

CHAPTER 12

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Since 1990, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in economic and social sectors. The prime development agenda of the government is to ensure human welfare. In fulfillment of this commitment, Bangladesh government has been continuing its efforts for improving the living standard of the poor by implementing a three-year plan entitle ‘National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction’ (NSAPR).

Human Development and Public Outlay for the Social Sector

Expenditure in social sector generates productive assets, both financial and physical, for the poor and this in turn helps them to get out of the vicious circle of poverty. Consistent with the declaration of the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) held in 1995 in Copenhagen, Bangladesh government has been allocating over 20 per cent of its total public outlay against the social sector for the last consecutive years. Education, training, and social development activities are the prime instruments of human resources development. The government lays increasingly more emphasis on investment in the social sector, especially on education and health areas as the basis for human development. For the last several years education sector has been receiving the highest budgetary allocation as the government attaches top most priority to this area.

Likewise, adequate provision has also been made for the health sector. By adopting pragmatic programmes and also by improving the indices of health and family welfare viz., reducing fertility rate, child and maternal mortality rates, containing the spread of contagious diseases including TB and AIDS, increasing average life expectancy at birth, etc. the government has been attempting to have a healthy and able population with a view to involving them in the mainstream development activities and generating momentum in poverty reduction programmes.

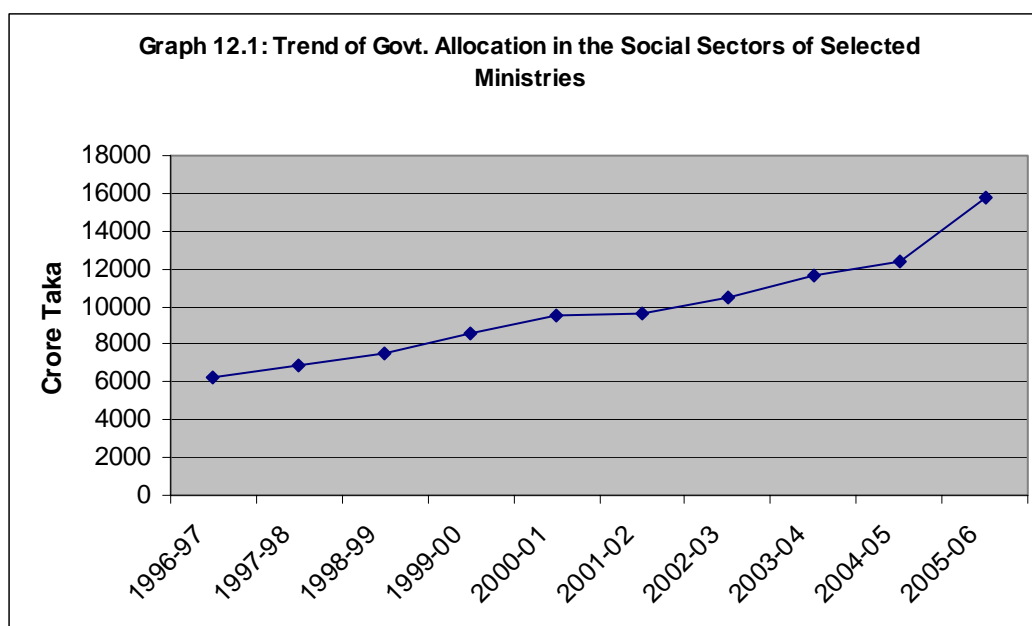
Table 12.1 shows the total allocation in non-development and development budget (ADP) in the social sector during FY 1996-97 through 2005-06. It is evident from the table that the total allocation for the social sector in non-development and development budgets shows a secularly increasing trend over the past decade.

Table 12.1: Allocation in the Social Sectors of Selected Ministries

(Figure in Crore Taka)

Sector	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
Education, Religious and Science & Technology	3961	4289	4850	5430	6079	6063	6736	4878	7381	9373
Health and Family Welfare	1834	1964	2080	2363	2627	2649	2797	3445	3175	4112
Youth, Sports and Culture	193	191	176	224	248	217	253	257	297	414
Labour and Manpower	33	37	38	46	54	133	70	56	90	106
Social Welfare, Women's Affairs, Liberation War Affairs	188	199	255	294	322	354	484	713	1152	1353
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	-	168	74	178	205	201	183	163	300	367
Total Allocation (Non-Dev & Dev.)	6210	6848	7473	8535	9535	9617	10523	11697	12395	15725

Sources: Finance Division, M/o Finance and Planning Commission, M/o Planning. Data are based on revised budgets.



Education Sector Development Programmes

Education is the fulcrum of all developmental efforts. This sector receives the highest budgetary allocation. Education is regarded as one of the effective instruments for human development, poverty alleviation, reduction of gender disparity and attaining socio-economic upliftment. With this end in view, Government continues its development activities by expanding education as well as ensuring its quality in different segments of education.

For ensuring poverty alleviation and human development, measures have been taken to improve the quality of education by creating desired opportunities at the levels of secondary, higher secondary, technical and tertiary education. The report submitted by the Education of Commission has been considered by the government and is under implementation in phases. Accordingly, reform measures have been taken to improve the quality of education. These measures include, among others, strengthening national institute for teachers' training, establishing non-government teachers' registration and certification agency, preparation and publication of textbooks and privatisation of distribution of textbooks, decentralisation of educational administration, etc. Among the measures taken for improving the quality of education, formation of an oversight committee at the district level, introduction of performance-based subvention and school-based assessment, etc. is worth mentioning.

Measures have been taken to ensure women's empowerment by expanding female education, increased participation of women in socio-economic development activities, exemption of tuition fees of female students up to Class XII. A double shift system has been introduced in polytechnic and technical schools and in colleges for expanding technical education. In tandem with awarding stipends to female students, financial support is being provided for purchase of books and also for payment of examination fees required to appear at public examinations. Moreover, meritorious students are being awarded with general and merit scholarships and vocational technical education

scholarships. In order to improve the environment of education, new buildings for schools, colleges, madrasahs, universities and technical institutes have been constructed. Also, renovation and repair works are being carried out in the existing infrastructures. Programmes of supplying furniture, science equipment and books to the educational institutions has been continuing. Programme of computer distribution for expanding information technology in educational institutions has been strengthened.

With the ever-increasing population during the post-liberation period in Bangladesh, demand for admission into higher education has increased five-fold. To meet this rising demand, the Private University Act 1992 was enacted permitting establishment of private universities along with expanding capacity and facilities in public universities. This initiative has resulted in the creation of 54 private universities in the country. On the other hand, with the upgradation of 4 BITs (Bangladesh Institute of Technology) into science and technology universities, the number of public universities has been raised to 22. As a long term strategic plan for higher education, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the World Bank has prepared 'Higher Education Strategic Planning 2005-2025'.

Primary Education

In conformity with the goals of the human resource development and poverty alleviation, government has accorded highest priority to education especially in Primary and Mass Education. In line with the fundamental principles of the Constitution, the Primary Education (compulsory) Act 1990 was enacted to ensure Universal Primary Education. A programme for compulsory primary education was launched all over the country in 1993. To ensure Universal Primary Education by 2015, government has undertaken various measures in the line with Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Government has given highest budgetary allocation of Tk. 8534.22 crore for the education sector of which 45 percent has been allocated for the Primary and Mass Education in FY 2005-06.

In 1991, the total number of primary schools in Bangladesh was 49,539. Presently number of primary school stands at 80,401 including Ebtedaye Madrasahs. The net enrolment rate has increased from 80 percent in 2003 to 87.24 percent (Baseline Survey March 2005) in 2005. Teachers students ratio is 1:54 (Baseline Survey, March 2005). Gender parity in enrolment has already been achieved. Net enrolment rate of girl students is higher (98.41%) than the boy students (89.34%). The rate of recruitment of female teachers is also increasing following the provision made in the relevant recruitment rules to recruit 60 percent female teachers in Government Primary School. The current ratio of female-male teachers in Government Primary Schools is 44:56. The rate of recruiting female teachers has increased to 44 percent from 21.09 percent in 1991. Literacy rate (7yr +) has reached to 63 percent. However, quality of education and high drop out rate are challenges to achieve the goal of ensuring universal primary education.

To achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG), emphasis is laid on gender parity, enhancement of enrolment rate, improvement in quality, and management of education for overall development of primary education. This has resulted in remarkable success in primary education. The following Table shows 12.2 year-wise (from 1994-2004) enrolment rate in primary schools:

Table 12.2: Enrolment of Students at Primary Level, 1994-2004

(Fig. in lakh & percent in parenthesis)

Year	Total Student	Male student	Female student
1994	151.80	80.48 (53.0)	71.33 (47.0)
1995	172.80	90.94 (52.6)	81.90 (47.4)
1996	175.80	92.19 (52.4)	83.61 (47.6)
1997	180.32	93.65 (51.9)	86.67 (48.1)
1998	183.61	95.77 (52.2)	87.84 (47.8)
1999	176.22	90.65 (51.4)	85.57 (48.6)
2000	176.68	90.33 (51.1)	86.69 (48.9)
2001	176.59	89.90 (51.0)	86.69 (49.0)
2002	175.62	88.42 (50.3)	87.20 (49.7)
*2003-04	184.30	93.59 (50.8)	90.72 (49.2)
*2004	179.53	90.47 (50.4)	89.06 (49.6)

Source: 1) Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (Child Education & Literacy Survey 2002)

*2) Statistical database, DPE 2004.

Note: Corresponding figures include Ebtedaya Madrasha students.

Primary Education Extension and Quality Improvement Programmes

In terms of access, primary education is challenged by constraints such as insufficient number of schools within reasonable distance; poverty of families and academic performance of the students. To address these problems, the government has been implementing "Second Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-11)" (2003-2009) at a total cost of Tk. 4933.08 crore with the support of development partners. This programme has given emphasis on ensuring access of all children to school, create children- friendly environment, improve the quality of primary education, reduce dropout rate and increase completion of primary education cycle. Under this programme, 35,000 Assistant teachers, 1000 Assistant Upazila Education Officers, 128 computer operators, 216 PTI instructors and 397 instructors for 397 Upazila Resource Centers and 397 Assistant Upazila Education Officers will be recruited.

Improvement of physical facilities of schools, plays an important role in ensuring quality education. Under PEDP-11, programmes for construction of 30,000 classrooms, 15,000 additional toilets (for female teachers), installation of additional 15,000 tube wells, repair and expansion of 460 Upazila

offices, renovation of 53 PTIs, construction and extension of academic building, construction of hostels, extension and renovation of National Academy for Primary Education have been undertaken. About 14,000 classrooms have already been constructed and required numbers of Assistant Teachers have been recruited. By this time, furniture according requirement have been supplied to the schools. About 6 crore 50 lakhs textbooks have been distributed timely throughout the country.

Moreover, quality improvement measures in primary education have been taken through a revision of curriculum and textbooks; establishment of Upazila Resource Center and introduction of in-service training for teachers. Training of Head teachers and Upazila Primary education staff in management and academic supervision has been introduced.

In order to enhance skills and to ensure dynamism in the field of primary education, extensive training programmes are being implemented for teachers, Assistant Upazila Education Officers, Upazila Education Officers, District Primary Education Officers and Education Administrators. One year C-in-Ed course is offered to newly recruited teachers, non-trained teachers of registered non-government primary schools through 54 PTIs. Every year about 18,000 teachers receive this training. The members of school management committee are also given training regarding the technique of improving the standard of education and to make them aware of their responsibilities. For improvement of education and development of professional skills officers are being trained at home and abroad.

Furthermore, incentives for all children to attend primary school have been introduced through distribution of free textbooks. The 'Primary Education Stipend Project' aims to cover 40 percent of the students from poor families. From July 2006, students of high school attached primary schools are going to get the same benefit through this project. About 5.55 million students of primary schools and Ebtedaye Madrasah (non attached) are being benefited from this project. The project is entirely funded from GoB's own resource (TK. 3312.31 crore).

To address the issue of drop out, a project named 'Reaching-out-of School Children (ROSC)' has been undertaken. Under the project, learning centers will be established in backward areas where enrolment rate is low and dropout rate is very high because of extreme poverty. This project has been implementing in 60 Upazilas from July 2004 and to be completed in June 2010 at a cost of Tk. 390.72 crore. Under this project, 5 lakh deprived and out of school children will get primary education.

To increase enrolment by reducing hunger a targeted approach named 'School Feeding Programme' has been introduced in *monga* areas such as Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Panchagarh with the support of World Food Programme (WFP) since 2003. The next phase is likely to continue up to 2010 under the new country programme (2007-2010) of WFP.

To impart access to education for all children, the government has taken two new projects to reconstruct, renovate and develop dilapidated government primary schools and to supply furniture to those schools; making provision for construction of sanitary latrines and sinking of tube wells for those primary schools, which do not have such facilities. To ensure availability of arsenic free pure

drinking water, 1 (one) tube well will be installed in each school. About 5000 government primary schools and 600 registered non-government primary schools will be constructed under GoB financing during the period of July 2006 to 30 June 2011.

To conduct non-formal education side by side with the formal education, the Bureau of Non-formal Education was set up on 17 April 2005. The government approved the Non-formal Policy Framework in January 2006 to make the non-formal education successful. The salient features of the policy are:

- Ensure education for all through non-formal education;
- Help 3.3 million neo-literates upgrade their life style by engaging them in income generating activities and to make them enlightened and productive citizens;
- Provide vocational training to urban working children side by side with basic education
- Strengthen the national structure on non-formal education;
- Undertake and implement human resource development projects;

To address the problem of child labour and their education, a basic education project for "hard-to-reach urban children" has been undertaken to benefit 2,00,000 urban working children and adolescents of the age group of 10 to 14 years of which at least 60 percent will be girls. Among them 20,000 adolescents (13 + age group) will receive with livelihood skills training and have access to support systems to ensure optimal use of life-skills-based basic education to improve their quality of life.

Post Primary Education

The Ministry of Education deals with post primary education like secondary, higher secondary, technical, madrasah, and tertiary education. According to the statistics published by Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) of the Ministry of Education, currently (2006) there are 19,766 secondary schools, 1302 general colleges, 9051 madrasah, 117 polytechnic institutes, 64 vocational training institutes, 22 public universities, 54 private universities and a variety of other educational institutions in Bangladesh. According to provisional data published in 2006, there are 80,81,956 students at lower secondary and secondary levels, 10,07,241 at college level and 29,45,824 students at madrasah level.

In FY 2005-06, RADP provides an allocation of TK. 1060.38 crore for 76 projects (including 24 TA projects) under the Ministry of Education against which the total expenditure stand at Tk. 947.36 crore which is 89 percent of the allocation. To empower women and enhance their socio-economic status through expansion of female education, the government has waived tuition fees of female stipend-holders up to twelfth grade. Also, the government has awarded stipends amounting to Tk.200 crore to 25 lakh female students through 4 projects in FY 2005-06. Besides, a total number of 39.0 lakh and 25.0 lakh female students during FY 2003-04 and 2004-05 enjoyed stipends under these projects. Currently, the ratio of male to female students in the secondary level is 47:53.

To enhance the quality of secondary education, a project titled 'Teaching Quality Improvement' at a cost of Tk. 630 crore has been undertaken with the assistance from ADB. This project involving teachers' training is expected to contribute significantly in raising the quality of education at the secondary level. Construction work of 56 district education complexes and 8 zonal education complexes under the 'Secondary Education Sector Improvement project (SESIP)' throughout the country has been completed. Several reform measures intended to uplift the standard of education have been undertaken under the said project. Furthermore, preparation of a study paper to expand the SESIP Phase-2, in continuation of the reform measures is underway.

Health and Family Welfare Programmes

Access to healthcare facilities is a fundamental right of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution. Accordingly, the government has identified the health sector as a priority sector. Development of human resources depends on an improved healthcare system. The country has made remarkable progress in this sector. Fertility rate and infant & maternal mortality rates have declined while average life expectancy at birth increased.

Table 12.3 shows the progress achieved in selected health indices such as the population growth rate, infant and maternal mortality rates etc. from 1994 through 2003.

Table 12.3: Recent Trends in Demography and Health Indices

Indices	Levels	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Crude birth rate (Per'000)	National	27.0	26.5	25.6	21.0	19.9	19.2	19.0	18.9	20.1	20.9
	Urban	20.2	19.4	19.0	16.2	14.0	13.8	13.7	13.6	16.6	17.9
	Rural	29.1	28.5	27.8	24.5	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.7	21.0	21.7
Crude death rate (Per'000)	National	9.0	8.4	8.1	5.5	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.9
	Urban	7.1	6.7	6.5	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	4.7
	Rural	9.3	9.0	8.8	6.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.4	6.2
Average age (Yr) at marriage	Male	27.7	27.5	27.6	27.6	27.6	27.7	27.7	25.8	25.6	25.2
	Female	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.4	20.6	20.4
Doctor per population		4725	4866	4955	4915	4671	4439	4218	4043	4043	3532
Average life expectancy (year)	National	58.0	58.7	58.9	60.1	61.5*	62.7*	63.6*	64.2*	64.9	64.9
	Urban	60.0	60.9	61.2	62.3	63.2	64.2	65.3	66.4	67.2	67.6
	Rural	57.7	57.5	58.2	59.4	60.2	61.1	62.1	63.2	64.4	64.3
Infant ⁴ mortality rate (per000)	National	77	71	67	60	57	59	58	56	53	53
	Urban	57	53	50	49	47	46	44	43	37	40
	Rural	79	78	76	69	66	63	62	60	57	57
Child ⁵ mortality rate (per000)	National	12.1	12.0	11.6	8.2	6.3	5.7	4.2	4.1	4.6	4.6
Maternal ⁶ mortality rate(per 000)	National	4.5	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.9**	3.8
	Urban	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7**	2.7
	Rural	4.6	4.5	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.2**	4.0
Rate of use of contraceptives (%)		46.3	48.7	--	50.9	51.5	53.6	53.6	53.9	53.4	55.1
Fertility rate (per woman)		3.6	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Note: 4 Per thousand live birth
5 1-4 years age (Per thousand birth)
6 Per thousand birth

* Revised

** As per 10th revision of international classification of diseases.

The Government is committed to deliver healthcare services to the people at their doorsteps, while upgrading the quality of those services. It has undertaken various measures to fulfill the commitment. The Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSPP) 2003-06 is one of such measures. The main objective of the programme is to ensure sustainable development in health, nutrition and reproductive health, and family planning of the people, especially of women, children, elderly people, and the poor.

Under RADP of FY 2005-06, an allocation of Tk. 2047.15 crore has been made for implementation of 19 development projects including the above programme, which is Tk. 356.15 crore higher than allocation of the previous year. Against this Tk. 1778.75 crore has been spend which is 87 percent of the 2005-06 RADP allocation.

In order to implement long term HNP Strategic Investment Plan, Health, Nutrition & Population Programme Proposal (HNPPP) was prepared. The revised duration and estimated cost of this programme was 2003-2010 and Tk. 32450.30 crore (GoB contribution Tk. 21656.80 crore and aid from the World Bank Tk. 10793.50 crore) respectively.

Nutrition Programme

In view of the success of the Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP), designed to help mitigate the nutrition problem in the country, the Government has started implementing a new programme, called 'National Nutrition Programme' (NNP) at a cost of Tk. 640.97 crore (GoB: Tk. 70.35 crore and Project Aid : Tk. 570.62 crore) since FY 2000-04. To continue uninterrupted implementation of the programme, the activities of the NNP and the nutrition component of HNPP have been amalgamated.

NNP focuses on Area Based Community Nutrition intervention. The activities of the programme covers 105 upazila under 34 districts with about 28.6 millions of population under service coverage through 23,244 Community Nutrition Centers (CNC). The core services of NNP includes training, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities, birth weight recording and registration, growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) activities, food supplementation to the selected malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women, micro nutrient supplementation (Vita-A and Iron-folate) and adolescent forum and services. The activities include establishment of village nursery, and homestead nutrition gardens, poultry rearing for nutrition, food assistance, development support and nutrition services through vulnerable group programme.

Under National Nutrition Programme, 23,244 Community Nutrition Promoters (CNP) and 2,483 Community Nutrition Organisers (CNO) are involved. Besides, as many as 2,50,000 women group members have received training on supplementary food preparation and allied services. This will eventually lead to income generation, women empowerment, poverty reduction and finally improved the nutrition situation of children and women.

These sectoral programmes have been formulated in the light of health related goals in the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP), which will help alleviate poverty and achieve MDGs. Also, these are expected to ensure good health of the populace, which would contribute to economic development significantly.

Health Service

The scope of health service delivery would expand, and demand for health services could be met once the needed infrastructure development works in the healthcare system are completed. Government has been expanding the scope of health service delivery in view of actual demand. At Bogra, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College along with a 500- bed hospital is under construction. Also, works to upgrade Comilla Medical College Hospital from 250 to 500 beds, Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from 650 to 1000 beds, Tangail and Pabna district hospital from 100 to 250 beds, National Eye Institute and Hospital from 100 to 250 beds, National Cancer Institute from 50 to 300 beds are in progress. Besides, construction of a National Institute of Neuroscience at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, a 500-bed Medical College Hospital at Dinajpur, 5 new Nursing Institutes and a Nursing College at Bogra is underway. Construction of a teaching morgue at Chittagong Medical College has been completed. The Panchagarh Nursing Institute Project is being implemented. Construction work of several trauma centers, one at Bhaluka in the district of Mymensingh, one at Sirajgonj, one near Faridpur Medical College Hospital and one at Feni have already been completed. Another trauma center at Daudkandi is under construction. A 50-bed “burn-unit” has been built in Dhaka Medical College Hospital yard, and it is being expanded to 100 beds. “National Asthma Center (2nd phase)” at Mohakhali, Dhaka is also now complete.

Government has undertaken works to increase the number of beds in each of the Upazila Health Complexes from 31 to 50, in view of the demand for health services of about 75 percent of the country’s population in rural areas. Work to add to the number of beds has already been completed in 98 upazilas. Furthermore, the number of beds in 34 district hospitals has been raised from 50 to 100, and in MCHTI at Azimpur (Dhaka) 73 beds have been added to existing 100 beds. Besides, the number of beds has been raised from 100 to 250 in 7 district hospitals.

Once these development works are implemented, people will better reap the benefits of health services. Maternal and infant mortality rates will further decline when health services produced by specialists are delivered, upon having added the beds to all hospitals. During the last four years among the government hospitals, 875 beds in 18 district hospitals, 1862 beds in 98 upazila hospitals, 2912 in specialized and other medical college hospitals have been added to the existing ones. Total number of beds in government hospitals now stands at 49669. Besides, during the last fiscal year government recruited about 6500 doctors. During the tenure of the government, the number of student seats of 13 medical colleges have been raised to 2040 from 590. In order to enhance the quality of medical services, postgraduate medical courses in different areas have been started in 8 old medical colleges. Also, to bring control over use, sale/purchase, production and advertisement of tobacco products and smoking, government has enacted a law in 2005.

Private Health Sector

Private sector participation in the health and medical services are gradually increasing. Government is offering different incentives including sanction of grants money to the private sector. Presently, 26 registered private Medical Colleges, 7 Dental Colleges, 1160 private Hospitals and 1454 Clinics are operating with 17,265 beds. Along with these facilities, a good number of quality Diagnostic Centers, Heart Foundations and Cancer Hospitals are contributing to this sector. The contributions

of NGOs in providing health services are also remarkable. Large number of NGOs are involved in implementing HIV/AIDS and nutrition programmes under health, nutrition and population programmes.

Population and Development

Bangladesh is the one of the most populous country in the world having about 138.8 million (BBS projection) population in 2006. According to the Population Census 2001, the density of population per square kilometer was 839 which is now 941. The growth rate of population is now 1.43% (SVRS '03), compared to 2.18 per cent back in 1991. Though the growth rate relatively speaking, is on the decline but the growing number of total population is creating enormous pressure on this small landscape. Therefore, to be able to achieve MDGs, there is no alternative to population control and human development.

Population Control

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in family planning, and maternal and child health programmes in controlling population growth. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has climbed to 58.1 per cent in 2004 from 8 per cent in 1975. Secular increase in CPR has contributed greatly to the reduction of total fertility rate (TFR). TFR per woman has decreased to 2.57 in 2003 from 5.0 in 1981 (SVRS 2003, BBS). With that the growth rate of population declined from 2.3 per cent to 1.43 per cent in 2003. Infant mortality rate (per thousand live birth) of 111 came down to 53.27 in 2003. According to the BBS data, average life expectancy has reached 64.9 years in 2003 from 54.8 years in 1981.

In order to protect from the curse of excessive population growth and in the interest of sustainable development, government, in the light of MDG, has formulated the Bangladesh Population Policy 2004. In this policy priorities have been given to HNPS 2003-10, poverty, mother and child health care. Work to upgrade the quality of instruments and other accessories in 1,500 health and family welfare centers, to provide safe motherhood service and emergency maternal care, clinical contraception, neo-natal and adolescent services, etc. is in progress. So far, 3575 health and family welfare centers have been built in 4,470 unions of the country. The total number of Upazila health complex in 2005-06 are 413 including 7 under-construction upazila health complex. Mobile clinics have been organised to include mates to participate in adopting family planning device, and to popularise male vasectomy. Sixty eight Mother and Child Welfare Centers (MCWC) and Mother and Child Health Training Institute (MCHTC) at Azimpur, Dhaka are providing emergency obstetrical care. Some of other major activities implemented by the government are as follows:

- Training of 500 Family Welfare Visitors (FWV) have been completed and another 75 FWVs are receiving training.
- Training on CSBS of 1500 Family Welfare Assistants and Family Health Assistants have been completed and another 500 are receiving training.
- Service delivery on maternal and child health, reproductive health and family planning are being currently rendering through MCH-FP of 402 Upazila Health

Complexes, 3575 Union Health & Family Welfare Centres (UHFWC) and about 30,000 Satellite Clinics in each month throughout the country.

- In the mean time, in order to register all necessary information of the patient, 'Client Data Recording System (CDRS)' has been established in 57 MCH Centres throughout the country.
- Training on treatment of the victims of violence against women, youth friendly service, male service, reproductive infection, post abortion services, prevention of infection and HIV/AIDS etc. have been completed for Doctors and FWVs.

Two hundred fifty (250) computers with necessary accessories have been procured in order to replace and install those at district and upazila level respectively. Supply management has been more activated through documentation of information and report preparation of central and regional warehouses by using the modern computer technology. Web site has also been opened.

Nursing

A separate Nursing Directorate under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was established in 1977 for management and overall development of nursing in Bangladesh. Areas of responsibilities of the Nursing Directorate have been expanded substantially since then.

Currently, there are as many as 22,000 nurses registered with the Bangladesh Nursing Council. Of them, 14,689 professional nurses serve government under the Nursing Directorate, while 1,000 nurses work outside Bangladesh. Also, about 5,000 nurses work for the private sector. There are 38 Government Nursing Institutes under the Nursing Directorate. Besides, there are 8 private Nursing Institutes and one 'Armed Force Nursing Institute' in the country. All government and non-government nursing institutes are accredited by Bangladesh Nursing Council. These institutes award '3-years Diploma in Nursing' and '1-year Diploma in Mid-wifery'. Upon successful completion of the course(s), candidates need to be registered with Bangladesh Nursing Council.

Ensuring a quality health care service, to be comparable with the international standard, would call for a doctor to nurse ratio of 1:3. This ratio is 2:1 in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh there are only 22,000 nurses against 42,010 doctors. Therefore, the number of nurses needs to be increased. Government has a plan to raise the number of registered nurses from 22,000 to 30,000 during the period from 2003-2010 to augment the quality of healthcare service.

Pharmaceutical Industry

In spite of being one of the least developed countries of South Asia, Bangladesh has made admirable advancement in pharmaceutical industry. Almost all necessary drugs (96%) except for a few requiring very highly sophisticated technology are now locally produced. Altogether 239 drug companies turn out about 14787 types of branded drugs and various essential ingredients for drugs of worth Tk. 4,700 crore every year. Besides, legally recognised herbal (Ayurvedic/Yunani) medicines of the east, western homeopathic, and biochemical medicines also contribute to healthcare system significantly. Advancement in 'Good Manufacturing Practices' (GMP) in the pharmaceutical industry has resulted in the production of international quality drugs in Bangladesh, and as many as 182 types of drugs and related raw materials produced in Bangladesh are now being

exported to about 67 countries of the world including UK and USA. This has turned Bangladesh into a drug-exporter country from the position of a drug importer country. Total export of drugs and related raw materials to 17 countries was worth Tk. 32.28 crore in 2001, the amount and the number of countries stood up to Tk. 155.76 crore and 67 countries respectively by June, 2005.

Introduction of the Revised National Drug Policy

Commensurate with the changed circumstances under the WTO/TRIPS in the global socio-economic order, to modernise, expand and attract foreign investment in the pharmaceutical industry, the present government has reformulated the National Drug Policy 1982 by bringing timely and more credible changes, and has introduced the National Drug Policy 2005. Implementation of the National Drug Policy 2005 is expected to better protect consumer rights, help expand this growing export-oriented industry, and attract more domestic and foreign investment and meet the global open market challenges.

Women and Children Development

Approximately 50 percent of the total populations of the country are women. The overall development of the nation is not possible keeping them outside the mainstream. With this end in view, numerous programs have been undertaken by both government and non-government entities in order to eliminate the disparity between women and men.

Work to build up skilled women human resource and ensure active participation of women in national development activities through empowerment of women under the government formulated policy for the development of women is underway. The National Policy for Children has been formulated by the Government in 1994 to protect children's interests and rights, for the welfare of children. The decade of 2001-10 has been declared as 'Children Rights Decade' to generate consciousness about children's rights.

The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs is playing a pioneering role in the development of women and children's position in the society. Various development projects and programs are being implemented by the agencies of the Ministry, namely the Department of Women's Affairs in 64 districts and 412 upazilas (sub-districts), National Women's Organisation (Jatiya Mahila Sangstha) in 84 upazilas, and Bangladesh Shishu (Children) Academy in 6 upazilas.

Allocation for 30 projects under this Ministry in the RADP of FY 2005-06 was Tk. 83.83 crore and the expenditure was 91 percent of the allocation.

Social Welfare Activities

Overall development of the distressed, poor, helpless and backward segment of the population is an important indicator of socio-economic advancement of the country. The present government has laid significant emphasis on this area. Education, training and rehabilitation work for a large number of disabled people is in progress through the initiatives of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Besides, this Ministry has been conducting various social development activities throughout the country including activities for elimination of juvenile delinquency, rehabilitation of physically impaired girls, upbringing and rehabilitation of orphans with education and training, rearing

abandoned and unclaimed new-born babies, rehabilitation of vagrants, construction of shelters for the homeless, etc.

These activities are broadly classified under: development of social integration and poverty alleviation programmes; environment and forest, and social safety net programmes; and human resources development programmes.

a. Development of Social Integration and Poverty Alleviation Programmes:

Poverty alleviation is one of the key elements of social integration activities/programmes. The Directorate of Social Services has been administering rural social services (RSS) programmes, urban community development (UCD) programmes, poverty reduction programmes through rural maternity centers (RMC), and rehabilitation programmes for acid-burnt women and the physically handicapped across upazilas and towns of the country. New investments and reinvestments through a revolving fund were made under these 4 programmes to alleviate poverty. Though the original investment these programmes amounted to Tk. 219.79 crore only, the accumulated investment up to December 2005, stood at Tk. 610.17 crore including reinvestments. Similarly, cumulative collection stood at Tk. 555.25 crore, which means a recovery rate of 91 per cent. A total of 26,69,512 families were benefited from these loan programmes. The number of beneficiaries from vocational training was 22,80,784 individuals. Beneficiaries of social programmes numbered 31,87,245 individuals. A total of 16,50,275 individuals received literacy training; 17,77,265 persons were trained in primary healthcare knowledge; and 22,71,154 persons were motivated to have a of small family.

b. Environment and Forest:

The Department of Social Services has distributed 9,41,834 seedlings through Rural Social Services (RSS) programmes in all upazilas and urban areas of the country to advance the afforestation programmes. Since 1981, the social forestry programmes of the Forest Department has been creating tree wealth and improving environmental situation and also reducing poverty.

c. Social Safety-Net Programmes:

An old-age allowance scheme has been introduced under social safety-net programmes in consideration of the impecunious socio-economic condition of the distressed, deprived, and financial misery-afflicted elderly citizens of the country. The Scheme received an allocation of Tk. 324.0 crore during the FY 2005-06, supporting 15.0 lakh beneficiaries. The Ministry of Social Welfare administers a number of programmes for the physically handicapped. A total of amounting to Tk. 25.0 crore has been allocated in FY 2005-06 for distribution among 1.04 lakh disabled persons at the rate of Tk. 200 each.

d. Human Resources Development Programmes:

A rehabilitation, education and training programme is helping 9,600 orphans, grouped into 74 'child families'. During the fiscal year 2005-06, privately run but registered (with the government) orphanages received allowances for 35,416 orphans at the rate of Tk. 400 per month per child, costing the government Tk. 17 crore as 'capitation grant'. In addition, the Social Welfare Council allocated financial grant amounting to Tk. 6.22 crore to 60,422 registered voluntary agencies from 2004-05 to date.

e. Welfare and Service related programmes:

Under this category, programmes like Hospital/ Medical Social Service, Integrated Blind Education Programme, School for Visual and Hearing Impairment, Brailly Press, Plastic Goods Production Centre, Mineral Water Plant and Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre for the physically disabled are remarkable. Allocation for 10 projects under this Ministry in the RADP of 2005-06 was Tk. 55.04 crore and the expenditure was 92 percent of the allocation.

Youth and Sports

Youth: Involvement of the youth is essential for national development. In this context, the Department of Youth Development, right from the time of its inception in 1981, has imparted skill development training in different trades to as many as 26.89 lakh youths up to June 2006 under various completed and ongoing projects. Out of them, 14.80 lakh youths have engaged themselves in self-employment till June 2006. Since the inception of the credit scheme of the department, 6.92 lakh beneficiaries received credit facilities worth Tk. 679.38 crore (including the revolving fund), since the time of inception through June 2006. Self-employed youths earn, on average, Tk. 1,500 to Tk. 50,000 per month. Moreover, many youths, both male and female got jobs in government/non-government organisations and some found placement in various occupations abroad, including in the Middle East.

To accelerate the youth employment the Ministry of Youth and Sports to lease out *Khas* land and water bodies up to 20 acres amongst the youth cooperative societies that are registered with the Department of Youth Development. In accordance with the set policies, *khas* water bodies are being leased out to youth cooperative societies through the committees at district/upazila levels. Up to June 2006, a total of 11,950 ponds and tanks have been leased out to youth cooperative societies to generate youth employment. A sum of Tk. 24.54 crore received from the leases has been deposited in the government treasury.

The Department of Youth Development has been working for the advancement and expansion of Information Technology (IT). Educated youths are being provided training on computer basic course and graphic design skills, including Internet and networking all over the country through 70 centres. A total of 64,407 youths have received such training till June 2006.

A 'National Youth Centre' has been established to associate members of the public with the national development process, develop socio-economic conditions and human qualities, and advance social reforms by arranging conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, research works, publications and training at national and international levels. The centre is mainly responsible for developing human resources, dissemination of information and carrying out research activities. Till June 2006 a total of 8,137 youths have been trained through this centre.

In the FY 2005-06 an amount of Tk. 4.62 lakh has been sanctioned to 66 youth organisations as grant. Under the micro credit programme, up to June 2006 Tk. 679.67 crore has been disbursed and Tk. 563.59 crore has been recovered. The average rate of loan recovery is 83%.

Sports

In spite of resource constraints, government has undertaken and implemented various development projects and allocated funds for building and expanding sports facilities throughout the country by the National Sports Council, BKSP and Directorate of Sports. During FY 2005-06, Tk. 112.08 crore has been spent in 18 projects out of a total allocation of Tk. 112.41 crore which is 99.7 percent of the total allocation of RADP.

Cultural Development

Cultural progress and human development are closely linked to each other in any society. The stage of cultural development influences the course of progress of the society.

To build up infrastructure for cultural development in Bangladesh, in line with the course of cultural progress in the world context Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangla Academy, National Museum, Department of Archaeology, Department of Public Libraries, Department of National Archives and Library, Nazrul Institute, Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation, Copyright Office, Cox's Bazaar Cultural Center, and Tribal Cultural Institutes in Rangamati, Bandarban and Birishiri, etc. are engaged in promoting cultural development under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Already Bangladesh culture has taken a foothold on the world stage. Bangladesh has signed cultural pacts with 39 countries of the world to augment the level of mutual friendship and understanding. Many exchange visits of cultural teams, students, academicians, scholars, cultural personalities are taking place under cultural exchange programmes. Performance and exhibition programmes of music, dance, paint works, handicrafts and books have been organised since the present Government's assumption of office. Efforts to develop fine arts, including music, dance, etc. through establishing Shilpakala Academy in phases at all districts of the country is in progress.

The National Theatre Bhavan with 750-seat theatre hall and a 300-seat Experimental Hall have been built in the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at Segunbagicha, Dhaka with the objective of promoting drama, music and dance. Construction work of National Music Dance Centre and National Art Gallery Bhavan are also about to be completed. Also, Tribal Cultural Institutes at Khagrachari, Moulavibazaar and Rajshahi, Lalan Academy in Kushtia have been completed. Bangla Academy has published many books promoting higher education, literature and folklores. Bangla Academy and National book Centre are jointly organising book fairs at national and regional levels. The Department of Public Libraries has been relentlessly working to establish public libraries at the central, divisional and district levels, and the National Book Centre has been making efforts to support development of public libraries established at private initiatives in remote areas of the country. The Department of Archaeology and the National Museum have been conducting various development works to restore and protect ancient architectural heritages associated with national glory and past history.

RADP of FY 2005-06, a sum of Tk. 38.36 crore has been allocated for 18 projects. These projects are being implemented through different offices/agencies of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Success in human development that Bangladesh has achieved has been duly reflected in the Human Development Report of 2004, 2005 and 2006 published by UNDP. Bangladesh has been able to place itself among the 'Medium Human Development' category of countries like India and Srilanka

for three consecutive years. Adoption of realistic programmes for human development and poverty alleviation, and their implementation has brought this success. In the report prepared for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) 2004 in the conference of the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Bangladesh has been credited to have already achieved two targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), i.e. in respect of removing inequality between men and women in education and providing for safe drinking water for the populace.

Bangladesh is also expected to be able to achieve the other MDGs, aimed at ensuring human welfare.

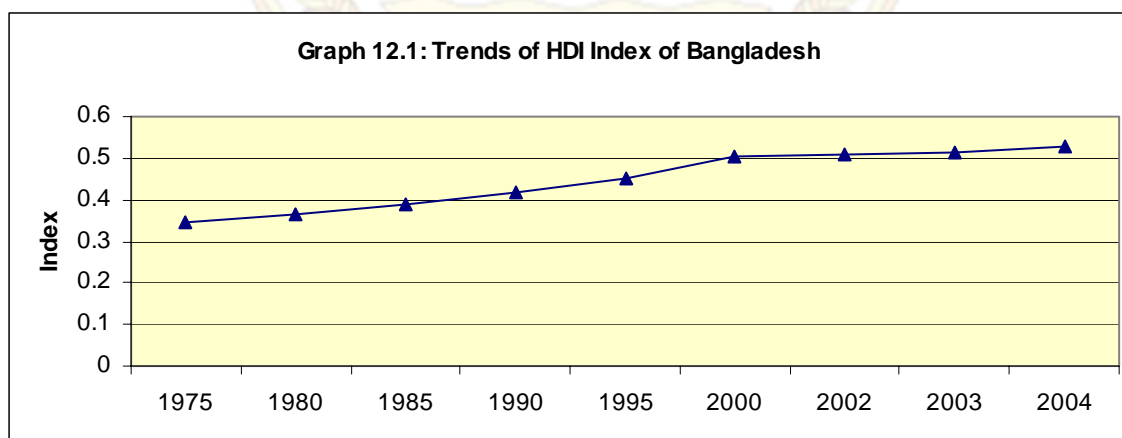
Set out below is a table that shows trends of Human Development Index (HDI) among SAARC countries:

Table-12.4: Trends of HDI among SAARC countries

Country	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2002	2003	2004
Bangladesh	0.345 (139)*	0.364 (139)	0.389 (139)	0.418 (139)	0.452 (139)	0.506 (139)	0.509 (138)	0.513 (139)	0.530 (137)
Bhutan	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.536 (134)	0.536 (134)	0.538 (135)
India	0.412 (127)	0.438 (127)	0.476 (127)	0.513 (127)	0.546 (127)	0.577 (127)	0.595 (127)	0.602 (127)	0.611 (126)
Maldives	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.752 (84)	0.745 (96)	0.739 (98)
Nepal	0.296 (136)	0.333 (136)	0.376 (136)	0.423 (136)	0.466 (136)	0.499 (136)	0.504 (148)	0.526 (136)	0.527 (138)
Pakistan	0.363 (135)	0.386 (135)	0.419 (135)	0.462 (135)	0.492 (135)	--	0.497 (142)	0.527 (135)	0.539 (134)
Sri Lanka	0.607 (93)	0.649 (93)	0.681 (93)	0.705 (93)	0.727 (93)	--	0.740 (96)	0.751 (93)	0.755 (93)

Source: Human Development Report 2005 & 2006, UNDP

* Figures in bracket () means HDI Ranks



It would be evident from the above table that most of the SAARC countries witnessed positive trends in human development over the last three decades. It is heartening to note that Bangladesh has further improved its position in HDI rank from 139 to 137 as well as increased HDI values consistently over the years as reported by various Human Development Reports published by UNDP.