

CHAPTER 12

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh is now poised to accumulate demographic dividend by using its working-age population. The Government has allocated around 24 percent of the annual budget to the HRD related sectors, such as Education and Technology, Health and Family Welfare, Women and Children, Social Welfare, Youth and Sports development, Culture, Labour and Employment and so on. Various programmes including the adoption of the Education Policy 2010 have been undertaken to create skilled and competent Human Resources for the country by enhancing the quality of education and increasing accessibility to Secondary and Higher Secondary, Technical and all tiers of higher education. As a result of the Government's policy for recruiting 60 percent female teachers in the Government primary schools, the number of female teachers has increased from 21 percent in 1991 to current 62.67 percent. Health sector has witnessed remarkable progress due to Government's priority to the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector under the Millennium Development Goal. Both fertility and mortality rates have come down. Remarkable progress has been made in reducing child and maternal mortality and in increasing average life expectancy. Malnutrition has also been reduced significantly. After the successful completion of 'Integrated Health, Population, Nutrition Sector Development Programme', 4th sector programme has been initiated for 2017-2022. After achieving the target of Health Sectors in light with the MDG, SDG has been formulated which will be achieved in 2030. Moreover, in order to improve the overall development of women and children, National Women Development Policy 2011, National Action Plan, National Plan For the prevention of violence against women and children 2013-2025, National Child Policy 2011 and Child Marriage Prevention Act 2017 has been formulated. In this regard the Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) Act, 2014 has also been enacted. The position of Bangladesh is gradually improving in the Human Development Index (HDI) as a result of implementation of various development programmes. According to the Human Development Report, 2016 the position of Bangladesh has been improved to 139 in 2015 which was 142 in 2014.

Bangladesh is now poised to accumulate demographic dividend by using its working-age population. The government is taking relentless efforts and various initiatives for human resource development of the country to improve the standard of living of the under privileged and impoverished segments of the population. This has resulted in progress in the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the Human Development Report, 2016 the position of Bangladesh has improved to 139 in 2015, which was 142 in 2014. Presently, Bangladesh is a middle

ranking country in consideration of HDI. Among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries Sri Lanka (0.766), India (0.624) and Bhutan (0.607) are ahead of Bangladesh (0.579) in respect of HDI. Other SAARC countries, such as Nepal (0.558) and Pakistan (0.538) are below the ranking of Bangladesh in HDI. From last few years human development related sectors are receiving higher budget allocation and continuous focus is given to it. HDI the position of Bangladesh for the last three

decades and the present status are shown in table 12.1.

Table 12.1: HDI Position of Bangladesh

Year	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Index value	0.336	0.382	0.453	0.494	0.539	0.549	0.554	0.558	0.570	0.579

Source: Human Development Report, 2015. UNDP

Public Outlay for Human Resource Development

Human Resource Development requires huge investment in the education and health sector along with other social sectors. Considering this beneficial impact on the economy the Government has been spending around 24 percent of the total public outlay in the social sector. The Government considers the development of both health and education sectors as foundation for human resource development. Adequate budget allocation is provided in these two sectors for implementing pragmatic programmes with a view to improving the education, health and family planning indices. These improvements may be achieved through reducing gender discrimination in primary and secondary education, reducing fertility rate, child and

maternal mortality rates; containing the preventing steps of spreading of contagious diseases including Tuberculosis (TB) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and increasing average life expectancy. Sports and cultural development also plays important role in human resources development. For this reason budget allocation also increases in these sectors.

Figure 12.1 and Table 12.2 show the total allocation in development and non-development budget in the social sector during FY2007-08 through FY2016-17. It is evident from the statistics that the total allocation for the social sector in development and non-development budgets shows an increasing trend over the past decade.

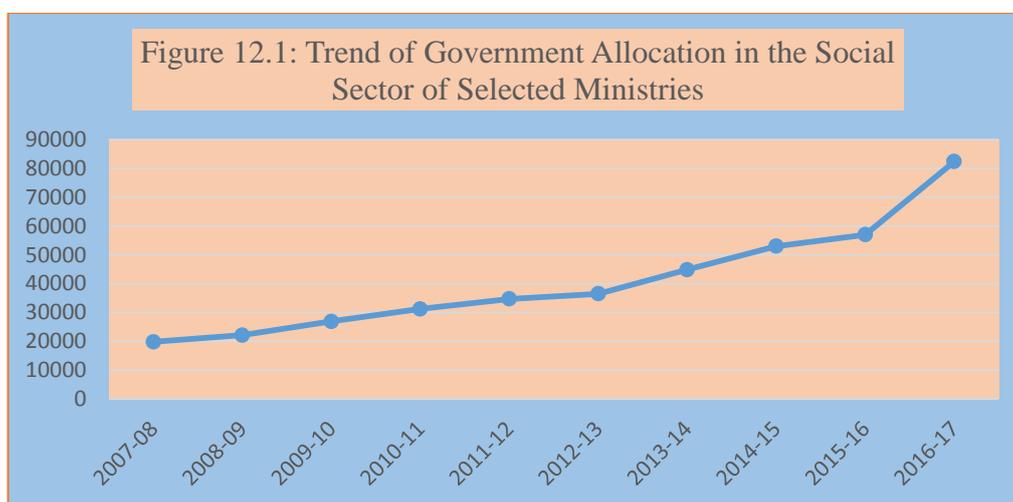


Table 12.2: Allocation (Development and Non-Development) of Selected Ministries

(In Crore Taka)

Sector	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Education, Science & ICT	11654	12535	16171	18575	20316	21561	28272	33499	34370	52914
Health and Family Welfare	5261	6196	6833	7617	8869	9130	9955	11537	12695	17486
Youth, Sports and Culture	287	320	530	911	924	976	1061	1068	1199	1343
Labour and Employment	119	120	69	67	82	134	192	226	302	308
Social Welfare, Women's Affairs and Liberation War Affairs	2028	2396	2812	3499	3967	4091	4730	5962	7613	9433
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	469	553	465	549	560	583	633	684	779	840
Total Allocation (Development and Non-Development)	19818	22120	26880	31218	34718	36475	44843	52946	56958	82324

Sources: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance. Figures are based on budget.

Education and Technology

The Government has given highest priority to the education sector with a view to building an educated, self-reliant, scientific-minded and dynamic nation. The Government has, therefore, approved the National Education Policy, 2010 as a step towards implementing a time befitting technical education system in the country which will help to establish digital Bangladesh as well as Vision 2021. The cardinal objective of policy is to foster humanity among the future citizens of the country and to grow them as creative, rational, tolerant to others opinion and liberal who will be able to lead the country towards inclusive development and progress.

Primary and Mass Education

The Government has constitutional obligation to ensure education for all. In line with global initiative the government is committed to achieving inclusive and quality education for

all. Accordingly, allocation of resources is increased to this sector gradually. In FY2016-17 the Government has made an allocation of Tk.21,962.58 crore for primary education development.

Following its remarkable success with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Bangladesh embraced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with great enthusiasm. The SDG4 targets to ensure 'inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all' the Government has targeted to achieve SDG4 by ensuring quality education for all children by 2030. To achieve the targets as set in SDG4, the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing different projects and programmes including the Third Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-III), Stipend Programme, Reaching-Out-of-School Children (ROSC) Project, School Feeding Programme in the poverty prone-

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areas, Second Chance Education Programme and Basic Literacy Programme (64 Districts).

In 1991, the total number of primary schools in Bangladesh was 49,539. Up to December 2017, the number stands at 1,26,615 (including the BRAC centre, child welfare and *madradas*). There is an increasing trend

in the enrolment of female students in primary schools. In 1991, the male-female ratio among students was 55:45. Currently, the ratio is about 49.6:50.4. Table 12.3 shows students' enrolment rate and percentage of male-female students at primary levels from 2005 to 2016.

Table 12.3: Male-Female Enrolment at Primary Level

Year	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Net Enrollment rate (%)
2005	162.25	80.91 (49.87)	81.34 (50.13)	87.2
2006	163.86	81.29 (49.62)	82.56 (50.38)	90.9
2007	163.13	80.35 (49.26)	82.78 (50.74)	91.1
2008	167.49	83.25 (49.70)	84.24 (50.30)	90.8
2009	165.39	82.41 (49.83)	82.98 (50.17)	93.9
2010	169.58	83.95 (49.50)	85.63 (50.50)	94.8
2011	184.32	91.39 (49.60)	92.93 (50.40)	94.9
2012	190.03	94.63 (49.80)	95.40 (50.20)	96.7
2013	195.85	97.81 (49.94)	98.04 (50.06)	97.3
2014	195.53	96.39 (49.30)	99.14 (50.70)	97.7
2015	190.68	93.69 (49.14)	96.99 (50.86)	97.9
2016	186.03	92.28 (49.60)	93.75 (50.40)	97.9

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

It is found that many of the primary schools students have to leave the school without completing their education for various reasons. The Government has taken various programmes in order to reduce the number of

drop out students which were found effective. The dropout rate has declined to 19.2 percent in 2016 from 50.5 percent in 2007. Table 12.4 shows the year wise number of drop out students during the period 2007-2016.

Table 12.4: Year wise Dropout Rate at Primary Level

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Dropout rate (%)	50.5	49.3	45.1	39.8	29.7	26.2	21.4	20.9	20.4	19.2

Source: Annual Primary School Census, 2016, Directorate of Primary Education.

Important Activities in Primary Education

- The Third Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-III) has been implemented to develop the quality of primary education. Through various activities under this programme, priorities have been given to increase enrolment and attendance of school-going children, reduce drop-out and enhance school contact hour.
- Under the present policy of recruitment of teachers, 60:40 ratio of female to male has been followed. The current ratio of female and male teachers is 62.67: 37.33 in government primary schools.
- Decentralisation of administrative and financial power in primary education has been implemented. As a step towards decentralisation, ‘School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP)’ and ‘Upazila Primary Education Plan (UPEP)’ have been implemented phase wise.
- Non-formal Education Bureau has been established to carry out non-formal education along with the formal education. Non-formal Education Act 2014 has been approved by the parliament in order to make non-formal education more dynamic, effective and job oriented.
- A project named ‘English in Action’ is being implemented at the primary level for improving the quality of education in English.
- To increase enrolment rate and to retain student at school, school feeding programme has been introduced. Seventy five gram fortified biscuits are being distributed to all students on every school day among 34 lakh students in 93 *upazilas*. The Government is considering for further expansion of the programme.
- Under *PEDP-III*, ‘Second Chance Education Programme’ is being implemented to offer the primary education to out-of-school and dropped out 7-14 year aged 4.5 lakhs deprived children.
- As many as 26,193 registered non-government primary schools have been nationalised and the teachers employed in those schools have been absorbed to the government service under the service rules.
- According to the National Education Policy 2010, the primary education is already being upgraded up to class eight and in line with this policy class six has been opened in 764 primary schools.

Physical Infrastructure Facilities at Primary School Level

In continuation of a qualitative development of primary education, in FY2016-17 as following-

- Under PEDP-III, constructions of 30,658 additional class rooms and major repairs of 4,812 government primary schools were completed. Furthermore, installation of 32,721 deep/shallow tube-wells and 21,501 wash blocks were completed in June 2017.
- The establishment of 11 Primary Teacher's Training Institutes (PTIs) in selected 11 districts headquarters (out of 12) have already been completed except construction of the Dhaka PTI at Mirpur. The construction of the Dhaka PTI is expected be completed by June 2018.
- In order to establish 1,500 government primary schools in the village without schools, a total of 1,916 schools were selected and work orders were issued for 1,495 schools till June 2017. Construction of 1,368 schools is deemed to be completed in June 2017 and constructions of 127 schools are deemed to be completed by December 2017.
- Under an IDB assisted project, work orders have been issued for another 170 government primary schools and construction work is going on. Till now, construction of 155 schools was completed and the rest are ongoing.

Terminal Examination/Scholarship

Since 2009, terminal examination in Grade-5 and *Ebtedayee madrasas* is being held based on unique questionnaires throughout the

country. Total candidates in Grade-5 examination in 2016 were about 28.31 lakh and passing rate was 98.51 percent. Total candidates from *Ebtedayee madrasas* in terminal examination were about 2.57 lakh and passing rate was 95.85 percent. In 2015 academic year, about 22 thousand talent pool and 32 thousand general scholarships had been awarded among the students on the basis of the result of the terminal examination. In 2016 academic year, number of scholarships has been increased and about 33 thousand talent pool and 49.5 thousand general scholarships have been awarded. On the other hand, learning opportunities have been created for the working children of the urban and rural areas of the country. Special scholarships are given to the meritorious working children studying at the *Shishu Kalyan* Trust (SKT) schools so that they can continue their education.

Stipend Project for Primary School Students

Parents of poor families are used to engaging their children in various works instead of sending them to school. Many of the children who are lucky to get admitted also leave school without completing the five-year primary education cycle. To overcome this problem, the 'Primary Education Stipend Project (2nd phase)' for 2008-2015 has been implemented at an estimated cost of Tk.5687.26 crore, entirely funded by the Government of Bangladesh. Under the guidelines of the project, a poor family receives a stipend of Tk.100 for sending one child to the school and Tk.125 for sending more than one child. Number of stipend beneficiaries had been increased from 48.16

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lakh to 78.17 lakh through increasing the student from 40 percent to a remarkable need based number.

Distribution of Books at Government Cost

The Government has been distributing books at free of cost among the students of the primary schools every year. Since 2010, 100 percent new books are being distributed at free of cost to the students countrywide. As many as 11.20 Crore and 10.53 crore books were distributed in the academic year 2016 and 2017 respectively. For pre-primary enrolled students in the academic year 2017, 33.28 lakh books and 69.30 lakh copies of reading materials were distributed. Eight types of reading materials were distributed among five minority groups (Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo, and Sadri) in pre-primary class in 2017.

Increase of Contact Hours

In the past, the annual contact time for grades 1 and 2 students were 595 hours and 833 hours for the students of Grades 3-5 at double shift school. In order to increase contact time at primary level, about four thousand schools have been transformed into single shift school. As a consequence, the contact time has been increased to 921 hours for Grades 1 and 2 and 1231 hours for Grades 3-5 at newly transformed single shift school.

Recruitment of Teachers

Recruitment of teachers is under progress in order to ensure quality primary education. To this effect, the availability of teachers has been improved at Primary Education System. 60 percent posts of teachers have been reserved for female candidates in order to

increase the participation of women in primary education. Consequently, recruitment of female teachers in the government primary schools has been increased and the percentage of female teachers reached approximately 62.67. Moreover, in FY2013-14, recruitment of 15,000 Assistant Teachers for pre-primary classes of government primary schools has been completed in the first phase. In the second phase, recruitment of another 7,500 Assistant Teachers was completed in FY2014-15. In the third phase, recruitment of more 15,000 Assistant Teachers for pre-primary classes was completed in FY2015-16. Furthermore, recruitment of another 10,000 Assistant Teachers is going on. In compliance with the verdict of the court in FY2015-16, the Government has appointed another 34,376 assistant teachers in Newly Nationalised Government Primary School (NNGPS) from the panel of 42,611 candidates.

Programme for Out-of-School and Working Children

The Government has taken various projects with a view to provide primary education to the out-of-school children, drop-outs and the working children of the city areas. These are: Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) 2nd phase, Second Chance Education and Basic Literacy Projects.

Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

The Government has undertaken lot of development activities in order to create enlightened citizens. These activities include: stipend programme and one time grant, free book distribution in the first day of new year,

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free female education up to degree level, infrastructure development throughout the country, develop new curriculum, performance based continuous evaluation, introduction of online activities and digitalisation of education system, training programme for teachers on ICT, programmes for the development of reading habit, create opportunity for research and development etc.

Presently as many as 24,687 educational institution, 3,60,890 teachers, and 1,39,52,148 students in the secondary and higher education level. The total number of girl students is 72,61,544 which 52 percent of total students. In 2017 about 35 crore 15 lakh 13 thousand 857 copies of text books were distributed among 4 crore 26 lakh 35 thousand 9 hundred and 29 students includes (pre-primary, primary, secondary, Ebtedai, dakhil, dakhil-vocational, ssc-vocational level) with a view to ensure equal opportunity of education, reducing drop-out rates and enhancing quality of education.

In order to facilitate educational and administrative activities, online information sharing system has been introduced up to *upazila* level. A sum of Tk.81,669.56 lakh has been distributed among 38,76,576 students in FY2016-17 as stipend through different stipend projects. In FY2016-17, a total of 1700 additional class teacher have been recruited under the Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP). As many as 18,245 teachers have received training in science through Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme (SESIP). An amount of Tk.3,965.65 lakh has been spent under the Development of Reading Habit (DRH). A

sum of 83,14,287 students from 11,917 institutions participated in the book reading programme and 34,37,761 books have been presented to the students. Total of 310 model schools (out of 315) have been built in *upazilas* without government schools under the project 'Transformation of selected Non-Government Schools to Model Schools in 315 *Upazilas*'. Under the project titled 'Establishment of Eleven Secondary Schools and Six Colleges in Dhaka' academic programmes have already been started in 14 institutions. Under the project titled 'Establishment of Seven Secondary Schools in Sylhet, Barisal, and Khulna' civil work of four schools out of seven is completed and vertical extension (upto 4th, 5th, 6th floor) is going on.

Technical Education

The expansion of country's technical and vocational education is able to transform our young population into productive and skilled manpower. The strategic goal of achieving 20 percent Technical and Vocational School and Training (TVET) enrollment by 2020, capacity building of TVET institutions, redesigning, and upgrading TVET Curriculum, TVET research and development and most importantly achieving the SDG targets are being implemented through several projects and programmes. Massive initiatives have also been taken to implement the National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) at all levels of technical education. For this reason, the vocational courses have been introduced in secondary and higher secondary level education including *madrasahs*. Consistent with the national and international labour

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market demand driven trade and technology course for young members of non-affluent families have been included in the technical and vocational education curriculum. In addition, skill based certification courses are ongoing for different trades. At present, the number of technical and vocational education institutes under Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) is 7,925 of which government and private institutes are 509 and 7,419 respectively. Three Engineering colleges are conducting BSc Engineering courses in Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering in Mymensingh, Faridpur and Sylhet districts. Barisal Engineering College is going to start their academic function shortly.

To expand technical and vocational education, many projects such as: Establishment of 8 women technical school and colleges at 8 divisional headquarters, Establishment of 23 polytechnic institutes and establishment of 4 *mohila* polytechnic institute at Barisal, Sylhet, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions have been taken. Besides, initiatives have been undertaken for modernisation of existing technical teachers' training college, vocational teachers' training institute, 49 polytechnic institutes and 64 technical school and colleges. Establishment of 100 technical school and colleges in 100 *upazilas* is in progress. Moreover, a project 'Establishment of Bangladesh Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (BITTTR)' has been undertaken for higher education and development of professional skills for TVET teachers and managers.

Higher Education

The Government has taken some mentionable programmes to expand and enhance the scope and quality of higher education in the country through the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. The Government has almost established a public university in each of the old districts of Bangladesh. The number of public university has been increased to 42 (academic activities 37). The expansion of higher education is being done by establishing different infrastructures including academic buildings of the old and new universities. The academic activities of Rangamati Science and Technology University for the session 2014-15 have already been started to expand the education in the Hill Tracts region. Moreover, Barisal University, *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman* Science and Technology University, *Khulna* Agricultural University, *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman* Digital University, Rajshahi Medical University, Chittagong Medical University, *Rabindra* University after the name of the world poet Rabindranath Tagore have been established. In addition, Islamic Arabic University has been established to mobilise the *madrasha* based education across the country.

Besides, the Government has taken an initiative to establish a Marine University in Barisal, an International Pandit Bihar University in Chittagong, *Bangamata Shiekh Fazilatunnassa Mujib* Science and Technology University in *Jamalpur*, *Sheikh Hasina* Science and Technology University in *Netrokona*, Science and Technology University in *Chandpur*, Science and

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Technology University in *Bogra* and a Maritime University in Chittagong.

In the meantime, the Government has passed Cross Border Higher Education (CBHE)-2014 Act and it has facilitated the permanent campus establishment of the world standard private universities in Bangladesh. To encourage the research based educational environment in higher educational institutions the Academic Innovation Fund is being disbursed with the World Bank's support under the ongoing project 'Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)'.

Various steps have been undertaken to connect the students and teachers of different universities with the international academic community and information storage in order to increase the technological skill of the universities as well as to set up a connection of the domestic universities with the assistance of foreign universities by establishing Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN). Besides, the private university Act-2010 has been enacted to improve the standard of education of the private universities. With the ever increasing demand of the modern laboratories, research centers, and institutions are being consolidated and modernised in the universities. With a view to ensuring the quality of higher education, the formulation of National Accreditation Council and the reforming process of University Grants Commission (UGC) are now at the final stage.

Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) has been established to enhance the mobility and transparency of the

universities' education, administration, finance, development and research etc. through the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) by the commission as the information management. Data are being served from the universities through the HEMIS portal. Besides, the activities of UGC Digital Library (UDL), financed by Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), have been launched. The total number of UDL member universities is now 84 (both public and private). The students, teachers and researchers of UDL member universities are getting access to 31,000 e-books and 3,100 e-journals through UDL. The users of the universities will directly get access to the portal of e-resource providers through the web portal of UDL (udl-ugc.gov.bd).

Madrasah Education

Directorate of *Madrasah* Education is a newly created organisation as an apex body for ensuring proper management and administration in the field of *Madrasah* education. Presently there are near about 10,000 *madrasahs* (MPO enlisted) in the country. In addition to that, more than five thousand non MPO *madrasahs* are also in operation in Bangladesh. In order to make *madrasah* education time-befitting, the curriculum has been improved alongside the teaching of religious subjects such as Quran, *Aqaid* and *Fiqh*, Arabic and *Hadith* from Class I to XII.

In conformity with the general education system, *madrasah* education system is also following the NCTB developed syllabus and curriculum for general core subjects and

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elective subjects except for the Arabic subjects for *madrasah* education up to the secondary level. Text books for all subjects except Arabic and Islamic subjects have been printed and distributed from NCTB. Initiatives have been taken to conduct all *madrasah* examinations except the Arabic and Islamic subjects with the same syllabus up to the secondary level since 2014. Competitive, modern and life skill oriented subjects like Agriculture, ICT and career related education have been included in the syllabus of *Madrasah* education. In ensuring more transparency and accountability of the activities under *Madrasah* Education Board, filling up of forms and students' registration are being done online using ICT. To improve the education management system, necessary steps have been undertaken to establish *Madrasah* Education Management Information System (MEMIS) cell.

ICT in Education

With a view to improving the quality of education on the basis of ICT, a total of 640 ICT learning centres (542 school and 98 *madrasah*) throughout the country will be established through Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme (SESIP). The Department of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) has already proposed the creation of 255 lecturer posts in ICT for Government college throughout the country. The Teaching Quality Improvement (TQI) project is imparting teachers' training on digital content development, hardware and troubleshooting and advanced ICT. Under this project e-manual for 3 subjects and e-learning materials for 6 subjects of grades 9 and 10 have been developed. All the materials

are accessible both on and offline, and are usable individually and/or in groups by teachers and students. With a view to developing human resources skilled in foreign language, the 'Establishment of Foreign Language Training Centres-11' project has launched 31 digital language laboratories. This project, with its 11 training centres has already been trained up around 3,000 people in various foreign languages.

Development of Female Education

An arrangement has been made for stipend, granting free studentship and financial assistance for purchasing books as well as paying fees for appearing at the public examinations for the female students of secondary to post graduate level to ensure women empowerment and increase women's participation in socio economic activities. Moreover, the general scholarships and technical and vocational education scholarships for female students has been enhanced and also the coverage widened for the meritorious female students. To increase women participation in technical education and build up digital Bangladesh, reserve seat of women for the admission at the technical and vocational institute under Directorate of Technical Education has been increased from 10 percent to 20 percent. The Parliament has approved the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Fund Act, 2012 to facilitate education assistance and scholarships to the bachelor level students. The Government has deposited Tk.1,000 crore to the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund as seed money. It is expected that this support will help to achieve gender parity at bachelor level.

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Development of Health and Family Welfare Sector

After independence, Bangladesh has achieved enormous improvement in health sector for the last 45 years. Bangladesh has made an example by achieving MDG 4 through reducing the maternal and child mortality. An opportunity has been created for the poor and marginal people to reach the Government

health services by ensuring the primary health care through sector-wide actions. As a result, notable improvements have been achieved through the reduction of fertility rate, death rate, child and maternal mortality rate and amplify the average life expectancy. Table 12.5 shows the trend of health indicators from 2010 to 2015.

Table 12.5: Recent Trends in Health Indicators

Indicator	Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	National	19.2	19.2	18.9	19.0	18.9	18.8
	Urban	17.1	17.4	17.1	18.2	17.2	16.5
	Rural	20.1	20.2	20.0	19.3	19.4	20.3
Crude Death Rate (per 1000 population)	National	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1
	Urban	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.6
	Rural	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5
Average Age at Marriage	Male	23.9	24.9	24.7	25.2	24.9	25.3
	Female	18.7	18.6	19.3	18.6	18.3	18.4
Population per doctor		2785	2860	2860	2860	2129	2628
Life Expectancy at Birth (year)	National	67.7	69.0	69.4	70.4	70.7	70.9
	Male	66.6	67.9	68.2	68.8	69.1	69.4
	Female	68.8	70.3	70.7	71.2	71.6	72.0
Infant Mortality Rate (<1 year) (per 1000 live births)	National	36	35	33	31	30	29
	Urban	35	32	31	26	26	28
	Rural	37	36	34	34	31	29
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	National	47	44	42	41	38	36
	Urban	44	39	37	35	30	32
	Rural	48	47	44	43	40	39
Maternal mortality Ratio (per 1000 live births)	National	1.94	2.09	2.03	1.97	1.93	1.81
	Urban	1.78	1.96	1.90	1.46	1.82	1.62
	Rural	2.30	2.15	2.10	2.11	1.96	1.91
Contraceptive users rate (%)		56.7	58.3	62.2	62.4	62.2	62.1
Total Fertility Rate (per women, 15-49 years of age)		2.12	2.11	2.12	2.11	2.11	2.10

Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics, 2015, BBS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSDP)

Based on National 7th Five Years Plan, Vision 2021, Health Nutrition and Population related policy, and HNP related strategy, Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme has been initiated for 2017-2022 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Next 4th sector programme will be started in the transition of MDG to SDG. Health related goal was the main focus of MDG. On the other hand, to achieve the main goal of MDG, SDG has been formulated which will be achieved in 2030.

Community Clinic (CC)

Bangladesh Health System provides health care services through various government and non-government organisations. Community Clinic, the lowest stage health facility, managed directly by the community and the Government has contributed remarkably in reduction of maternal and child mortality rate. The initiative for establishment of Community Clinic is taken in 1998 to extend coordinated health and family planning services to the door steps of rural population through 'Essential Service Package' from a specific one point service outlet. With this view, 10,723 Community Clinics are constructed during 1999-2001 and around 8,000 are made functional. At present 13,442 Community Clinics are on board all over the country at ward level, each for about 6,000 population, through which annually 27 items of drugs worth of more than Tk.1,100 million is supplied. Apart from outdoor services, Community Clinics provide health education, nutritional services, micronutrient

supplementation and referral to higher facilities. Community Clinics regularly report to Directorate General of Health Services through internet.

Primary Health Care

Bangladesh has achieved significant success in providing free healthcare services at the grassroot level of the country. Diarrhoea, Malaria, Filaria, *Kala-zar*, Tuberculosis, Leprosy control, Removal of Vitamin A related Blindness, Deworming medicine distribution and Vaccination programme have been strengthened by rural level field workers and volunteers. By properly implementing these programmes maternal and neonatal mortality rate have been reduced as well as average life expectancy has been increased. Now Dengue, Swine Flu and SARS disease have been controlled successfully in the country. Detection of Smear Positive Pulmonary Tuberculosis rate has increased up to 100 percent by Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) programme. Besides, creation of awareness building on the health problems and provide primary healthcare service among the children and adolescent through Child Health Programme, School Health Programme, Adolescent Health Programme, Khude Doctor Programme etc.

Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI)

The Government is trying relentlessly to immunise children through Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) of HPNSDP. EPI is providing vaccines against 10 vaccine preventable diseases named: Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus,

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Hepatitis-B, Haemophyllus influenza-type-B, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Measles and Rubella. WHO already declared Bangladesh

as Polio free country. Table 12.6 shows the yearly EPI coverage.

Table 12.6: Vaccination under EPI Programme

Year	BCG (%)	OPV-1 (%)	OPV-2 (%)	OPV-3 (%)	Penta-1 (%)	Penta-2 (%)	Penta-3 (%)	Measles (%)	Total Vaccination (%)
2011	99.0	99.0	97.7	95.1	99.0	97.6	90.0	85.5	80.2
2012	99.0	99.0	97.7	95.1	99.0	97.6	90.0	88.5	80.6
2013	95.0	95.0	94.0	92.0	91.0	93.0	92.0	85.5	80.7
2014	99.2	95.8	95.1	92.7	92.6	93.3	93.0	86.6	81.6
2015	99.2	95.8	94.7	94.1	94	94.7	94.1	87.4	82.5
2016	99.3	95.8	94.7	94.1	94	94.7	94.1	87.5	82.3

Source: Bangladesh EPI CES 2016

Maternal and Neonatal Health Services

As special Priority to the improvement of Maternal and Child Health, many activities have been undertaken at the national level. Included among are Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) training for the doctors', Community based Skilled Birth Attendant (CSBA) training for the field staff, scaling up of family planning Services, safe MR services, encouraging private sectors expansion, advocacy for increasing facility delivery. Different training activities are going on for developing skill of the doctors, Family Welfare visitors (FWV) and all field level workers providing care for the maternal and child Health. Among 41 districts out of 64 districts. Government with the technical and financial support of the development partners Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) activities have been implemented. Comprehensive EmOC (CEmOC) services are available in all the districts hospital with technical and financial support from UNICEF. At present CEmOC are available in all the medical college hospital, 59 district

hospitals, 159 *Upazila* Health Complexes and 63 maternal and child welfare centers. Rest of the *Upazila* Health Complexes is providing Basic EmOC (BEmOC) Services. As a result of expansion of EmOC services, maternal mortality and neonatal mortality have been declined to 0.17 percent of the total deliveries and 2.8 percent of the total live births respectively.

For ensuring antenatal care, delivery care and postnatal care in the hard-to-reach and rural areas, community based skilled birth attendant (CSBA) have been trained for short term basis and midwives have been trained and deployed and the outcome is at the desired level. Up to June 2017, 11,544 CSBA have been trained to provide maternal health care services at the rural level. 3 years midwifery training course is going on and 3,000 post have been created for midwives.

Nutrition

To provide nutrition services throughout the country a 5-year programme (2011-2016) is being implemented under HPNSDP. The

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main purpose of this service is to deliver a comprehensive package of nutrition services through health and family welfare facilities to nutritionally vulnerable people. Other objectives of this service are: Promoting awareness development campaign to address social mobilisation and behavioural change towards personal hygiene and good nutrition practices. The NNS has also laid emphasis on reducing prevalence of underweight, stunting, anaemia, night blindness and iodine deficiency disorder.

Management facilities for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have been developed in all *upazilas* health complexes, district hospitals and medical college hospitals across the country. A total of 200 SAM units have been established at *zila* and *upazila* level. At the community level, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme has been expanded which also aims to improve childhood nutrition. Coordination with other ministries, divisions, departments and NGOs has been increased to extend nutrition service to urban slums and to the remote areas.

Moreover, the Bangladesh National Policy 2015 has developed to address the challenges related to nutrition. The policy takes into consideration both global policies such as Second International Conference of Nutrition (ICN2) and relevant national policies and strategies in areas such as health, food, agriculture, environment and education reflecting its multisectoral approach to ensure improvement of nutritional status. Table 12.7 shows a whole picture of nutrition status of Bangladesh.

Table 12.7: Nutrition Status of Bangladesh

Index	2007	2011	2014	2016 (Target)	Remark
Underweight child (%)	41	36	33	33	Achieved
Stunted child (%)	43	41	36	38	Achieved
Exclusive breast feeding (%)	43	64	55	50	Achieved
Rate of complementary feeding (%)	74	67	69.7	65	Achieved

Source: Bangladesh Demography and Health Survey, 2014

Health Information System and E-health

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has successfully utilised Information Technology (IT) in the health sector. Laptops and Android Tablets have been provided at the community clinics and other grass root level workers. Programmes are active for enrolling information related to each pregnant mother and under-5 children. A uniform 'Health Identifier Code' is being provided to every citizen which will be used in making the permanent health record software design linking with the national ID card database. A draft of national E-Health policy and strategy has been finalised. Programmes regarding admission in medical and dental colleges, human resources management in the health sector, leave and deputation of the doctors, every type of training and higher study management have been digitalised. Health services are being provided through mobile phones from every *district* and *upazila* level government hospitals of the country. Advanced telemedicine services are being provided from 82 hospitals. Measures have been taken for citizens regarding provision of online complains/suggestions about health services. A full-fledged call center named *Sashyo Batayan* has been started. *Skype*

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Based Tele-consultation has been introduced alongside the telemedicine service.

Family Planning Services and Reproductive Health

In spite of having weak social infrastructure and high illiteracy rate, Bangladesh has gained commendable progress in the family planning programmes. So far, the greatest achievement of the Government is to ensure availability of modern and active contraceptive methods. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been declined sharply from 2.11 in 2014 births to 2.10 in 2015 births per woman. For maintaining sustainability of the achievements earned so far and to reduce the population growth further, the Government has adopted a new National Population Policy in the light of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Government has identified achieving the replacement level population growth from present rate of 2.3 to 2.0 as one of its main target and has taken many programmes in that direction. In line with this target activities are being implemented for increasing contraceptive acceptance rate at 72 percent.

At present, Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) service is being provided from Maternal and Child Health Training Institute, *Azimpur* and Fertility Services and Training Centre, *Mohammadpur* and 70 Mother and Child welfare centre. So far 323 doctors have received one year training and 692 Family Planning Supervisors have received 6 months long EOC training. Besides, 1,794 Family Welfare Visitor's (FWVs) working at union level are also trained in midwifery services

for six months. To work in the grass root level 9,967 Community Based Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBs) have got training.

Area wise work plan has been taken to popularise long lasting and permanent family planning methods in low performing areas including urban slums, remote areas and *haor* areas. Under the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), family planning along with maternal and child health services are being provided through national MCHTI, MFTC, 70 *district* level Mother and Child Welfare Centers (MCWCs), MCH-FP unit of 427 *upazila* health complexes, 3,294 union level UH and FWCs and more than 12,577 CCs. 323 doctors and 576 FWCs are given EOC training for one year and six months respectively. A total of 96 MCWCs are existing in 12 *upazilas* and 24 Unions. From these centre 24/7 free emergency maternal health service, family planning, mother and child health service are providing. To ensure reproductive health service 89 MCWCs are established newly at the Union level.

Medical Education

Efforts are being made to expand the scope of advanced education in the medical sciences. In addition to various specialized institutions, postgraduate courses have been started in medical colleges. The number of admission seats in MBBS and BDS courses has been increased to 11,566 in the government and private levels of the country. There are 36 medical colleges, (3,812 seats in the government level), 9 dental colleges (532 seats), 23 post graduate institutes (1,592 seats), 8 medical assistant training schools (716 seats), 8 institute of health technology

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(2,171 seats), and 14 nursing colleges are working to create skilled manpower. At the same time, there are 68 medical colleges in the private sector (6,165 seats), dental colleges (1,355 seats), 10 graduate institutes (169 seats), 200 medical assistant training schools (13,540 seats), 97 institute of health technology and 24 nursing colleges. Apart from this, to encourage alternative medical service, 19 alternative medical care colleges are functioning.

Nursing Services

At present, there are 41,901 registered nurses in health sector. Total seat capacity of existing 43 government nursing institutes is 2,580. Altogether, 27,580 registered nurses are working out of 31,068 vacant posts; and the number of registered nurses is increased after recruitment of 9,598 nurses on 2016. Former 7 nursing institutes have been converted into nursing colleges. Two nursing colleges established in *Manikganj* and *Dinajpur*. Three-year Diploma in Midwifery in *Manikganj* and 4-years Basic BSc. and 3 years diploma in nursing course are running in *Dinajpur* Nursing Colleges. Short-term specialized courses have been launched in Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Philippines and within the country. Two nursing colleges have been set up in *Mugda* and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka to provide master's degree. In order to increase the midwifery activities in the prevention of maternal and child deaths, a total of 1,200 posts of Certified Midwives have been posted in Thana Health Complex and Union Sub-Centers for the year 2015-2016. A three-years Diploma in Midwifery course has been started in 38 (10 nursing colleges and 28 nursing institutes) nursing

educational institutes since 2014. A total of 1,484 registered nurses working in Government Nursing Institutions and Health Services have been given 6 months of certified Advanced Post-Basic Midwifery courses.

Programmes for Women and Child Development

In order to improve the overall development of women and children, National women Development Policy 2011 and National Child Policy have been formulated. To establish equal rights and to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the state and the public life, family violence (prevention and protection) Act 2010, family violence (Resistance and Protection) Rules, 2013 have been enacted. Moreover, National Plan for the prevention of the violence against women and children 2013-25 has been formulated. Under this scheme, different activities are being implemented to educate women and to make them skilled human resources, by ensuring their active engagement in the implementation of national development activities and their empowerment in the political, social, administrative and economic arena. In order to achieve self-employment and empowerment, *Joyeeta* Foundation has been formed to engage women entrepreneurs of grassroots level in business.

The government has been implementing various development initiatives in order to develop the latent talent with the aim of making the children eligible for the right of citizens as well as the development of mental and cultural development. Through Early Learning Child Development (ELCD) project,

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children from womb to 5 years age are being developed to acquire eligibility for primary education through providing pre-primary education at home, community and education centers in order to increase the child's participation for their intellectual, social, early childhood education and to learn language and emotional development. A suitable environment for normal development of children will be created through *Enabling Environment for Child Rights (EECR) project* towards ensuring child rights to uphold social values through removing child abuse in society, protecting children from violence, exploitation and to improve the skills of civil society and government, strategic protection in order to create enabling environment for children. Under the project EECR, there is a cash transfer scheme of Tk.2,000 is being operated among 40,000 children in selected 20 districts for 18 months. Besides, in the selected 20 districts, 15,000 adolescent (age 14-18) in each of the districts Tk.15,000 is being distributed as stipend.

Under the Child Development Programme, 42 activities are being implemented in each year. Through Early Learning Enhancement of Child Development programme in each centre 30 children (4-5 age children) of 2,109 centres through early learning facilities child development and early schooling opportunities are being provided. About 51 children's books have been published. A monthly 'child' magazine for children is published regularly. Apart from this, 'Children Encyclopedia' has been published in 5 volumes. About 4 million children get access to books in the library every year and about 1,20,000 children participate in library-

based competition. Through 6 child development centers across the country, a total of 700 destitute and helpless children are being provided with sub-optimal facilities to ensure child rights including social involvement.

Social Welfare

The overall socio-economic development of a country largely depends on the development of destitute, poor and left-out segment of the society. The Government is giving much emphasis on this sector. The Ministry of Social Welfare is working for poverty reduction, human resource development, social safety and other development activities for rehabilitation of the neglected segment of population along with the persons with disabilities, orphans, destitute, poor and helpless. In addition, correctional services for juvenile delinquents, training and rehabilitation of the socially disadvantaged women, training and rehabilitation of orphans, control and rehabilitation of vagrants, safe custody for women, children, adolescent, destitute and helpless are important.

Among all the welfare and service related activities the Ministry of Social Welfare has undertaken, the hospital social welfare/medical service activities, integrated blind education programme, school for vision and hearing impaired, Brail press, plastic producing centre, mineral plant and vocational education and training for physically handicapped are mentionable. Through 91 units 7,66,000 poor patients have been provided financial assistance, psychological counseling and treatment aid

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under the hospital social welfare service in FY2016-17. To provide integrated education for the visually impaired child along with the normal students the integrated education programme has been conducted in 64 district headquarters. The number of beneficiaries under this programme is 1,190 in FY2016-17. From the Brail Press Brail books are being provided to the visually impaired students for free to ensure their education. To ensure social protection for street girl, regular attendance at school, stop child marriage and protection from child labor, Department of Social Service has been implementing 'Child Sensitive Social Protection in Bangladesh'. In FY2016-17, total 926 street children have been provided shelter by drop in centre in order to ensure social safety of the street children.

With a view to preventing juvenile delinquencies different programmes are being conducted for their rectification and rehabilitation in the society. Under this programme, 3 juvenile development centers are functioning. These 3 juvenile development centers have 24,605 rehabilitees since inception. In the 85 Government *Shishu Paribars*, orphans are getting livelihood support, education, training and participating in rehabilitation programmes. Up to June 2017, 58,283 orphan children are being benefitted from these grants. The National Social Welfare Academy arranges training for the officials and staffs of the Social Welfare Directorate and representatives of volunteers organisations for better social welfare service to the society. Moreover, Ministry of Social Welfare through the National Handicapped

Development Foundation has been conducting programmes like support centres for services and help for the disabled persons, autism resource centres, school for autistic and mentally retarded persons, construction of sports complex for the disabled persons and awareness raising for autism related issues.

Youth and Sports

Youth Development

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) is implementing different programmes to make youth as skilled human resources through training and exploiting their wisdom, creativity, self-confidence and work spirit. The department has imparted skill development training to 50,48,720 youths in different trades since its inception in 1981 to February 2017. Among them, as many as 20,38,759 young people have already become self-employed as of June 2017. The target of training in FY2016-17 was 2,71,000 youths and the achievement was 3,55,881.

In compliance with the election pledge for job creation, the Government has undertaken the 'National Service Programme' in order to provide employment to educated unemployed youths. Initially, three poverty stricken districts, namely-*Kurigram, Barguna and Gopalganj* had been chosen for pilot programme. This programme has been extended to 8 *upazilas* of 7 districts under *Rangpur* Division in second phase. Third phase was extended in FY2014-15 to the 17 poorest *upazilas* of 17 districts and 4th phase was extended in FY2015-16 to the 20 poorest *upazilas* of 7 districts. 5th phase was extended in the FY2016-17 to the 24 *upazilas* of 15

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districts. Since the inception of NSP and up to June 2017 a total of 1,14,034 youths were trained and of them 1,11,699 were attached with different nation building department. After completion of attachment 32,140 youths were self-employed and 3,726 youths employed in different government and non-government organisations. In the light of its success, NSP will be rolled out gradually in other districts of the country.

DYD is working for the advancement and expansion of Information Technology (IT). Educated youths are being trained at 70 centres in 64 districts across the country on computer basics, graphic design and internet usage. Up to June 2017, a total of 1,53,757 youths have been provided training on IT. Besides, 3,840 youths were given one-month training on computer basics through mobile ICT- training vans. *Sheikh Hasina* National Youth Centre has been established at *Savar*, Dhaka. National Youth Centre is mainly a human resource development, information and research centre which has been established to achieve excellence in youth training and research. It has trained 18,905 youths up to June 2017. With the same objective *Bogra* Regional Youth Centre was established which provided training to 6,549 youths.

Sports Development

The Government has undertaken and implemented a number of development projects to promote sports. In FY2016-17 Directorate of Sports has organized under 15 women hockey and under 16 boy's football training programme. It also organized competition and training on various sports.

Around 2,72,000 boys and girls were participated in the competition. Under the direct supervision of Directorate of Sports, six Physical Education Colleges are providing Bachelor of Physical Education degree and Dhaka Physical Education College providing Masters of Physical Education degree to create job opportunities to the young educated people of the country.

Cultural Affairs

History, civilisation, identity of a nation is reflected in its culture. In line with the course of cultural progress in the world context, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has undertaken various activities to preserve, promote and conserve rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh through its 17 organisations. Development activities has been taken to preserve and develop archaeological sites and also for the development of tourism. Renovation activities of *Ahsan Monjil* have been completed. To flourish Bengali literature many research work related to the Bengali language and literature, cultural heritage and publication of books and journals are being done. Training activities are going on for the development of manpower at the Department of Archives and Libraries and Bangladesh Folk Art and Craft Foundation. Initiative has been taken for establishment of public libraries at *upazila* level and conversation of selected books to e-books with a view to reaching the reader-service at the door-step of people.