor of mahjong (haozi). A small percentage of the respondents (1.7%) liked acrobatic performances and athletes. It is interesting to notice that 4.2% of the respondents were concerned about Chinese cricket though the real scenario of Chinese cricket is not good in terms of involvement and development. They are just playing cricket in the plate groups at the international level.

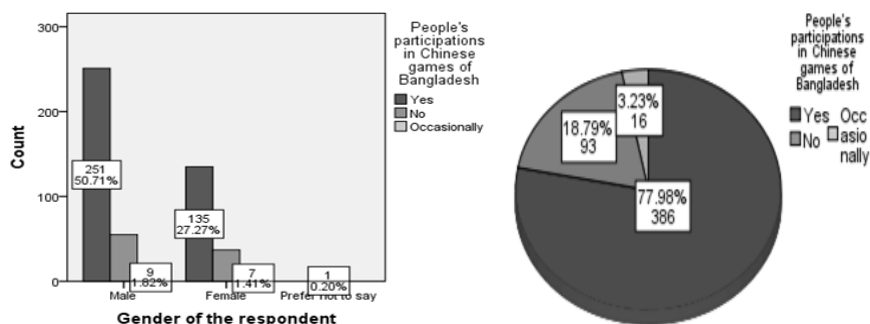


Figure 1.8: People's participation in Chinese Games in Bangladesh

The above data gives us a figure of the attachments of Bangladeshi people in Chinese sports and their enthusiasm and fascination for Chinese sports. It's providing us exultant news that though Bangladesh and China have a huge distance, Chinese sports has a great influence on the sports of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and China have enjoyed different kinds of sports like Wushu, Ping-Pong, Playing card, mahjong, acrobatic, cricket, football, and athletics and so on. As a great partner of Bangladesh from the research period China contributed a lot to introduce Chinese sports to the people of Bangladesh by sending sport troops in Bangladesh in various times and to promote Bangladeshi sportsmen and trainers in China providing training and scholarship. On the other hand, Bangladesh is contributing to enrich Chinese cricket as well is also an instance of mutual exchange of cultural events between the two friends. The above data give us an idea about such influences of China on Bangladesh which gives us a prior concept about the friendly relationship between China and Bangladesh.

Table 1.6: Most liked Chinese games in Bangladesh

			Most liked Chinese Games in Bangladesh						Total
			Ping-pong (Table Tennis)	Cricket	Wushu	Mahjong	Playing card	Other	
Gender of the respondent	Male	Count	149	9	53	13	34	5	263
		% within Gender of the respondent	56.7%	3.4%	20.2%	4.9%	12.9%	1.9%	100.0%
		% within Most liked Chinese Games in Bangladesh	64.5%	52.9%	66.3%	54.2%	72.3%	71.4%	64.8%
		% of Total	36.7%	2.2%	13.1%	3.2%	8.4%	1.2%	64.8%
	Female	Count	82	8	27	11	13	2	143
		% within Gender of the respondent	57.3%	5.6%	18.9%	7.7%	9.1%	1.4%	100.0%
		% within Most liked Chinese Games in Bangladesh	35.5%	47.1%	33.8%	45.8%	27.7%	28.6%	35.2%
		% of Total	20.2%	2.0%	6.7%	2.7%	3.2%	0.5%	35.2%
	Total	Count	231	17	80	24	47	7	406
		% within Gender of the respondent	56.9%	4.2%	19.7%	5.9%	11.6%	1.7%	100.0%
		% within Most liked Chinese Games in Bangladesh	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	56.9%	4.2%	19.7%	5.9%	11.6%	1.7%	100.0%

In conclusion, from the above mentioned discussion and analysis of data, it can be said that Bangladesh and China have been enjoying a good relationship in the arena of cultural exchanges. Since the beginning, several Chinese cultural elements have been disseminated in Bangladesh which is influencing people’s daily life here. The afore-mentioned data and analysis also provide us smooth knowledge of how Chinese cultural elements are influencing Bangladeshi people and how they are still functioning. Among those cultural elements, most importantly Chinese movies, songs, performing arts, parlor, acupressure, various cultural festivals, sports and food items are influencing Bangladeshi culture a lot. Nowadays, Chinese embassy in Bangladesh, Confucius Institutes, and Chinese Learning Departments of Bangladesh are arranging various cultural programs in Bangladesh. Interestingly enough, those programs received minimum public coverage. In this regard, it is necessary that the

news about these Chinese cultural programs need to be transmitted to mass people through local mass media. If China can regularly arrange such events in Bangladesh, no doubt, many more Chinese cultural elements will get blended with Bengali culture. Henceforth, the people of Bangladesh can taste the real flavor and beauty of Chinese social and cultural elements. This blending will help both to build up a strong economic and political relationship. There are significant cultural gaps between Bangladesh and China such as language barrier, the lack of arranging competitive performing arts, sports and cultural exchange programs etc which need attention. Still with all those limitations, Chinese cultural elements and amusements can influence Bangladeshi culture, and this influence will increase day by day.

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