distribute original or modified version of OSS, c) distribute the modified source code for others' benefit. So essentially by definition the OSS has a motto for social welfare which may be compared with socialism as discussed in the prelude.

Moreover, one of the OSS development methodologies emphasizes on sharing of software development work like the community work. So, the OSS can also be defined as software that is developed collaboratively by developers across the globe. The software itself is available at little or no cost. The source code is distributed with the executable form, giving users of the software the freedom to modify, adapt and improve the software to meet their needs. This sharing strategy can also be compared with the left-oriented socialist ideology. The OSS is helping people around the globe escape the crime of software "piracy". GNU/Linux, and numbers of useful software that come along with it, is clearly attracting interest from a range of quarters. In large parts of the world where the average per capita income is often less than the cost of a computer, the current phenomenal price of software turns millions into "pirates". This sort of piracy can be easily avoided by adopting the OSS. In the arena of the OSS, words such as free or low cost are not necessarily associated with low-quality. Rather, the availability of many high quality OSS discards this negative notion. For instance, open source operating system Linux is far better than proprietary MS Windows operating systems in terms of quality, security and flexibility. OSS for database languages like MySQL, PostgresSQL has been proved to be as efficient as other leading proprietary database programming languages. On the Internet, the wide use of apache, SendMail would illustrate the success story of the OSS.

Since the inception of the OSS paradigm, it has been playing a significant role to eradicate the linguistic barrier of computer use by incorporating with it the concept of localisation. Enabling ICTs in the local language of the user is known as localisation. The activists of the OSS are voluntarily carrying out many projects on localisation worldwide with a view to minimising the digital divide worldwide.

Considering present financial constraints and linguistic barrier, right now the policy-makers of the country should think about incorporating Open Source Software at all levels. Especially, at the state level, the government should introduce a proper policy for the OSS and adopt projects on e-governance, emphasising the use of Open Source Software.

Software entrepreneurs may perceive the OSS paradigm as a barrier to their business opportunity as the very term OSS is intermingled with 'free of cost.' But in reality the OSS is not always free and commercially it has been found more viable than its closed source counter part. In fact, use of the OSS neither minimises the profit margin nor lessens the wages of programmers. Rather, the use of open source developing tools reduces abruptly the production cost of application software. This in turn, attracts more customers and provides the entrepreneurs with more business opportunity. For instance, the production cost of developing any application software using MySQL on the Linux platform is much lower than that of using Oracle on the Windows platform as the latter's case, while assessing the price of the end product, includes the price for the operating system and the developing tool.

OSS and future ICT Development in Bangladesh: "Bangladesh should prefer Linux operating system to Microsoft in order to leapfrog in the ICT sector. Bangladesh government's ICT policy should also make Linux the national standard of computer operating system" this quotation from a speech of Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia has implicitly suggested that Bangladesh should opt for Open Source Software for its future development. The rationale for shifting from the Closed Source Software towards the OSS on part of Bangladesh can be identified as follows:

1. Developing Systems with Open Source Software (OSS) requires less money as the tools for OSS development are freely available. So, if we could quickly adopt the culture of working with the OSS, then we would be able to save a huge amount of public money in the near future. It may be mentioned that presently we are living in an ICT- and knowledge-based global village and so there is no alternative on part of our government to move towards e-governance. Besides the private sector must install virtual systems for its own existence in this present competitive market environment. These require a huge amount of money which our country would not be able to afford. The only solution is to join the OSS movement.

2. Till to date most of the business and other organisations in private or even government organisations run their systems using pirated software which is ethically wrong and legally a punishable offence. We have the option to avoid this unethical and illegal practice by adopting the OSS, discarding the closed source software.

3. It is evident that the OSS software are more efficient and safer than many of their Closed Source counterparts. For instance, Linux is more powerful, efficient and secure than Windows Operating systems as suggested by the leading computer scientists.

4. The OSS provides the best mechanism for localisation of the software systems compared with their closed source counterparts. It has already been mentioned that, in our country about 96% people can neither read nor write English Language. But if we want to get the maximum benefits of computerisation, localisation i.e. making software systems with Bangla interfaces is a must.

5. Many young ICT experts of Bangladeshi Diaspora worldwide are eager to work on OSS projects voluntarily. Already some platforms of OSS movements have initiated some projects on localisation. Due to their collaborated works, some localisation projects (e.g. Bangla wikipedia) have been successfully implemented.

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