



**Call for Papers**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference**  
**On**  
**"Building Inclusive Futures: Society, Development and Governance**  
**in the 21st Century"**

12-13 September, 2025 (Friday and Saturday)

To be organised by the

Faculty of Social Science, University of Rajshahi

Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh

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Website: [https://www.ru.ac.bd/socialsc/notice/call-for-papers\\_2025/](https://www.ru.ac.bd/socialsc/notice/call-for-papers_2025/)

### **About the Conference**

The Faculty of Social Science at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh, is pleased to announce its forthcoming International Conference on **Building Inclusive Futures: Society, Development and Governance in the 21st Century**. In a fast-changing world, this timely conference provides an interdisciplinary stage for academics, researchers, development practitioners, legislators, civil society actors, and others to engage in essential debates on social inclusion, equity, and sustainability. Climate change and environmental degradation, pandemics, technological disruptions, socioeconomic disparities, demographic changes, and global political change define the 21st century. In this multifaceted environment, "inclusivity" seems to be an ethical and strategic necessity rather than only a developmental objective.

This conference seeks to discuss and emphasise how inclusive futures might be envisioned and realised in the changing context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will explore how development strategies, government structures, cultural contexts, and social frameworks could be more sensitive to marginal peoples' needs. It will also examine the prospects and challenges of developing inclusive organisations, promoting social justice, and ensuring participatory decision-making in the context of existing disparities.

The conference themes are well-reflected in the several interdisciplinary orientations of the Faculty of Social Science. The event will produce whole insights and promote interdisciplinary discussions on how inclusive futures can be built across many social, cultural, political, and economic settings employing the convergence of these disciplines. Participants can present original research, exchange practical experiences, participate in policy discussions, and build networks with colleagues.

Keynote addresses by famous academics, plenary sessions, paper presentations, and thematic panel discussions will all be part of the conference. The conference aims to generate actionable knowledge to create more inclusive, resilient, and just societies in Bangladesh, across the Global South and beyond.

Within the broad framework of society, development, and governance, we welcome papers providing theoretical reflections, empirical analyses, comparative case studies, or creative policy solutions. We especially welcome contributions from academics, development practitioners, early career researchers, and students.

### **Sub-Themes**

### **1. Inclusive Governance and Democratic Innovations**

- Participatory governance and citizen engagement
- Decentralisation, local governance, and social accountability
- Digital governance and public service delivery
- Electoral reforms, transparency, and political inclusion

### **2. Social Justice, Equity, and Right-Based Approaches**

- Human rights and access to justice
- Gender equality and intersectionality
- Indigenous peoples, minorities, and identity politics
- Disability rights and inclusive policies
- Ageing and elderly people

### **3. Development Paradigms and Policy Alternatives**

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and local implementation
- Poverty, inequality, and social protection
- Rural and urban development trajectories
- Alternative economic models and the informal economy

### **4. Knowledge, Education, and Information for Inclusion**

- Inclusive education and digital literacy
- Access to information, open data, and knowledge justice
- Libraries, archives, and community learning spaces
- Media, misinformation, and civic awareness

### **5. Communication, Media, and the Public Sphere**

- Media freedom and pluralism in the digital age
- Social media, activism, and political mobilisation
- Representation of marginalised voices in mass communication
- Crisis communication and community resilience
- Media, environment and disaster management

### **6. Culture, Heritage, and Folklore in Contemporary Society**

- Cultural sustainability and heritage preservation
- Folklore, oral traditions, and identity formation
- Globalisation, hybrid culture, and cultural resilience
- Arts-based methods in research and advocacy
- Community-based eco-tourism/ Eco-tourism and community development

### **7. Labour Mobility, Future of Work and Workers Rights**

- Labour migration and remittance economies
- Labour rights and working environment
- Urbanisation, displacement, and climate migration
- Youth aspirations and employment challenges
- Digital economies, automation, and inclusive labor policies

### **8. Social Movements, Agency, and Resistance**

- Grassroots activism and civic movements
- Feminist movements and intersectional advocacy
- Youth-led campaigns and democratic innovation
- Environmental justice and indigenous resistance

### **9. Public Health, Mental Well-being, and Social Inclusion**

- Health policy and service delivery in low-resource settings
- Mental health awareness and stigma
- Community-based social work and health interventions
- Post-pandemic recovery and public health governance
- Reproductive health hazards and intervention

#### **10. Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and the Future of Inclusion**

- AI in governance and public service delivery
- Algorithmic bias, surveillance, and ethical AI
- Automation, labor markets, and inclusive digital transitions
- Role of AI in education, health, and social protection
- Bridging the digital divide in the age of intelligent machines

#### **11. Methodologies for Inclusive Research and Practice**

- Participatory and community-based research methods
- Decolonising research and knowledge production
- Ethics of social science research in fragile contexts
- Interdisciplinary approaches to inclusion and development

#### **12. Environment, Ecology and Climate Change**

- Environmental degradation
- Climate change adaptation and climate justice
- Community-based disaster management and resilience
- Ecological footprint
- Green economy/blue economy

#### **13. Geo-politics, Refugees, and Internally Displaced People**

- Forced migration and persecution
- Cross-border movement
- Geo-political trends and impacts
- Migration and human security
- Maritime issues and challenges

#### **14. Education, Human Capital and Innovation**

- Human capital and education policies
- Human capital, social capital and innovation
- Education and human capital formation

#### **15. Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition**

- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Agriculture, food security and nutrition nexus
- Community-based solutions for developing food security
- Local communities in implementing food security and nutrition initiatives

#### **16. Social and Community Development Approaches and Initiatives**

- Addressing socioeconomic and community needs
- Community empowerment
- Social reintegration
- Enhancing social capital
- Livelihood promotion

#### **Accommodation**

All delegates will be provided with food and accommodation at the University Guest House, hostels, and hotels.

### **Guidelines for Submission of Abstract and Full Papers**

Academics, scholars, development practitioners, researchers, and students who wish to contribute to the academic discourse are invited to present papers at the conference. Alternatively, for the abstract, the guidelines are: Word Limit: 300 words, Keywords (not more than 5), Paper Size: A4, Font style: Times New Roman, Font Size: 12, Line Space: 1.5, File: Microsoft Word file (docx). The full paper's word limit is 5000-6000 (including tables, diagrams, illustrations, APA style references, etc.). The abstract guidelines will apply to the full paper. Please send your abstract to this email: [ssfruconference2025@ru.ac.bd](mailto:ssfruconference2025@ru.ac.bd), with a CC to [sec.ssfruconference2025@ru.ac.bd](mailto:sec.ssfruconference2025@ru.ac.bd)

### **Important Dates**

Deadline for the submission of abstract	: 20 May, 2025
Notification of selected abstract	: 20 June, 2025
Deadline for submission of full paper	: 25 August, 2025
Conference date	: 12-13 September, 2025

### **Registration Details**

Deadline for registration	: 30 August, 2025
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(On-the-spot registration will not be allowed)

### **Bank Details**

Registration is mandatory for the participants in the conference. After the confirmation of acceptance of the abstract, the participants have to register themselves by filling out the Registration Form along with the registration fee by 30 August 2025. Fees should be paid in favor of 'Dean, Faculty of Social Science, University of Rajshahi', payable at Agrani Bank PLC, Rajshahi University Corporate Branch, Rajshahi, Bangladesh, or can be deposited in an online account number 0200013219779, Agrani Bank PLC, Rajshahi University Corporate Branch, Rajshahi, Bangladesh, SWIFT Code AGBKBDDH027. The payment slip should be sent to the conference secretary by email: [ssfruconference2025@ru.ac.bd](mailto:ssfruconference2025@ru.ac.bd)

### **Registration Fees**

National participants	: BDT. 2500
Participants of SAARC countries	: US\$. 75
International participants	: US\$. 100
RU Academicians/Faculty Members	: BDT. 1500
RU research fellow/students	: BDT. 1000

(The registration cost will cover 02 lunches, 02 dinners, conference kits, refreshments and logistics)

### **Contact**

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