

Can Charge card be a Prospective Replacement of Conventional and Islamic Credit card in Bangladesh?

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***Abstract:** Bangladesh is in the upsurge mood in its plastic money industry especially in the Credit card industry. Though the number of Credit card holders are increasing day by day, a large group of customers till remained untapped due to their religious belief, reluctance towards the high interest rate, complex payment system or/and for some features of prevalent cards. This study brings in charge card as a preferable alternative of existing plastic credit moneys for that customer base who also normally pays their outstanding balance in full when due and are looking for a convenient and easy payment instrument in managing their daily payments, by viewing charge card's potentiality in Bangladesh market*

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***Keywords:** Charge card, Conventional Credit card, Islamic Credit card, Bangladesh plastic money industry, Market Potentiality.*

1.0 Introduction

The development of technology has enabled banks to issue products that satisfy the requirements of its clients. Plastic money is one such type product whose business is definitely going big time in Bangladesh. It reflects prospects in Bangladesh market in accommodating numerous Credit card competitors operating on the circuit, ensuring healthy and competitive card business deals. Therefore, not only conventional banks in Bangladesh are interested to issue those cards, Islamic banks which notably have to comply with the Islamic principles also start to launch this product. However, for Muslim customers, the usage of prevalent Credit cards has caused a conflict with their belief. Moreover, some says that plastic money can be convenient and liberating, but it also

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comes with a lot of hidden traps and added responsibilities. Many find it hard to resist using the card for impulse purchases or buying things they really cannot afford. Therefore, they carry the balance on their Credit card from month to month with added interest which can be unfavorable to their repayment capability. So, there is a need for a payment instrument which will function not only as a Credit card that complies with the Islamic principles but also settle full payment at the month end opposed to revolving debt.

Charge cards could be considered as an alternative in this regard in plastic money industry which is totally an interest free Credit card providing a convenient and efficient way to make purchases of goods and services like other payment cards. It is also suitable for them who prefer to settle debt every month, want to enjoy better rewards and no limit on spending. As there is no writing upon Charge card in Bangladesh, this is a debut study aiming to introduce Charge card as a preferable alternative and to point out the issues related to Charge card from both economic and shariah point of views. From the viewpoint of customers to the existing plastic credit options and as an extension to the banks' product line Charge cards can be seen having a great potentiality in Bangladesh plastic money industry. The findings of the study will be a support for the prospective issuers to decide about the inauguration of Charge card to tap the large customer base in Bangladesh as well as to satisfy their clientele with services free of controversies and confusion.

The study covers the following aspects; the introduction of Charge card with its features, charges, history, & practices around the world, a comparison between a Charge card and a Credit card, and an Islamic Credit card, market potentiality of Charge card in Bangladesh from different stake holder's perspectives.

2.0 Literature Review

Plastic payment cards- credit, debit, and Charge cards- have quietly revolutionized how we pay for goods and services. They have also revolutionized how we coordinate the timing of when we purchase goods and services and when we pay for them. However, Credit cards have enabled many more of us to achieve a better standard of living. Evans & Schmalensee (2005). Among all these cards, much focus is on Credit cards which encourage people to spend beyond their means and get mired in debt, which is also one of the mostly discussed issues now-a days specially in the time of financial crisis. However, along with this a big dilemma exists whether or not Muslims can or cannot use those Credit cards. The problem for Muslim consumers is that the whole concept of the conventional Credit card is unacceptable on religious grounds. Islam itself permits the use of Credit card so long it does not involve the element of usury and at the same time it

does not contravene with principle of Shariah. Shariffa Carlo Al Andalusia (2003) debates that few people take a huge gamble when they sign Credit card contract by promising to make a 100% payment every month although there may have the possibility of experiencing forgetfulness and changing financial circumstances, and thus commit a haram act. This non acceptance of conventional Credit cards leads to structure Shariah-compliant Islamic Credit card agreements and repayment method. Bakhshi (2006).

The Islamic Credit cards around the world are mostly based on Tawaruq, Bai al-inah, Ujrah, and Bai-Murabaha concept. But controversies are still there regarding the validity of the principles followed in prevalent Islamic Credit cards. For many Middle East bankers, the solutions found by the Asian banks are simply not stringent enough in their interpretation of Qu'ranic rules. Ferdian, Dewi, & Rahman (2008). According to the experts in Islamic law and transactional jurisprudence, most banks offer Credit cards with the objective of acquiring interest in the veil of Islamic cards– which is strictly and unequivocally prohibited by Islam. So, people around the world specially, Muslims look forward to such products which will work as a short term non-revolving credit instrument bearing flexible features in their day-to-day transactions and are in line with their religious beliefs. Adil Manzoor Bakhshi (2006) proposes a simpler model which can be defined more closely as a Charge card that matched with the requirements of the customer segment where the bank can earn revenue in terms annual fees (fixed) and interchange fees and here the holders need to pay the principle amount plus the service charge only. This transaction is permitted because it does not involve with any element of usury. Not only for this feature but also for other features like putting lid on the debt, spending within the means etc. are working as incentives behind the widened usage of Charge card. To speak for Bangladesh, the issuers here are suggested to think about the issuance of Charge card as preferable alternative to the existing plastic credits.

3.0 Objective of the Study

The purpose of this paper is to provide an understanding of Charge card with highlighting the prospects and problems in Bangladesh. Specifically, the study is aimed at exploring the potentiality of Charge card from qualitative viewpoint to the issuers of plastic cards in Bangladesh and suggesting them to strengthen their product line with it for the purpose of increasing the banking behavior of its customers.

4.0 Methodology

The study is exploratory in nature which heavily relies on secondary sources available on the websites of banks in Middle East and Malaysia and various other articles written upon Charge card. Flow charts and graph based on practices and historical data respectively have been used to illustrate the prospect of plastic Credit card business in Bangladesh over the years.

5.0 Limitations of the Study

Data collection is the major limitation of this study. For making a comprehensive study of Charge card all data required could not be availed due to unavailability of sufficient secondary sources. If all required data were analyzed, the paper could have a more accurate analysis. Moreover, due to the absence of local experts in this area we couldn't interview to determine the possible problems of using Charge cards in Bangladesh.

6.0 Meaning of Charge card

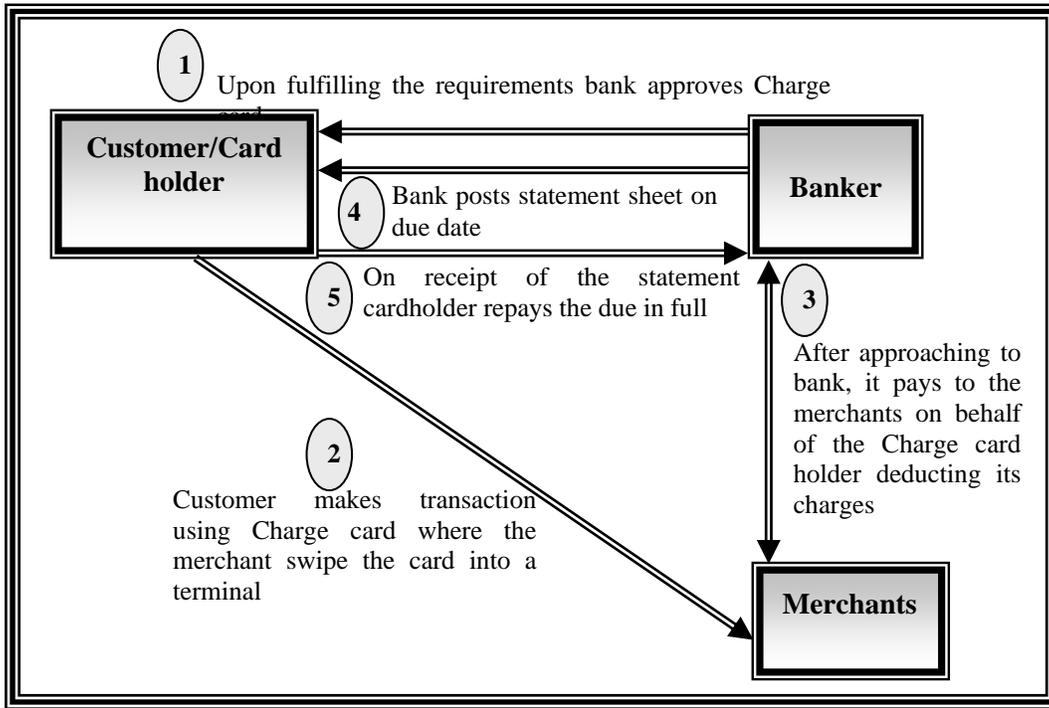
A Charge card is a plastic card that provides an alternative payment to cash when making purchases in which the issuer and the cardholder enter into an agreement that the debt incurred on the charge account will be paid in full and by due date (usually every thirty days) or be subject to severe late fees and/or restrictions on card use (Wikipedia). It is a payment card with a preset limit that can be used to make payments for goods and services at participating merchants either locally or internationally. It is a convenient payment instrument for shopping, dining, traveling, paying bills, etc. The usage of the Charge card is similar to other payment cards such as credit and debit cards. Banking info (2003).

Charge cards typically do not have a finance charge or minimum payment since the balance is to be paid in full. Some Charge cards don't have a preset spending limit giving the cardholder the flexibility to charge as much as he/she wants with condition to repay the balance by due date. However, 'no pre-set spending limit' does not mean unlimited spending. Purchasing power adjusts with the use of the card, payment history, Credit card record, financial resources, and other factors.

7.0 The Working Process of Charge card

Charge card transaction involves three parties generally; Charge card issuer, Charge card holder, vendor/seller of goods. Its mode of transaction is just like that of conventional Credit cards available. When making purchases, the merchant must swipe or insert Charge card into a terminal, in order to get an authorization from the Charge card issuer. Most merchants would require Charge card holder to sign on the payment slip as a proof of purchase, which would be compared against the specimen signature at the back of Charge card. The diagrammatic presentation of a Charge card transaction process is depicted as follows:

Figure:1 The payment scheme of a typical Charge card



8.0 Fees and Charges

There are various combinations of fees and charges charged for using Charge cards. Charge card issuers may waive the joining and the annual fees but may charge the holder higher late payment fees. Charges and fees imposed on usage of Charge cards may vary among Charge card issuers and assist one to choose the most suitable Charge card that is being offered.

The following table shows the common charges that may be incurred in case of a Charge card:

Table:1 Common Fees & Charges of a typical Charge card

Joining Fee	Charge card issuers may impose a one-time joining fee, which is also known as entrance or membership fee. However, some Charge card issuers may waive the joining fee.
Annual Fee	This is a fixed fee that may be imposed on an annual basis, even though the Charge card has not been used. However, some Charge card issuers may waive this fee for the first year as a promotion for new applicants.
Cash Advance Fee	Some Charge card issuers may also provide a cash advance facility for which the holder will be charged a cash advance fee. The amount advanced would become payable in full by the next payment date. A limitation may also be imposed on the cash advance facility, such as the maximum withdrawal limit. For Islamic Charge cards, the cash advance fee is fixed per transaction.
Late Payment Charge	For the Islamic Charge cards, cardholders will be charged compensation up to a maximum amount allowed. Fees for late payment will depend on the Charge card issuer that will be imposed if cardholders fail to make full repayment by the due date or make only partial repayment of the total amount outstanding.

Source: Card transactions and you-Charge cards, Banking info, 2003

9.0 History of Charge card

Charge card is the first plastic money in the world firstly introduced in the United States at the beginning of the 20th century. Western Union, a US money transfer company, started issuing an embossed metal plate to its preferred customers in 1914 and this was the beginning of the Charge card. In the 1920s, a shopper's plate "buy now, pay later" was introduced in the USA usable to some designated shops only. The first official Charge card was invented in 1957 by Frank McNamara, called Diners Club. Later, in 1959 American Express issued embossed plastic Charge cards. (Wikipedia).

10.0 Charge card around the World

Charge card started its journey from the very beginning of plastic card industry and this was the first form of plastic money. Now most of the countries have Charge card in operations along with other plastic form of payment. Corporate Charge card, govt.

Charge card, Charge card for metropolitan police etc. are some of the prominent examples. American Express is the largest issuer of Charge cards in the United States. It has provided some of the best Charge cards on the market. There are about more than thirty Charge card issuers around the world out of which only five are considered as Shariah Compliant. Appendix-1 & 2 has enlisted some of the issuers' name of Charge card in Malaysia, India and Australia. However, merchants or any club or organizations can also issue Charge cards though those are only useable in those specific outlet i.e. Diners club Charge card. In Malaysia, Charge cards are issued based on conventional or Islamic principles. Examples of Charge cards are American Express Card, Diners Club International Card and HSBC Amanah MasterCard, etc. Banking info (2003)

11.0 Charge cards vs. Credit cards

Though the terms Charge card and Credit card are sometimes used interchangeably, they are distinct protocols of financial transactions; a Credit card is a revolving credit instrument that does not need to be paid in full; one may settle it in full by the due date, or pay at least the minimum monthly repayment. Although Credit cards offer a flexible way of paying the Credit card debt, it can be costly. Credit card issuers usually impose a finance charge for the balances that are unpaid and a late payment charge is imposed in case of failure to pay the minimum monthly repayment. However, a Charge card does not extend credit to the holders and for this its holders need to pay in full every month and thereby free of finance charges. Cash advancement facility is also absent in Charge card unlike Credit card where card can only be used for purchasing halal merchandises or products. The major benefit offered by a Charge card is that it has much higher, often unlimited spending limits.

12.0 Charge cards vs. Islamic Credit cards

Charge card and prevalent Islamic Credit card differs in terms of principles they work upon and the credit facility. Islamic Credit card can extend credit for its cardholders where the cardholders are to pay a specific amount in each installment but Charge card holders are not allowed to have such type of credit facility rather they are to pay the full amount by time. In addition to credit facility Islamic Credit cards also facilitate its clients with cash advancement facility unlike Charge cards and, though riba is forbidden in Sariah, most of the Islamic cards play a debating role regarding indirect riba charging according to the prominent Islamic scholars.

13.0 Charge card and Islamic Charge card

Charge card and Islamic Charge card are almost same in all aspects except the payment system and consumerism behaviors. If it is not Islamic Charge card then cardholders will have to pay late payment charge which depends upon the outstanding balance. But in

case of Islamic Charge card there will be a compensation fee for not making payment timely and the fee will be fixed in amount and won't vary with the balance outstanding. Islamic Charge card creates barrier towards consumerism by permitting only halal transactions.

14.0 What if the Card holder could not settle Debt timely?

For Charge cards, holders must settle the outstanding balance in full by the payment due date and there will be no interest charges. There are several options for the Charge card issuers if the bills are not paid within due time;

I. A late payment charge will be imposed upon the outstanding balance (for Islamic Charge cards, a compensation fee will be imposed up to a certain maximum amount allowed).

II. Few times card may be suspended to stop purchasing rights but usually for a few months (period varies depending on the issuer's internal policy).

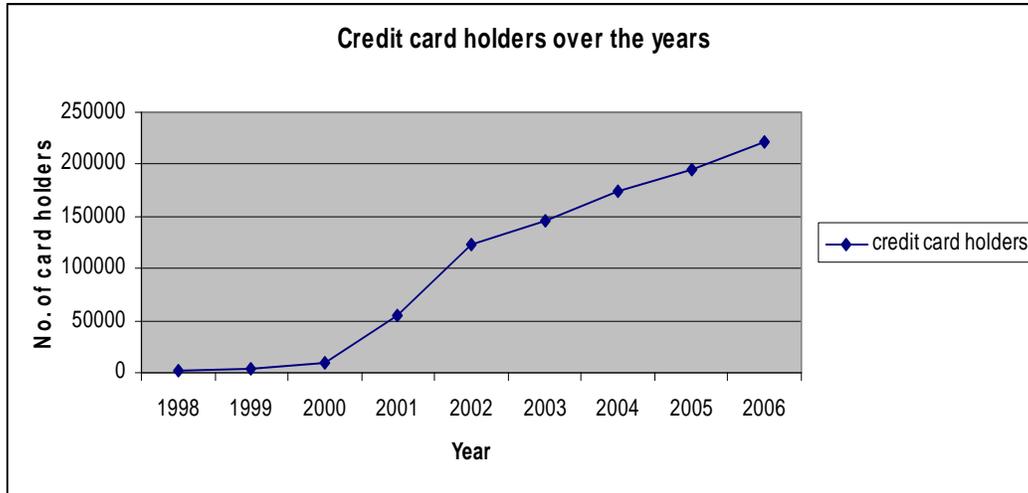
III. If the process goes on too far then legal actions can be taken towards the cardholder by the Charge card provider.

IV. Sometimes instead of canceling card bank adjust the amount from the bank account of the cardholder.

15.0 Potentiality of Charge card in Bangladesh

15.1 Bangladesh Credit card Industry

Credit card is playing its spending role to jeep to the economic development wheel moving in Bangladesh. Banks are now more focused on investing in Credit card business. At present there are twenty three banks and one financial institution (Lanka Bangla) issuing Credit cards in Bangladesh. During the past several decades, there has been a dramatic growth in Bangladesh Credit card business which reveals that Credit card market is in booming condition. A number of banks in Bangladesh are encouraging people to use Credit card. Appendix-3 shows the number of cardholders by different conventional issuers from year 1998 to year 2006. After summing up the total cardholders per year we can have the following scenario.

Figure 2: Number of Clients holding Conventional Credit cards, 1998-2006

The above line graph proves the successful journey of Credit cards that reflects that business of Credit card is growing in Bangladesh with a positive trend. The total number of Credit cardholders stood at 1,607 by the end of 1998 and it is growing moderately till 2006 with 221,100 holders. Rahman (2007). The record indicates that the globally-booming Credit card system is making paces and gaining popularity in Bangladesh. Although, the competition between banks has increased over offering Credit cards with lots of facilities but a big dilemma exists whether or not Muslims can or cannot use those cards. There is a large group which considers these conventional Credit cards with some features opposed by the sariah law. So, recently two banks have launched Islamic Credit cards but those are too little to fulfill the immediate credit needs of religious people of Bangladesh. The following table illustrates the number of cardholders by two issuers from year 2007 to year 2010 (till March).

Table-2: Number of Islamic Credit card holders by two issuers over the years

Issuers/ Year	No. of Cardholders over the years							Market Share
	2007 (July-Dec.)	2008	2009	2010 (jan- march)	2009 (jan- march)	2010 (jan- march)	Total	
EXIM	-	900 ¹	2000	1000	600	1000	3900	8.67%
AGR	-	-	122.22%	-50.00%	-	66.67%		
SCB	4622 ²	11788	12084	17232	11854	17232	41104	91.33%
AGR	-	155.04%	2.51%	42.60%	-	45.37%		

Note: ¹ no. of cardholders (from Aug. to Dec.) ² no. of cardholders (from July to Dec.)

Source: (i) Card Division, Head Office, EXIM Bank Ltd. (ii) Card Division, Head Office, SCB Ltd.

The table reflects the growth of Islamic Credit cardholder along with market share of Exim and Standard Chartered Bank, where SCB enjoys a competitive edge over EXIM in terms of total number of cardholders. It is also clear from the table that, Islamic Credit card as a niche market is in the growing mood right now. However, those Islamic Credit cards are not totally free from controversies. There are some features of Credit card that are opposed by Islami Shariah.

15.1.1 Sariah Law regarding Credit card Features:

Islam permits the use of Credit card so long it does not involve the element of usury. It says interest payments made when the outstanding balance is not repaid in full are riba payments, and therefore forbidden in Islam. Bakhshi (2006). Similarly, if there is an additional interest charge due to delay in payment, it is prohibited also. Billah (2004). In addition to these, the extension of credit with a view to making profit is not a Qardhul Hassan loan which is also unacceptable in religious terms for the creditors as well as the borrowers. Banker Middle East (2003). Moreover, if the withdrawing cash from the credit facility results payment of an interest, it is prohibited. So, according to the Islamic scholars due to those features the conventional Credit card is not valid or can be said is not halal for the Muslims.

To overcome those problems with Credit cards, many Islamic scholars has invented Islamic Credit card. An expert in Islamic banking said that some Islamic banks offer Credit card policies that are misleading and that resort to usury in their practices and that it causes great injustice to the customers and does not comply with Islamic religious provisions. The problem for Muslim consumers is that there are some terms and conditions applied in Islamic Credit card which are similar to those of conventional Credit cards and are unacceptable on religious grounds. Another problem with Islamic Credit card is that it cannot really deal with the purchase of services or consumables, as there is no asset for the bank to buy back. Massey (2007). In addition to these, some of the Muslims are of the view that the amount charged for the service rendered by the card-issuing company is somehow considered almost the same with the interest applied in conventional Credit cards hence are not allowed in Shariah. Therefore, if the Credit card serves as a Charge card, where only one pays the principle amount plus the service charges, it is permitted. Billah (2004). Like Credit card and Islamic Credit card, Shariah also speaks about Charge card and explains the contracts among three parties from its viewpoint and ultimately supports the use of Charge cards.

15.1.2 Shariah Stands regarding Charge card

According to the expert, the Shariah-compliant cards those disburse credit, are limited in number around the world. An example is the 'Charge card' on which the issuing bank grants the cardholder a loan within certain limits for a certain point of time. However, the amount must be paid in full at the agreed upon time and in the case of overdue payments, no usury-related payments are charged. In addition to these, it is only allowed to use for the purposes permitted by Islam. So, from Shariah perspective, Charge card is absolutely right for Muslim community.

Moreover, Sharih has its own explanation regarding the relationship among the parties of Charge card. The relationship between card-holder and the card-issuing company, from a juristic (fiqhi) point of view has an element of (i) brokerage/agency (wakala), (ii) guarantying payment (kafala) and (iii) lending money (iqradh). Brokerage/agency (wakala)-the relationship works out when the card-holder actually uses the card to carry transactions. Undertaking and guarantying of payments on behalf the card-holder hence form the relationship of guarantying payment (kafala). Lending money (iqradh) is carried out by paying to the seller on behalf of the card-holder where the company would be considered an agent on behalf of the card-holder, and also forwarding a loan to him. The relationship between the card-issuing company and the seller has been a matter of debate between the contemporary scholars. However, as Shaykh Taqi Usmani (2005) and others have explained, this relationship is also one of agency. The company has to do a lot of work for the benefit of the seller; hence it charges the seller commission for the service

provided. Thus, the card-issuing company would be considered a broker and the amount charged by the company is like a commission charged for brokerage services. There is nothing wrong with this relationship.

15.2 Market Potentiality of the Charge card

Charge card is the earliest form of plastic money. Though it was replaced later by conventional Credit cards now-a-days the world is showing interest towards Charge card again. However, in Bangladesh the concept of Charge card is not introduced yet. For its distinguishing features Bangladesh can also think of issuing Charge card as a preferable alternative to facilitate plastic money services and encourage banking habits among citizens. Therefore, there is a huge potentiality of Charge card in Bangladesh. The next part of the study will assess the market potentiality of this new product in Bangladesh from different stakeholders' perspectives.

15.2.1 Card holders Perspective

Easy Purchasing: By having a Charge card, cardholders can make purchasing very conveniently through making online purchases of everyday necessary items which will ultimately decrease the amount of money people need to carry with them.

Spending-Limit: Non existence of the criterion 'spending-limit' (depends on issuer's policy) allows disciplined people to enjoy freedom in emergency situation they may not otherwise have.

Discipline in Spending: Monthly Charge card statement helps cardholders in tracking their spending to make necessary extension/reduction and paying all back each month within due time. So, they can restrain the spending if they realize that they may be less apt to pay in full every month.

Finance Charge: Interest rate is the most important feature of conventional Credit card. In Bangladesh, it is 3% monthly and it (interest) subsequently goes up to 25% to 30% every year which is too high for most of the people of Bangladesh. IslamBank (2002). A study by Debnath & Gurung (2008) has revealed a very low client satisfaction level towards the Credit card interest rate in Bangladesh. But in case of Charge card paying the balance in full on a monthly basis is helpful in avoiding finance charges or other charges that would accrue if people used a Credit card.

Soared Debt: Bangladesh is experiencing a growth in its Credit card industry where more than two lakhs Credit card holders were viewed in 2005 and it is growing at 15 per cent per annum. IslamBank (2002). In Bangladesh 67.2% of the cardholders use multiple

Credit cards whereas 32.8% use single card and most of them are relatively new users of Credit cards. Debnath & Gurung (2008). But the growth has an in built possibility of soared Credit card debt which is now the mostly discussed issue around the world specially, in USA (See Appendices 4 & 5). If cardholders don't get it under control right away; it can be quite detrimental to their financial future. The non-extension feature of Charge card will remove the possibility of debt accumulation intentionally or otherwise and thereby the risk of soared debt.

Religious Belief: Bangladesh is a predominantly Muslim country with Muslims making up more than 90% of the nation's 156 million population (July, 2009 ets.) and a large portion of this has not been able to access the existing Credit card services as per Islamic principles. This leads to the prevalence of Islamic Credit cards, but gives birth to controversies regarding being halal or not among the Islamic scholars. Charge card could be a preferable solution as it is fully supported by Sariah and Islamic scholars unanimously and it's also accessible to the non-Muslim customers.

Barrier towards Consumerism: The users of Islamic Charge card are restricted to use the cards for non-halal related activities unlike Credit cards. Side-by-side a non-revolving credit feature incorporated by spending limit or not (no spending limit doesn't mean that cardholder can buy anything of any amount without the prior permission of issuer) prohibits cardholders from irrational consumerism attitudes.

No Burden upon Heirs: Buying now paying later or buy on credit actually ignite the consumerism mentality of the card users leaving burden upon the heirs which is not possible in case of Charge card.

Income –Level: The distinguishing interest-free feature of Charge card is certainly important for the average income group of Bangladesh, who are reluctant of and unable to take the facilities of Credit card due to its high interest though most of them are proved to be disciplined in loan repayment. During insolvency having access to credit with the responsibility of paying it off within 30 days without incurring any interest might not be turned to burden for them.

Prestige: A Charge card won't make anyone a better person but some people do get a certain satisfaction out of flashing a reputed issuer's Charge card as it may suggest a certain credit level, business authenticity and other nebulous grandiosity that potentially could impress someone.

Credit Score Growth: Charge cards can help the card holders to have a better credit score, but only if the cardholder always pay his/her monthly bill regularly (generally, no revolving debt = better credit).

Reward Programs: Many of the Charge card companies offer reward schemes to their customers such as cash back, discounts on purchases, free-services, etc.

Complicated Payment System: Both existing conventional Credit card and Islamic Credit card in Bangladesh allow credit for the cardholders with repayment in installments where conventional Credit card carries compound interest rate and one of the Islamic Credit cards charges fees at percentage basis on the outstanding balance which is complicated to most of the people and also lead to messy situation with expenditures beyond means. Charge card eases the payment system as the month end payment of the credit is required to hold the card to carry transactions smoothly.

15.2.2 Issuing Companies Perspective

Revenue for the Charge card Issuer: Charge card issuers collect their revenues not from the interest payment but from the charges and fees of the card.

Serving the Hyper-changing Customers: In this era of globalization, customers in our country are redefining themselves with greater in terms of using banking products. So, to make a well position for meeting those challenges in the coming years, finance lenders must continue to strive to innovate new products for the clients. Thus, after Credit card and Islamic Credit card Charge card can be considered as the addition to the existing product line to serve this ever changing market.

Credit card Default: Late payment in Charge card leads the cardholders towards significant fees and penalties and if it occurs more than once suspension or cancellation of card will be expected for which the probability of Charge card default is very low.

Large Customer Base: It can be hoped that the issuers of Charge card will be able to grab a large customer base in a Muslim community based country like Bangladesh, where till now most of the Muslim people feel discouraged due to interest feature of conventional Credit card and controversies related with Islamic Credit card. This large customer base will also facilitate the respective issuers with large economies of scale.

15.2.3 Merchants Perspective

If Charge card is issued in Bangladesh, it is hoped that plastic money industry will grow sharply as it will include the uncovered customer bases that are away from card facilities. Merchants will also feel the heat of this growing industry like the issuers of the Charge card.

16.0 Recommendation & Conclusion

If we look beyond Bangladesh, we will find that in most developed countries people are coming back to the Charge card to cover drastic default rate and enlarged consumerism. Viewing the potentiality from different stakeholder perspective, card issuers in Bangladesh thus can be suggested to think about issuing Charge card which will also facilitate to capture the large untapped customer base who are away of plastic money due to high interest rate, complicated payment system, and controversial Islamic principles etc., while seeking for halal card and simple payment system with disciplined payment structure. However, any person who is unable to pay his/her bills on time or always ends up short at the end of the month, may not be suitable for Charge card. So, one should take the time before making a decision to think about what will work in his/her best interest.

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Appendices

Appendix-1: Charge card Issuers

Card Issuers	Brand	Card Type	Acceptance
American Express Bank Limited	Gold	Amex	International
American Express Bank Limited	Green	Amex	International
Bank of India	Indiacard	Master	Domestic
Bank of India	Taj Premium	Master	Domestic
Canara Bank	Cancard	Master	Domestic
Canara Bank	Cancard	Visa	Domestic
Union Bank of India	Indiacard	Master	Domestic

Source: *myiris.com*

Appendix-2: List of Charge cards Issuers in Malaysia

Bank	Charge card Endorser
Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank)	American Express
Hong Leong Bank Berhad	American Express
ISynergy Sdn Bhd	Mastercard
Diners Club (Malaysia)	Diners Club
Al-Rajhi Islamic	Visa Electron, Musafir-Hajj (SAR)

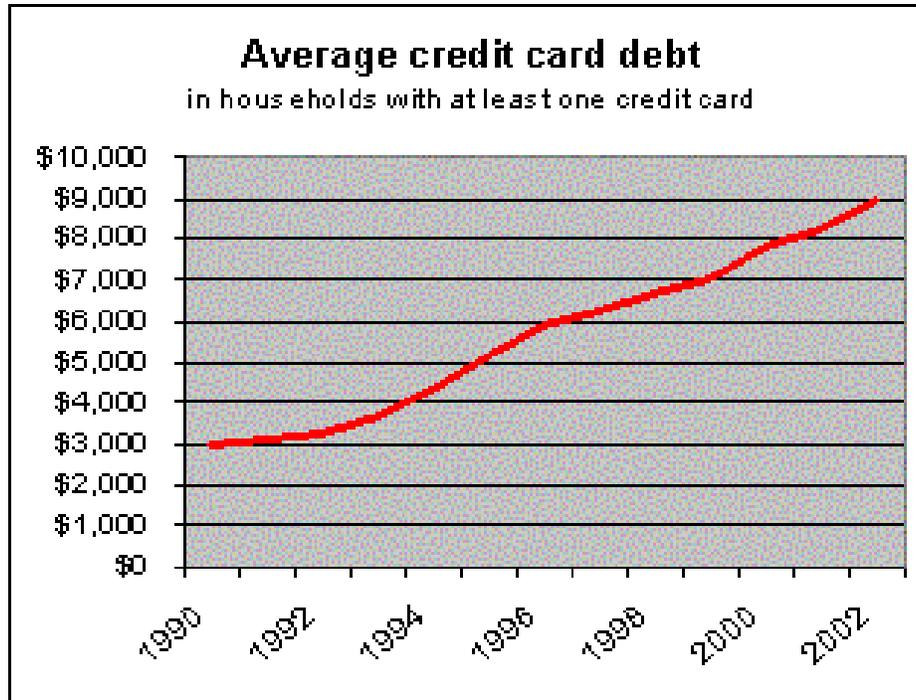
Source: MoneySoSpecial.Com

Appendix-3: Number of Credit card holders, 1998-2006

Credit card Holder									
Bank Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
SCBs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SBs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCBs	1607	4018	9014	15004	21630	25104	39861	55893	68425
FCBs	0	0	0	40154	100856	120272	135093	139452	152675
Total	1607	4018	9014	55158	122486	145376	174954	195345	221100

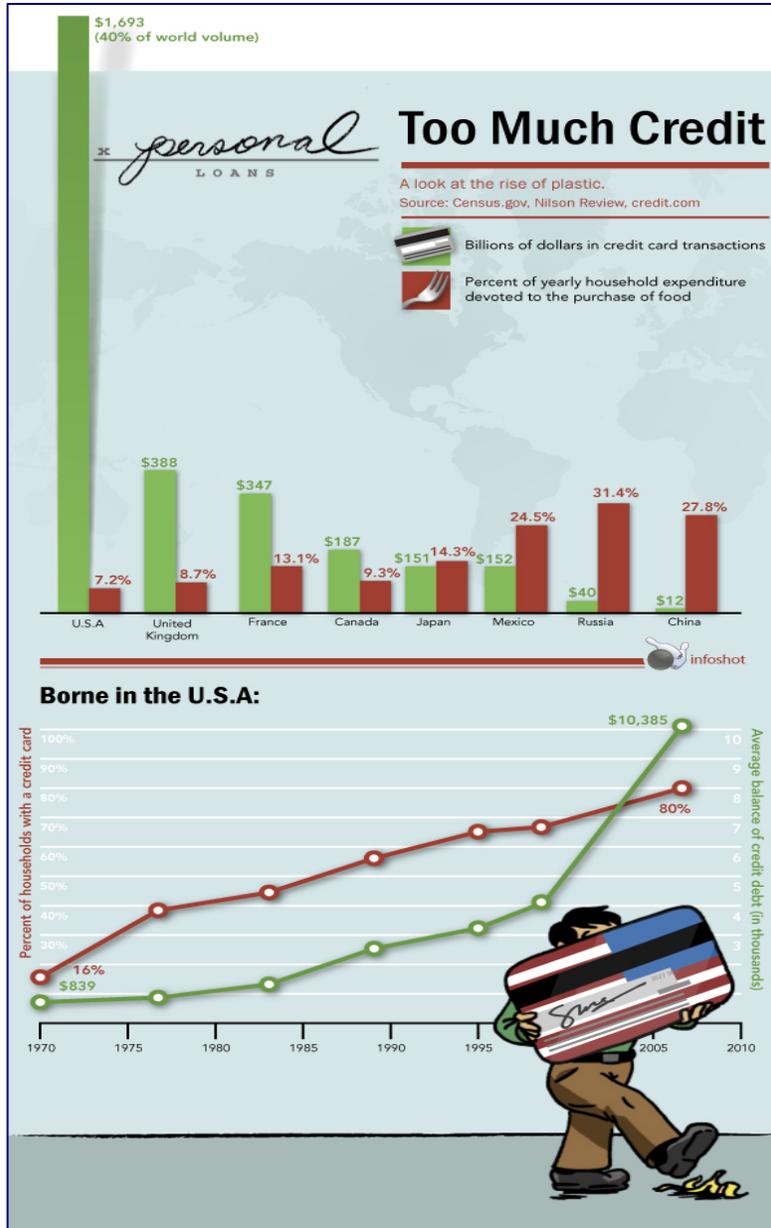
Note: SCBs denote State-owned Commercial Banks; SBs denote Specialized Banks; PCBs denote Private Commercial Banks; and FCBs denote Foreign Commercial Banks

Source: Survey by Bangladesh Bank on the Commercial Banks at the end of calendar year 2006

Appendix-4: Average Credit card Debt

Source: moneycentral.msn.com

Appendix-5: Average Credit card Debt in USA and other countries



Source: manvsdebt.com