



OPEN Exploring the nexus of industrial production and energy consumption on CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh through ARDL bounds testing insights

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Elevated CO₂ emissions are a primary cause of the sustainability challenges, including rising sea levels and extreme weather patterns, faced by Bangladesh and the world. This study examines the intricate relationship between CO₂ emissions and various economic and industrial factors in Bangladesh, using the autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bound test. By analyzing data from 1971 to 2020, the research identifies both short-run and long-run dynamics influencing CO₂ emissions. The findings reveal that industrial production and non-renewable energy consumption have a significant positive impact on CO₂ emissions, while agricultural activities and fertilizer consumption exhibit a negative effect.

The study underscores the need for Bangladesh to transition towards renewable energy sources and improve agricultural practices to mitigate CO₂ emissions. Advanced econometric techniques, including the ARDL Bound Test, CUSUM, and CUSUMSQ, are employed to ensure the robustness of the results. The ARDL framework yields key metrics: RMSE = 0.034, MSE = 0.001, AIC = -160.002, BIC = -139.651, R-squared = 0.801, and adjusted R-squared = 0.753, to explore the CO₂ emissions nexus in Bangladesh.

The study concludes that, while industrial and energy factors significantly contribute to CO₂ emissions, enhancing renewable energy use and adopting climate-smart agricultural practices are essential for sustainable environmental management. Policy recommendations include promoting renewable energy adoption, implementing carbon capture technologies, and revising carbon tax policies to achieve long-term sustainability and environmental conservation.

Keywords CO₂ emission, ARDL, Short-run relationship, Time series

The intricate interplay between industrial production, energy consumption, and CO₂ emissions is pivotal in addressing the environmental challenges faced by developing countries, particularly Bangladesh. As industrial activities account for approximately 24% of global CO₂ emissions, a profound understanding of this relationship is essential for sustainable development¹. Recent studies illustrate a robust positive correlation between industrial output and emissions, underscoring the urgent need for the adoption of cleaner technologies^{2,3}. Furthermore, fossil fuel consumption remains a significant driver of emissions; thus, transitioning away from non-renewable energy sources is critical for reducing the carbon footprint^{2,4}. Agricultural practices also play a complex role in this dynamic. While traditional methods tend to increase emissions, innovative and sustainable agricultural practices can mitigate these effects⁴. This study is grounded in the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis, which posits that economic growth initially exacerbates emissions but can eventually lead to reductions through sustainable practices. The key variables under examination include Industrial Value Added (IVG), which encapsulates the growth-emissions relationship; Electricity Production from oil (EPOS) and gas (EPGS), indicating reliance on fossil fuels; Fertilizer Consumption (FC), linked to nitrous oxide emissions but manageable through sustainable strategies; and Population Growth Rate (PGR), which significantly

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impacts energy demand and emissions levels. This comprehensive review highlights the critical importance of implementing sustainable practices to mitigate CO₂ emissions while facilitating economic growth.

Moreover, the role of policy interventions in managing industrial emissions cannot be overstated.

The atmosphere levels of Greenhouse gases (GHGs), influenced by carbon dioxide (CO₂) that are predominantly discharged via human-caused behaviors involving the consumption of energy from fossil fuels, such as natural gas, coal, oil, and also electricity production, industry, household use and transportation, have made global warming a major topic in the modern era^{5,6}. The most widely debated issue in this century nowadays is worldwide climatic change. GHGs are the main causes of climate change⁷. The escalation of global GHG emissions mirrors the impact of human endeavors, signifying a notable surge in meteorological quantities of gaseous carbon dioxide (CO₂), a substance called nitrous oxide (N₂O), and the greenhouse gas methane (CH₄)⁷. As per the IPCC (2021) report, CO₂ stands as the dominant GHG, comprising 79.4% of total global GHG emissions. Contributions from methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and other gases amount to 11.5%, 6.2%, and 3%, respectively⁷. Given these significant impacts of GHGs on climate change, it becomes crucial to examine how economic activities and policies contribute to this issue.

Economic growth is vital for improving quality of life, but it often leads to environmental issues such as reduced biodiversity, altered climate patterns, and global temperature rises due to increased pollutants^{8–10}. Environmental science offers solutions for enhancing legislation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions⁸. The Paris Agreement (COP 21) highlights the need to address the climate crisis caused by economic activities, particularly the increase in CO₂ concentrations from fossil fuel consumption^{9,11}. Energy consumption, expected to account for up to 99% of global CO₂ emissions between 2022 and 2023, necessitates a shift towards cleaner energy and reduced GHG emission⁸. The Paris Agreement, ratified by over 190 states in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rises to below 2 °C, ideally 1.6 °C, above preindustrial levels, targeting net-zero emissions by mid-century. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG-7 (clean energy) and SDG-13 (climate action), offer a framework for sustainable development by integrating environmental considerations into economic growth^{8,12}. Investing in energy efficiency, clean energy transitions, and carbon emissions reduction is crucial for mitigating global warming and promoting sustainable development¹³. The SDGs serve as guiding principles in addressing climate challenges, with a focus on clean energy and climate action⁸.

Despite extensive global research on CO₂ emissions, specific studies on Bangladesh's unique challenges and the intricate dynamics of its agricultural efficiency, industrial value, motor vehicle and energy consumption are lacking. This research examines how CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh are influenced by population growth, industrialization, energy consumption, motor vehicle usage, and fertilizer consumption, and how these factors interact and impact sustainable development across short- and long-term trends. Previous studies have not sufficiently explored the long-term and short-term effects of these variables on CO₂ emissions, nor have they employed robust models like the ARDL model to understand the co-integration dynamics among these factors such total motor vehicle, electricity production from gas source, electricity production from oil and fertilizer consumption. This study aims to fill the gap by analyzing five decades (1971–2020) of CO₂ emission drivers in Bangladesh using advanced econometric techniques, contributing to targeted strategies and policies for emission reduction and climate change mitigation.

This study intends to investigate the link between CO₂ emissions and relevant factors concentrated on industrial and fossil fuel-based energy activities in Bangladesh by differentiating the impacts for short- and long-term scenario. The performance of ARDL Bound test will be adopted to examine the compatibility of the data to address the targets. Additionally, it aims to determine the rate at which these variables return to equilibrium, indicating the stability of their long-term influence.

Methodology

Data and variables

This research utilizes yearly report sequence of datasets spanning from 1971 to 2020, encompassing seven key attributes. These variables included CO₂ emissions (CO₂) (MT/cap) as the outcome and population growth (PGR) (yearly%), industry value added (IVG) (% of GDP), and the total number of registered motor vehicles (TNRMV) (lakhs), as well as electricity production from oil sources (EPOS) (% of total), and electricity production from gas sources (EPGS) (% of total), Agriculture value added (AGV) (% of land area), and Fertilizer consumption (FC) (unit of fertilizer production) as covariates. The World Development Indicators database of the World Bank¹⁴, provided the secondary data, which is accessed through the following link: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/BD>. Additionally, information about the total number of registered motor vehicles may be found at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority website <http://www.brt.gov.bd>. Table 1 provide a clearer and more organized presentation of the data for better understanding.

Econometric technique

The model can be expressed as,

$$CO_2 \text{ emission} = f(PGR, IVG, TNRMN, EPOS, EPGS, AGV, FC)$$

Where, CO_2 is the dependent variable and $PGR(t)$, $IVG(t)$, $TNRMN(t)$, $EPOS(t)$, $EPGS(t)$, $AGV(t)$ and $FC(t)$ are the independent variable.

ARDL bounds approach spanning cointegration assessment

An effective econometric framework needs to exist enabling reliable projections and strong impact on policy. Thus, relying around the dataset's stability level, the the field of e modeling performs and generates trustworthy

Variables	Variables description	Unit
CO2	CO2 emission	Metric tons (MT) per capita (cap)
PGR	Population growth	Yearly %
IVG	Industry value added	% of GDP
TNRMV	The total number of registered motor vehicles	Lakhs
EPOS	Electricity production from oil sources	% of total
EPGS	Electricity production from gas sources	% of total
AGV	Agriculture value added	% of land area
FC	Fertilizer consumption	Unit of fertilizer production

Table 1. Variables and specifying the unit.

outcome. The prior literature^{15–18} contains references to the ARDL testing framework¹⁹. ARDL tests a relationship equation using unrelated regressors. The typical ARDL structure can be expressed as (p, q_1, q_{k1}) considering the expression.2 pictured herein:

$$y_t = c + \sum_{j=1}^p \varphi_j y_{t-j} + \sum_{i=0}^q \theta_i x_{t-i} + \nu_t \quad (1)$$

$$CO_2(t) = \alpha + \sum_{i=1}^p \beta_i CO_2(t-i) + \sum_{j=0}^{q_1} \gamma_j PGR(t-j) + \sum_{k=0}^{q_2} \delta_k IVG(t-k) + \sum_{l=0}^{q_3} \varphi_l TNRMN(t-l) \\ + \sum_{m=0}^{q_4} \theta_m EPOS(t-m) + \sum_{n=0}^{q_5} \psi_n EPGS(t-n) + \sum_{o=0}^{q_6} \lambda_o AGV(t-o) + \sum_{p=0}^{q_7} \tau_p FC(t-p) + \varepsilon_t$$

Where, $CO_2(t)$, $IVG(t)$, $TNRMN(t)$, $EPOS(t)$, $EPGS(t)$, $AGV(t)$ and $FC(t)$ are the independent variables at time t . α = constant term, β_i , γ_j , δ_k , φ_l , θ_m , ψ_n , λ_o , τ_p = coefficients to estimate, p, q_1, q_2, \dots, q_7 = lag orders for each variable, selected based on criteria like AIC or BIC, ε_t = error term

The ARDL approach formula-2 during cointegration parasites, in which y_t symbolizes expressed inconsistent ν_t mentioned as the variety of creativity, components of vessel pattern, and interruptions structure for y_t . The initially proposed ARDL methodology uses OLS to determine the coefficients c , φ_j and θ_i . Consequently, ν_t needs to fulfill OLS prerequisites such as no correlation by itself, no the existence of heteros and a normal shape. Acceptable lag organization (p, q) and clarifying capability using separate variables discovered by conducting the coefficient of correlation relative to explained variable, and Adjusted R^2 ought to be clarified combining either one or several “Information criteria for lag structure” (AIC, BIC etc.). In a nutshell confirming.

Study design

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual framework adopted in this study. As an initial step, an exhaustive examination of the literature about the investigation of CO₂ emissions is conducted to pinpoint any research gaps and the authors establish the data source and define the study variables. Subsequently, the authors employed a time series plot to analyze the trajectory of CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh. During phase two, the authors perform the summary statistics, correlation analysis, unit root test for stationary checking and optimum lag selection for fitting the ARDL model. The ultimate stage entails evaluating model fitting and performance through diagnostic assessment and generating predictions.

Unit root test

The initial part of the appropriate research is to determine the stationary nature that exists in the participant contingent, whether or not the variable remains steady at the level, the initial distinction, or subsequent difference. The technique for the magnitude of the root examination has been described as:

$$y_t = \rho y_{t-1} + \epsilon \quad (2)$$

A highly popular test for unit root²⁰, established the augmented Dickey-Fuller formula (ADF), which was originally employed for determining the magnitude of stationary patterns for both indicators. Moreover, both of the additional remarkable unit root assessments, such as the one performed by Phillips as well as Peron²¹ examination for unit root (PP unit root test) underpinned through unit root, can be utilized to check the findings from the ADF test for to verify if all variable stability levels are synchronized.

Reason for using ARDL bound test

The ARDL bound test was chosen for this research due to its robustness in analyzing the cointegration relationships among variables, irrespective of whether they are stationary at level I (0), first difference I (1), or a combination of both. This flexibility is particularly advantageous given the diverse nature of the data used in this study, encompassing industrial production, energy consumption, and CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh from 1971 to 2020. The ARDL approach not only allows for the examination of both short-term and long-term dynamics but also accommodates small sample sizes, which enhances the reliability of the estimates. Moreover, the ARDL model effectively addresses issues of endogeneity and serial correlation, providing more accurate and dependable

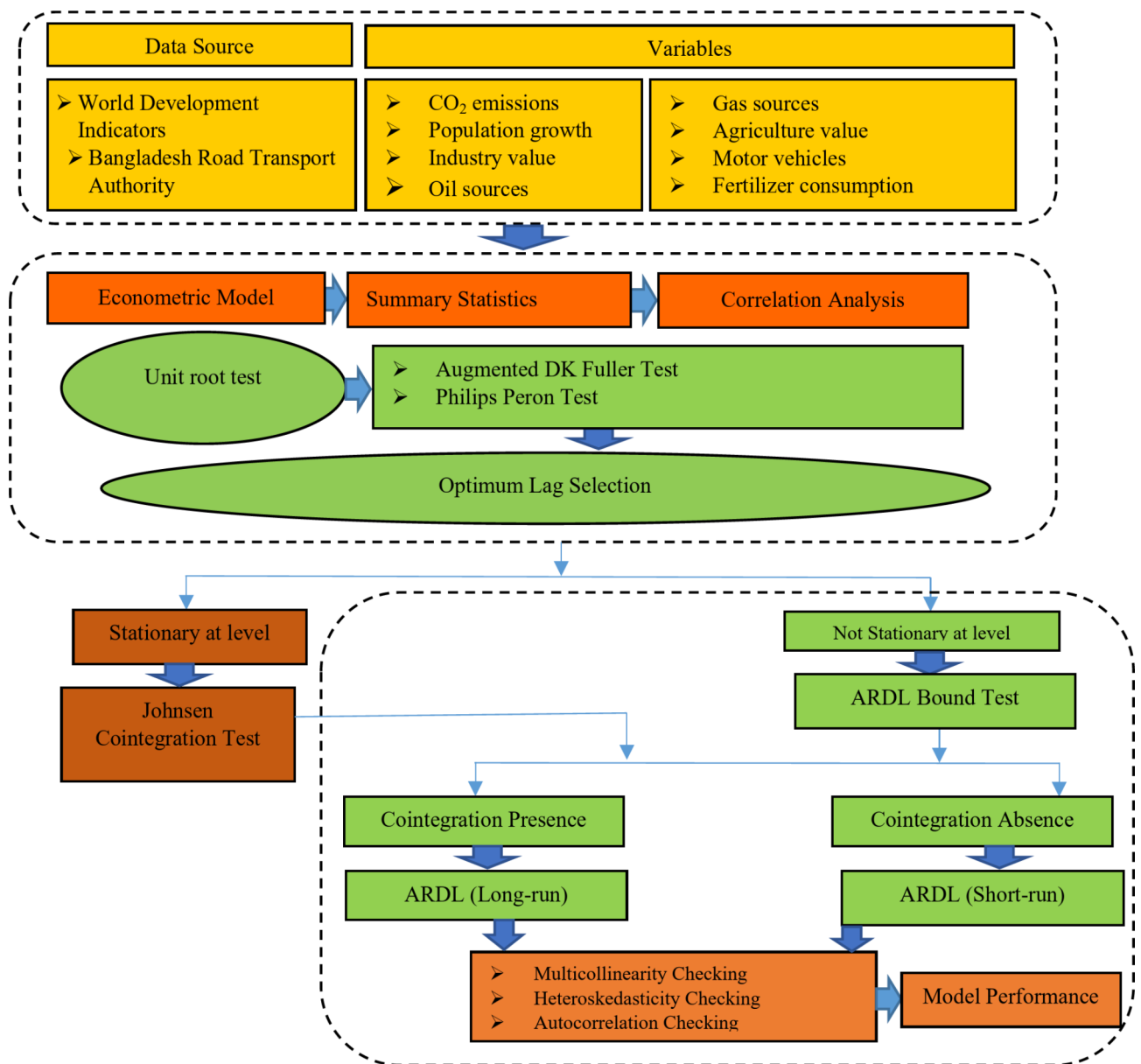


Fig. 1. Research framework.

results. By employing the ARDL bound test, this study ensures a thorough and nuanced understanding of the intricate relationships among the key variables, offering valuable insights into the drivers of CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh.

Statistical analysis

Following the data download from the website, the data underwent processing for analysis. This included investigating the factors using both Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) techniques and time series plots. A correlation plot was created to explore the relationships between the variables. The stationarity of the outcome variable was assessed using Autocorrelation Function (ACF) and Partial Autocorrelation Function (PACF) plots. To confirm the stationarity, the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and Phillips-Perron (PP) tests were performed. The ARDL bound test was utilized to check for cointegration in the data. At a 5% significance level, the null hypothesis of no cointegration was rejected, indicating that the variables are indeed cointegrated. This led to the examination of a short-run relationship to understand the link between CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh. Model performance was evaluated using several metrics, including R-squared, Adjusted R-squared, Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), Mean Squared Error (MSE), Sigma, Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC). Post-diagnostic tests were conducted to ensure model robustness. The Breusch-Godfrey Test and Box-Ljung test assessed serial correlation and autocorrelation, while the Shapiro-Wilk test checked the normality of residuals. Heteroskedasticity of the residuals was also examined. The Cumulative Sum (CUSUM) of recursive residuals and the Cumulative Sum of Squares (CUSUMSQ) of the recursive residuals

were employed to evaluate the stability of both the short-run and long-run models. These tests provided insights into the consistency and reliability of the model over time. All analyses were utilized by using R programming software.

Results

In the investigation, the researchers thoroughly examined the data to analyze the nature of the factors, utilizing both EDA methods and time series plots for a comprehensive understanding. Table 2 shows the summary statistics regarding the specified variables. In Bangladesh, the level of CO₂ emissions exhibits minor fluctuations, with a mean measurement of 0.20 and a SD of 0.15. The range of carbon dioxide release spans 0.54 units, indicating the presence of notably elevated emissions within the country. Notably, the lowest recorded CO₂ emission stands at 0.04 units, potentially signaling an outlier or an error in reporting. The highest recorded CO₂ level stands at 0.58, underscoring substantial CO₂ emissions within the nation. As for the variable of population growth (% annual), it boasts an average of 1.82 with a standard deviation of 0.55. The population rates of expansion vary from 0.88 to 2.77 demonstrates a considerable span. IVG, denoting Industry (including construction) value added (% of GDP), serves as a metric for the country’s industrial performance.

The industry value, characterized by a standard deviation of 5.70, spans from 6.06 to 32.91, averaging at 21.71. EPGS signifies the production of electricity sourced from gas within the nation, boasting an average of 71.02 and a standard deviation of 17.74. With values oscillating between 34.69 and 91.10, the EPGS metric displays a broader spectrum compared to other variables. EPOS, on the other hand, quantifies the production of electricity derived from oil sources for the country. The EPOS value demonstrates a standard deviation of 11.48 and an average of 17.05, spanning from 1.77 to 43.11. Representing the overall number of automobiles. In the country, TNRMV exhibits an average range from 0.89 to 45.69, with a SD of 11.05. The FC values range from 0.90 to 5.73, with a mean value of fertilizer consumption of 2.43 and a standard deviation of 1.72. AGV denotes the agriculture (including construction) value added for the nation, with an average of 28.66 and a SD of 14.12. The span of AGV values extends from 11.98 to 61.95, as illustrated in Table 2.

Fig.2 depicts a notable positive correlation between CO₂ emissions and several factors, indicating that as the significance of these components climb, so do CO2 emissions. Research indicates a robust positive association between CO₂ emissions and motor vehicle numbers (TNRMV), with an association coefficient of 0.96. This implies that higher motor vehicle counts in a country are associated with increased CO₂ emissions. Similarly, IVG shows a strong positive association of 0.84 with CO₂ emissions, implying that an increase in industrial value-added leads to higher CO₂ emissions. Furthermore, a positive correlation emerges between fertilizer consumption and CO₂ emissions, evidenced by a correlation coefficient of 0.76. This suggests that nations with higher levels of fertilizer consumption tend to generate increased CO₂ emissions. Additionally, population growth (PGR) plays a crucial role in mitigating CO₂ emissions, as indicated by a strong negative relation of -0.78 between population growth and CO2. Similarly, a correlation of -0.77 exists between agricultural land (AGV) and CO₂ emissions, implying that countries with greater agricultural land effort to reduce its emissions of CO2, as depicted in Fig. 2.

The periods of time scenario presented in Fig. 3 delineates the trajectory of Carbon dioxide emissions through 1971 to 2020. It demonstrates fluctuating trends in CO₂ emissions over this period, featuring both have favorable and adverse values. Initially, towards the center-1970s to the early 1980s, CO₂ emissions remained relatively small, typically ranging through 0.042 to 0.083 metric tons per capita. However, a steady increase in CO₂ emissions began around the mid-1990s, with values surpassing 0.140 metric tons per capita by the late 1990s. Notably, CO₂ emissions experienced a significant surge in the early 2000s, peaking at closely 0.167 MT/cap in 2000. Subsequently, from 2001 onwards, Bangladesh’s CO₂ emissions exhibited a consistent upward trend, reaching a pinnacle of 0.581 MT/cap in 2020. Notably, between 2002 and 2020, there was a marked upward trajectory followed by a period of relative stability before resuming an upward trend through the termination of the investigation period., as depicted in Fig. 3.

Stationarity checking

A gradually deteriorating ACF plot might point to the emergence of any pattern or equivalent non-stationary behavior. Fig. 4(a) shows the fact that the correlation by itself persists strong for long lags, which implies the data series isn’t stationary. After the first differencing, Figure-4(b) reveals that there exists only one significant lag in the ACF plot. A single noteworthy lag in the ACF illustration could point to stationarity.

Variable	Average	Standard deviation	Min	Max	Range
CO ₂ Emissions	0.2	0.15	0.04	0.58	0.54
Population growth	1.82	0.55	0.88	2.77	1.89
Industry value added	21.71	5.7	6.06	32.91	26.85
Electricity production from gas	71.02	17.74	34.69	91.1	56.41
Electricity production from oil	17.05	11.48	1.77	43.11	41.34
Total no. of motor vehicles	9.14	11.05	0.89	45.69	44.8
Fertilizer consumption	2.27	1.44	0.9	5.73	4.82
Agriculture value added	28.66	14.12	11.98	61.95	49.98

Table 2. Summary statistics regarding the specified variables.

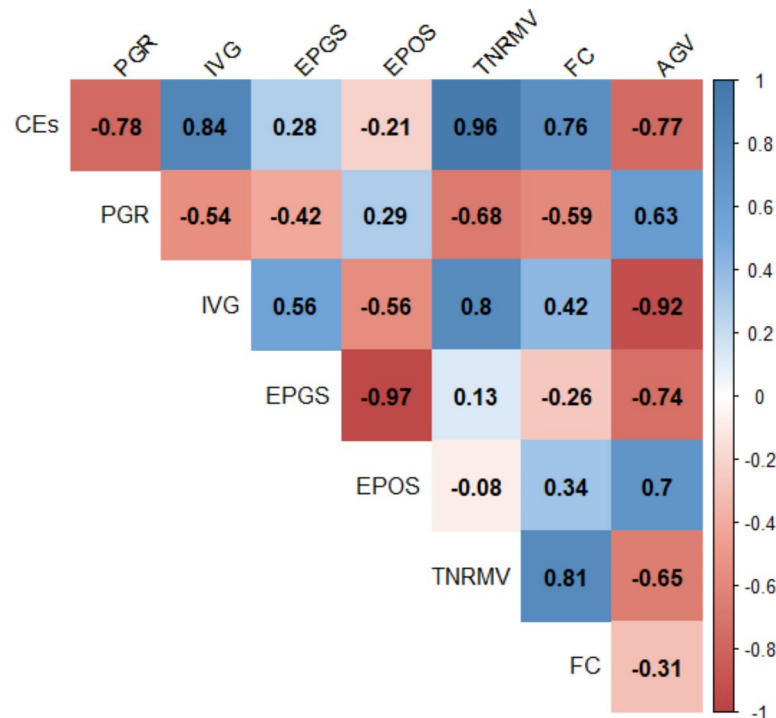


Fig. 2. Correlation matrix.

Before proceeding through the the ARDL approach bounds test, we analyze the stability of every component and identify their integration priority. This is crucial as ARDL necessitates the dependent variable to get connected with an initial order (I (1)) in levels, while no explanatory components ought to get combined of level two (I (2)) or higher. To achieve this, we employ standard unit root testing methods such as the ADF test. However, recognizing the limitations of the ADF test in terms of power, we complement it with the Phillips-Perron (PP) test. In our strategy, the lag time used for the ADF tests is chosen using the SIC Criterion, and wavelength allocation during the PP examination is contingent using Newey-West. Our analysis reveals that not all series exhibit non-stationarity in variables; instead, there is a combination of I(0) and I(1) the predictors.

Consequently, the ARDL framework remains applicable for our analysis. Table 3 displays the results of the ADF and PP tests. Upon inspection of Table 3, it is evident that the series LNCO₂, LNPGR, LNIIVG, LNEPGS, LNEPOS, LNTNRMV, LNFC, and LNAGV exhibit nonstationary in their level form (I(0)), indicating the existence of a unit root. However, these series become stationary when differenced once, suggesting they are merged in lag 1 (I(1)) in nature.

Unit root test results and variable integration

We applied the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and Phillips-Perron (PP) tests to determine the order of integration for each variable. The results, summarized in Table 3, indicate that variables LNCO₂, LNPGR, LNIIVG, LNEPGS, LNEPOS, LNTNRMV, LNFC, and LNAGV are non-stationary at level (I(0)), becoming stationary only after first differencing, thus integrated of order I(1). However, certain variables exhibited stationarity at levels, thus classified as I(0).

Reason for mixed integration orders

The differences in integration orders reflect the nature of the variables. Economic indicators (e.g., IVG and FC) often exhibit trends over time, making them more likely to be I(1), while environmental or population-related metrics (e.g., TNRMV) may show mean-reverting behavior due to seasonal or regulatory factors, leading to I(0) stationarity.

Implications for ARDL model selection

The ARDL approach is well-suited for our data, as it accommodates both I(0) and I(1) variables without requiring them to be integrated of the same order. The model specification was based on the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), resulting in an ARDL(1, 2, 0, 0, 1, 2, 2, 1) configuration. Additionally, a bounds test confirmed cointegration among the variables, validating our approach for analyzing both short-term dynamics and long-term equilibrium relationships with CO₂ emissions.

ARDL bound test

In the ARDL bounds testing framework, we compare the computed F-statistic against the lower and upper bounds at different significance levels, presented in Table 4. The computed F-statistic in this case is 2.43, which is

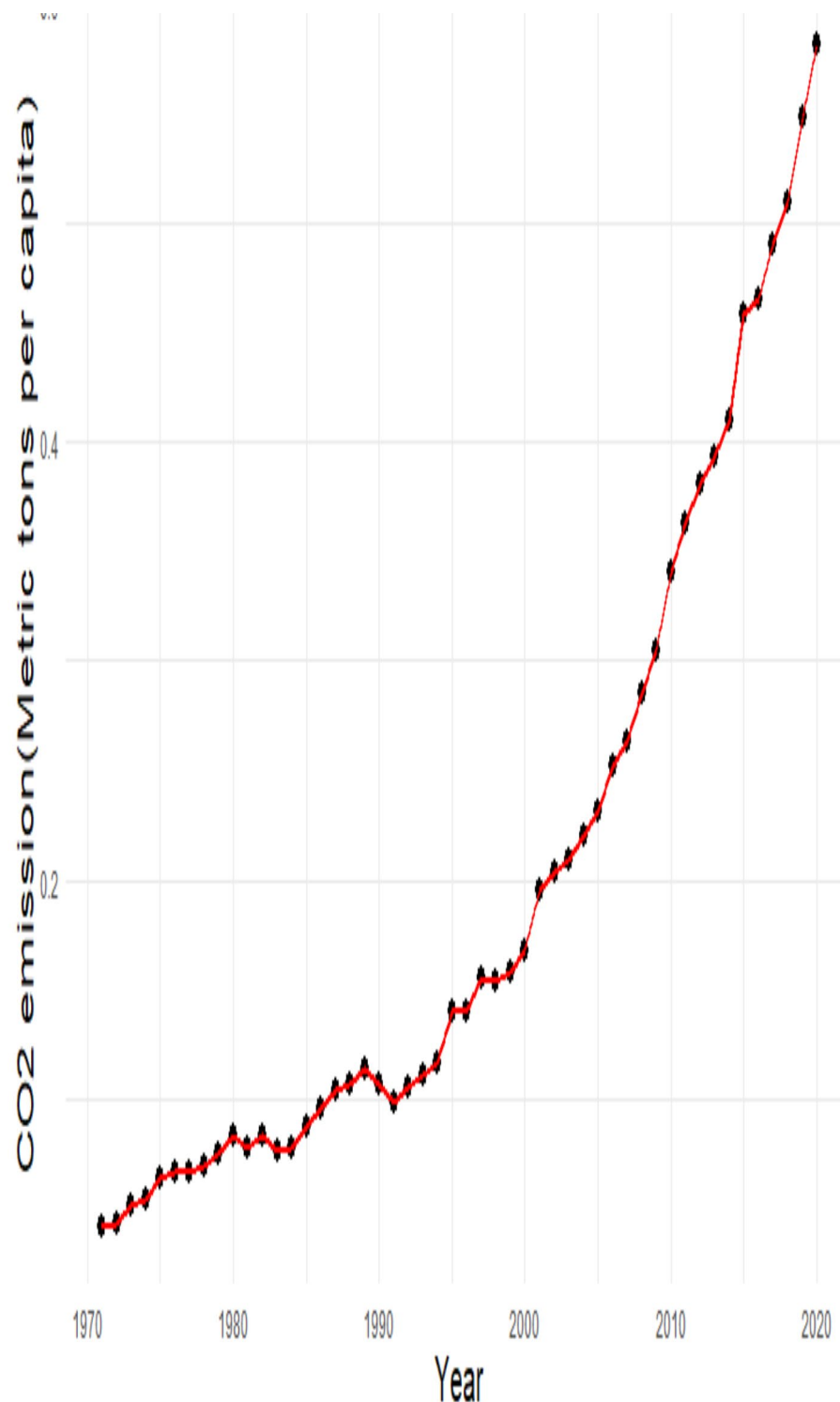


Fig. 3. Time period visualization illustrating carbon dioxide emissions.

lower than the upper bound threshold of 4.057 at the 5% significance level, as well as the lower and upper bounds at the 10% significance level (2.309 and 3.507, respectively). Therefore, we fail to reject the null hypothesis of no cointegration at both the 5% and 10% significance levels, indicating that the variables are not cointegrated.

Long-run and short-run analysis

Table 5 shows the results of both long and short-term correlations. In the long-run analysis, it is revealed that LNEPOS exhibits a positive association with CO2 emissions at I(1) level, with a coefficient of 0.109 and a

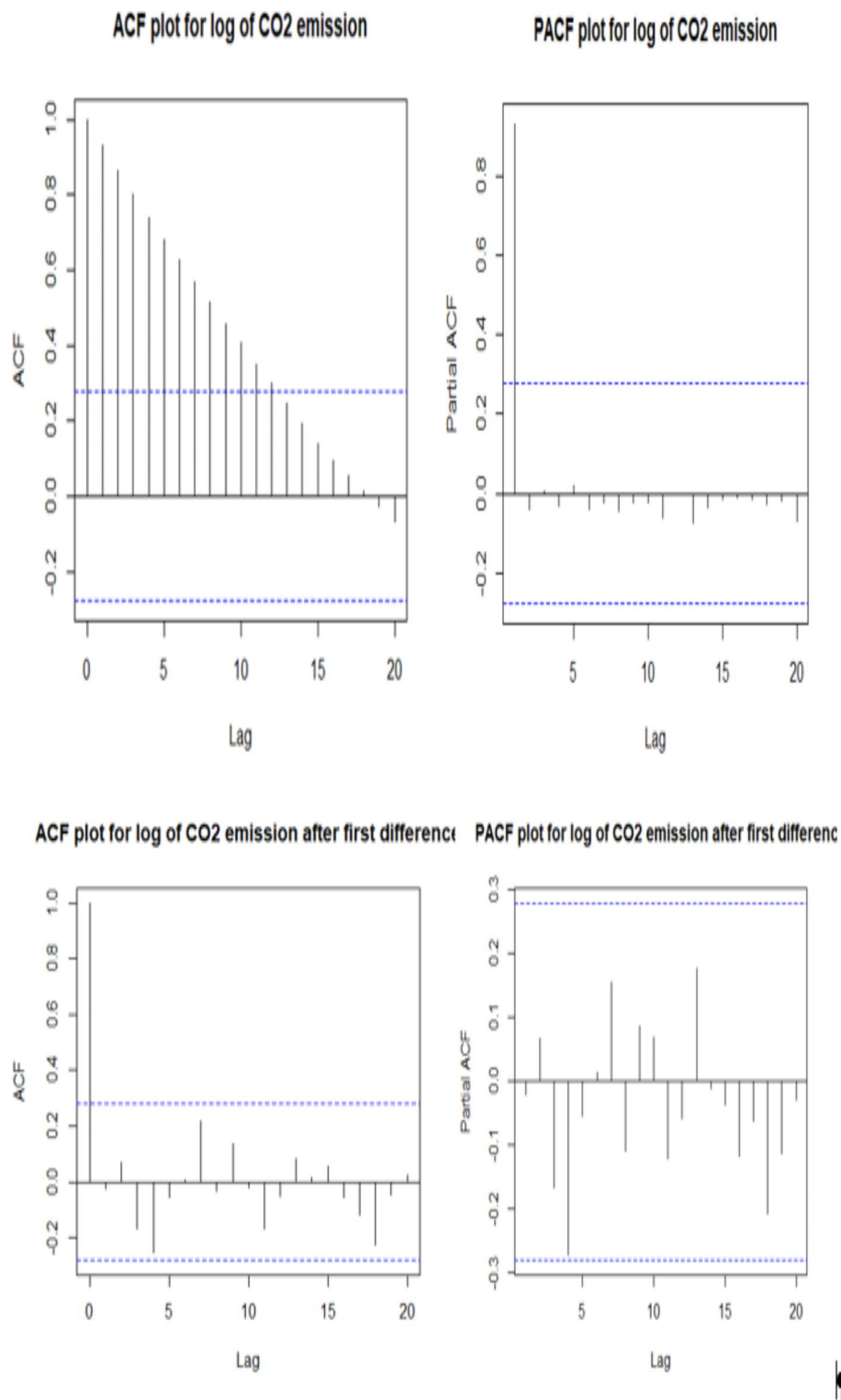


Fig. 4. (a) ACF and PACF plot for log of CO2 emissions at the level. (b) ACF and PACF plot for log of CO2 emissions after first difference.

probability value $< 0.01^{**}$. Conversely, other variables such as LNIVG, LNEPGS, LNFC, LNAGV, at I(1) level, and LNTNRMV, LNPGR, at I(0) level, demonstrate a detrimental influence on carbon dioxide emissions. The coefficient values for these variables are -0.117 , 0.188 , -0.051 , -0.002 , -0.144 , and -0.103 , respectively, with equivalent probability values of 0.568 , 0.432 , 0.627 , 0.988 , 0.407 , and 0.335 . Furthermore, the findings from the short-run analysis reveal that LNIVG and LNEPOS, at I(1) level, and LNAGV, at I(0) level, exhibit a negative relationship with CO2 emissions, with coefficients of -0.152 , -0.044 , and -0.185 , respectively, and

Variables	H_0 = Time series are independent. H_1 = Time series are dependent.							
	ADF test				PP test			
	I (0)		I (1)		I (0)		I (1)	
	Test Statistics	p-value	Test Statistics	p-value	Test Statistics	p-value	Test Statistics	p-value
LNCO ₂	− 1.68	0.69	− 5.27	0.01	− 8.49	0.606	− 49.20	0.01
LNPGR	− 3.04	0.15	− 3.53	0.04	− 16.29	0.127	− 30.06	0.01
LNIVG	− 2.98	0.17	− 3.63	0.03	− 11.87	0.399	− 64.73	0.01
LNEPGS	− 0.23	0.99	− 3.55	0.04	− 0.101	− 0.10	− 64.83	0.01
LNEPOS	− 1.283	0.86	− 3.57	0.04	− 4.59	0.845	− 45.69	0.01
LNTNRMV	0.413	0.99	− 3.44	0.05	0.628	0.99	− 28.42	0.01
LNFC	− 1.10	0.91	− 4.55	0.01	− 10.07	0.50	− 46.05	0.01
LNAGV	− 3.33	0.08	− 4.40	0.01	− 21.39	0.07	− 44.41	0.01

Table 3. Outcomes of unit root framework based on ADF and PP test.

Level of significance	F-Statistic = 2.43	
	Bottom Bound [I (0)]	Higher Bound [I (1)]
10%	2.309	3.507
5%	2.726	4.057
1%	3.656	5.331

Table 4. Findings of the bounds Testing.

Coefficients	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	P-value
(Intercept)	0.064	0.016	3.869	<0.001***
L (LNCO ₂ (-1))	− 0.941	0.143	− 6.548	<0.001***
L (LNIVG (-1))	− 0.117	0.203	− 0.576	0.568
L (LNTNRMV)	− 0.144	0.172	− 0.841	0.407
L (LNPGR)	− 0.103	0.105	− 0.98	0.335
L (LNEPGS (-1))	− 0.188	0.237	− 0.795	0.432
L (LNEPOS (-1))	0.109	0.045	2.388	<0.01**
L (LNFC (-1))	− 0.051	0.105	− 0.49	0.627
L (LNAGV (-1))	− 0.002	0.157	− 0.014	0.988
d (LNIVG)	− 0.160	0.161	− 0.997	0.326
d (LNIVG (-1))	− 0.152	0.076	− 1.99	<0.05*
d (LNEPGS)	0.044	0.139	0.321	0.750
d (LNEPOS)	0.092	0.027	3.418	<0.01**
d (LNEPOS (-1))	− 0.044	0.021	− 2.048	<0.05*
d (LNFC)	− 0.007	0.051	− 0.137	0.891
d (LNFC (-1))	0.090	0.050	1.809	<0.05*
d (LNAGV)	− 0.185	0.121	− 1.529	0.136
Residual std. error: 0.043 on 30 df Multiple R-squared: 0.801, Adjusted R-squared: 0.695 F-statistic: 7.561 on 16 and 30 DF, p-value: <0.0001.				

Table 5. Outcomes of long-run and short-run analysis.
p-value < 0.001, ***, 0.01 < p < 0.05, **, 0.05 < p < 0.1, *

p-values < 0.05* and 0.136. Additionally, the results indicate that LNEPGS and LNEPOS, at I(0) level, and LNFC, at I(1) level, demonstrate a positive association with CO₂ emissions, with coefficients of 0.044, 0.092, and 0.090, and probability values of 0.750, < 0.01**, and < 0.05*, respectively.

Short-run analysis

The short-run connections, as elucidated in Table 6, indicate the validation of the atmosphere Kuznets Contour on EKC theory of Bangladesh. The estimates from the short-term duration analysis show that a 1% rise in electricity production from oil and Fertilizer consumption, on average, implied to a 0.092% and 0.090% rise

ARDL (1, 2, 0, 0, 1, 2, 2, 1) on the basis of AIC Outcome Variable dLNCO ₂ 49 observations used for estimation from 1971 to 2020.				
Variables	Estimates	Std. Error	t-value	P-value
(Intercept)	0.064	0.010	6.375	<0.001***
d (LNIVG)	- 0.160	0.075	- 2.118	<0.05*
d (LNIVG (-1))	- 0.152	0.058	- 2.613	<0.05*
d (LNEPGS)	0.044	0.072	0.616	0.5418
d (LNEPOS)	0.092	0.016	5.770	<0.001***
d (LNEPOS (-1))	- 0.044	0.015	- 2.842	<0.01**
d (LNFC)	- 0.007	0.030	- 0.234	0.81609
d (LNFC (-1))	0.090	0.027	3.339	<0.01**
d (LNAGV)	- 0.185	0.061	- 3.006	<0.01**
ECM (-1)	- 0.941	0.113	- 8.320	<0.001***
Residual std. error: 0.039 on 37 df Multiple R-squared: 0.801, Adjusted R-squared: 0.753 F-statistic: 16.581 on 9 and 37 DF, p-value: <0.000.				

Table 6. Outcomes of short-run analysis. p-value < 0.001, ***, 0.01 < p < 0.05, *, 0.05 < p < 0.1, *

Performance indicator	Value
R-squared	0.801
Adjusted R-squared	0.753
RMSE	0.034
MSE	0.001
Sigma	0.039
AIC	-160.002
BIC	-139.651

Table 7. Summary of the autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) model.

Test statistics	Test statistic	p-value
A. Serial Correlation	2.167	0.153
B. Autocorrelation	0.991	0.319
C. Heteroskedasticity	15.950	0.719
D. Normality	0.977	0.495
A: Breusch-Godfrey Test for serial correlation B: Box-Ljung test for autocorrelation C: Breusch-Pagan Test for the Heteroskedasticity of residuals D: Shapiro Wilks test for Normality		

Table 8. Findings of tests for diagnostics.

in CO₂ emissions, respectively. These impacts of electricity production from oil and Fertilizer consumption are statistically significant and positive in the short-run. In contrast, a 1% rise in Industry value added and Agriculture value added results in a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 0.160% and 0.185%, respectively, in the short-run. Industry value added and Agriculture value added are also statistically significant. Additionally, 1% rise in electricity production from gas leads to a 0.044% rise in CO₂ emissions, but it is statistically insignificant in the short-run. The adverse and highly significant terms of ECM_{t-1} , -0.9410, provides evidence of a steady connection throughout the plays of Bangladesh. This coefficient is statistically significant at the 1% level, signifies the rate of transition from short-run to long-run equilibrium. In this approach, any short-term departures away from the lasting equilibrium are fixed by 94.10% per year, bringing us closer to the long-run equilibrium trajectory.

Model performance

The model performance of the autoregressive distributed lag model is shown in Table-7. Model performance indicates that 80.13% variation in response which is explained by the predictors.

Diagnostic test

Diagnostic tests were conducted to assess serial correlation, autocorrelation, normality, and heteroskedasticity among the variables in the model, with the results presented in Table-8. The Breusch-Godfrey test of residuals was employed to examine serial correlation. The primary theory for the present study states that there is no serial correlation, but the contrasting statement claims there exists a serial association. At a 5% level of significance, the null hypothesis could not be rejected due to the high probability value, indicating no serial correlation in the model. Additionally, the Box-Ljung test was utilized to check for autocorrelation. At a 5% significance level, the null hypothesis of no autocorrelation could not be rejected, signifying the absence of autocorrelation issues in this model. The Breusch-Pagan Test was utilized to assess the heteroskedasticity of residuals. At a 5% significance level, the null hypothesis of homoscedasticity could not be rejected, indicating the absence of heteroscedasticity issues in this model. Furthermore, the normality test was conducted using the Shapiro-Wilks test, the unproven theory claims data in question has a regular distribution. At a 5% level of significance, the null hypothesis of normality was not rejected, implying that the time series data had a normal distribution.

Stability test

To assess the consistency of both short-run and long-run settings, the cumulative sum (CUSUM) of recurrence residuals is used and cumulative sum of squares (CUSUMSQ) of the recursive residuals were employed. The CUSUM and CUSUMSQ plots, depicted in Fig. 5, remain within the specified bounds and are significantly different at the 5% level. This suggests that there is no evidence of coefficient instability throughout the analyzed period, as both plots remain within the 5% critical bounds associated with parameter stability. Moreover, this demonstration implies that the coefficients are apt for predicting the future of the dependent variable.

Granger causality test

Granger causality tests were conducted to determine if select variables predict changes in dCEs, with optimal lag orders chosen via the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). Results were assessed at both 5% and 10% significance levels.

Table 9 represents the causality analysis that indicates limited significant influence on dCEs across most variables, as evidenced by p-values well above standard significance thresholds. Notably, only dAGV shows a moderate causal effect on dCEs ($p < 0.05$), while dIVG provides weak evidence of influence ($p < 0.1$), though still insufficient to establish causality. Other variables, including dTNRMV, dPGR, dEPGS, dEPOS, and dFC, exhibit no statistically significant causal effect on dCEs.

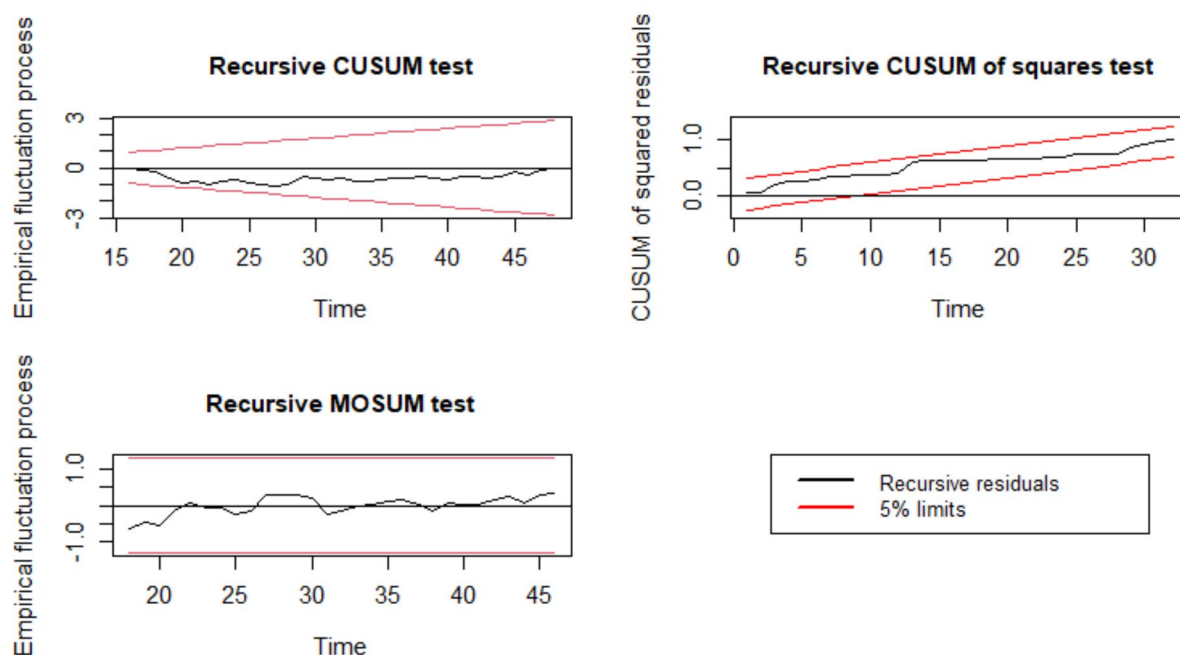


Fig. 5. Plot of CUSUM test, CUSUM of squares test and MOSUM test.

Causal Relationship	Lag Order	F-Statistic	p-Value	Causality
$dIVG \rightarrow dCEs$	1	3.3399	<0.1*	No
$dTNRMV \rightarrow dCEs$	1	1.651	0.204	Yes
$dPGR \rightarrow dCEs$	2	1.0717	0.3516	Yes
$dEPGS \rightarrow dCEs$	1	0.1208	0.7298	Yes
$dEPOS \rightarrow dCEs$	2	0.6645	0.5198	Yes
$dFC \rightarrow dCEs$	1	0.3264	0.5706	Yes
$dAGV \rightarrow dCEs$	2	3.125	<0.05**	No

Table 9. Summary of Granger Causality results. p-value < 0.001, **, 0.01 < p < 0.05, *, 0.05 < p < 0.1, *

Discussion

Discovering the pivotal elements contributing to CO₂ emissions proved challenging, as the absence of an appropriate framework rendered the integration of data from both the World Bank and BRTA unattainable. In light of observed short-run fluctuations, we adopted the ARDL model to discern determinants and elucidate the covariates' relationship with the response variable. Transportation, industrial, and electricity sectors exert a substantial and positive influence on CO₂ emissions. As per the results, heightened levels of shipping, manufacturing, and non-renewable use of energy in Bangladesh coincide with a deterioration in environmental conservation. This study aligns with previous research conducted in Bangladesh^{22–25}, affirming the adverse correlation between electricity, industrial activities, shipping, and CO₂ emissions.

Bangladesh has immense potential to harness renewable energy sources, which is critical for promoting environmental sustainability. The country is richly endowed with solar and wind energy, and leveraging these resources could significantly reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate CO₂ emissions^{22–25}. Expanding renewable infrastructure, such as solar home systems and wind farms, has already demonstrated a transformative impact by improving energy access while cutting carbon emissions. The transition to renewable energy is vital for Bangladesh to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and align with global climate action goals²⁶.

Several studies have employed the ARDL model to examine the determinants of CO₂ emissions, especially in contexts where datasets exhibit mixed integration orders, similar to ours. For instance, researcher applied the ARDL model to assess the impact of energy consumption on CO₂ emissions in developing countries, finding that the model's flexibility with mixed order integration provided robust insights into both short- and long-term relationships²⁷. In another study, Author used the ARDL approach to explore environmental degradation drivers in Turkey, emphasizing the method's capability to analyze energy and emissions data that present both stationary and non-stationary characteristics²⁸.

More recent work by Saidi et al. (2022) compared ARDL to alternative cointegration techniques and found ARDL to be more effective for emissions analysis when variables do not share the same integration level, supporting its relevance for mixed datasets like ours²⁹. This recent literature strengthens the case for using ARDL in our study, underscoring its advantages over Johansen's and Engle-Granger methods, which are less suitable for mixed integration data structures.

However, scaling up this transition requires robust policy frameworks, investment incentives, and international support to integrate renewables on a large scale^{30–33}, positioning Bangladesh as a leader in sustainable energy development in the region.

The findings suggest that the reliance on non-renewable vitality significantly contributes to the escalation of CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh. The results indicate that increasing the use of renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on nonrenewable vitality sources in the energy mix could mitigate CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh, given the significantly positive impact of nonrenewable vitality consumption on emissions of CO₂. This conclusion is bolstered by prior research^{30–33}. Leveraging renewable energy sources for power generation is imperative in attaining environmental sustainability and addressing the pressing concern of climate change³⁴. With the increasing global awareness of environmental issues, Bangladesh must transition its energy mix towards predominantly renewable sources to advocate for sustainable vitality usage and foster the development of an ecologically sound ecosystem. This study unveils a notable positive correlation between the use of chemical fertilizers, agricultural activities, and CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh, suggesting that reducing agricultural production ultimately leads to an increase in CO₂ emissions. On the contrary, agriculture and forests act as carbon sinks, capturing CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it as biomass carbon, thereby enhancing environmental quality, a finding consistent with existing research^{35,36}. Fortunately, the contribution of food production in the economies of Bangladesh has gone down as time passed due to the growth of industry⁶. As per the results of this research, enhancing as usual agricultural practices through the integration of modern technology is essential to augment agricultural output, mitigate CO₂ emissions, and guarantee food security for Bangladesh's expanding populace. In recent times, various multinational entities have devised the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approach³⁷, aimed at reshaping agricultural expansion to alleviate environmental harm. These findings are poised to make substantial contributions to the global long-term efforts in reducing and mitigating climate change. The agricultural sector holds potential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of appropriate farming techniques. Reducing carbon footprint is attainable through the absorption of carbon emitted by agricultural activities via effective management and technology integration.

Conclusion

This study highlights that industrial production and energy consumption are major drivers of CO₂ emissions in Bangladesh, significantly impacting both short- and long-term environmental sustainability. These findings reveal the urgent need to balance economic growth with environmental protection. In contrast, the negative relationship between fertilizer consumption and CO₂ emissions underscores the potential of sustainable agricultural practices in reducing carbon footprints. The ARDL Bounds framework was employed to identify cointegration, while the Unrestricted ECM analyzed both short-term and long-term dynamics, and the model successfully passed diagnostic tests, ensuring robustness and stability. The results emphasize the necessity for comprehensive policies that promote renewable energy, carbon capture technologies, and eco-friendly agriculture, enabling Bangladesh to achieve sustainable development while safeguarding its environment.

Recommendation

Based on the empirical findings, it is crucial for Bangladesh to adopt a comprehensive environmental policy addressing CO₂ emissions while promoting economic growth. Key recommendations include encouraging the implementation of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology in the industrial and electricity sectors to significantly reduce carbon emissions. Expanding the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, through increased investment and subsidies can mitigate CO₂ emissions and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources. Implementing and updating carbon tax regulations can provide financial incentives for industries to adopt cleaner technologies and reduce emissions. Promoting the use of cleaner fuels in the transportation sector by encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and enhancing public transportation systems is essential. Developing a holistic environmental policy that integrates efforts across all sectors, sets clear targets for emissions reductions, and establishes a coordinated institutional framework to support these goals is crucial. Strengthening the capabilities of environmental monitoring agencies can ensure better compliance with regulations and provide accurate data for policy adjustments. Finally, promoting climate-smart agriculture to reduce CO₂ emissions from the agricultural sector and enhance food security is vital, and encouraging the adoption of modern technology can increase agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impact. By adopting these recommendations, Bangladesh can achieve a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability.

Broader policy implications

Our study highlights industrial, energy, and transportation sectors as major CO₂ emission drivers, insights that are valuable for other developing countries facing similar economic and environmental challenges. The recommended shift toward renewable energy and sustainable agricultural practices provides a framework that aligns with global climate objectives and could guide policy strategies in similar contexts.

Informing global climate initiatives

These findings contribute to global climate discussions by supporting policies that balance economic growth with emission reductions, such as renewable energy incentives, climate-smart agriculture, and cleaner industrial practices. Such measures are essential for developing nations aiming to achieve sustainable development goals under the Paris Agreement.

Future research direction

Future research could undertake a comparative analysis of renewable energy policies across South Asia, examining how different strategies—like subsidies, carbon taxes, and regulatory measures—influence CO₂ emissions in countries such as India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. This approach would highlight policy effectiveness within similar socio-economic settings and provide benchmarks for Bangladesh. Comparative studies in these areas could enhance policy alignment across the region and support collaborative climate efforts.

Strength and limitation

The strength of the study is that effectively integrates data from multiple sources, including the World Bank and BRTA, and employs advanced modeling techniques like the ARDL model to discern complex relationships between covariates and CO₂ emissions. The study primarily focuses on Bangladesh, which may limit its generalizability to other regions with different socio-economic contexts and environmental dynamics. Consequently, caution should be exercised when extrapolating findings to broader global contexts. Furthermore, alternative methodologies such as advanced machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms could offer valuable insights into future research, allowing for a comparative analysis with the ARDL model.

Data availability

The World Bank's World Development Indicators database supplied the secondary data, accessible via the following link: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/BD>. Furthermore, details on the overall count of registered motor vehicles may be seen on the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority website at <http://www.brta.gov.bd>.

Received: 24 June 2024; Accepted: 2 December 2024

Published online: 25 April 2025

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Declarations

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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