

CHAPTER 12

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

[Human welfare and poverty alleviation have been considered as the focal world development agenda in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) declared by the United Nations. To implement this agenda, the Government of Bangladesh has taken many initiatives through various programmes to increase the standard of living of the poor and disadvantaged people. To achieve this goal the Government of Bangladesh is spending at the rate of more than 20 percent financial resources in the sectors related to human resource development such as - education and technology, health and family welfare, social welfare, women and children, youth and sports development, culture, labour and employment etc. Various programmes have been adopted including formulation of National Education Policy 2010 in order to build skilled and competent human resources through creating opportunities of enrolment in all levels of education including secondary, higher secondary, technical and higher education and by increasing the quality of education. The rate of female teachers has been increased from 21 percent in 1991 to current 64.2 percent by adopting the policy of appointing 60 percent female teachers in primary schools. In order to ensure education for all by 2015, special importance has been attached to school enrolment, pre-primary education, stipend and increased teacher-student contact hours. In terms of eradicating gender inequality in primary and secondary education through achieving balance between girls and boys, Bangladesh has been achieved second position in South Asia which is considered as a rare achievement among the low income countries. Remarkable development has been achieved in the health sector of the country because of the priority given by the Government to health, nutrition and population sector in the light of millennium development goals. Both fertility rate and death rate has reduced. Remarkable advancement has been made in terms of reducing neo-natal and mother's death including increased average life expectancy. The rate of malnutrition has also been reduced significantly. Steps have been taken to make these achievements sustainable through an integrated sector programme titled Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme (HPNSDP) to be implemented from July 2011 to June 2016. To educate women of the country and to develop them as efficient work force and also to ensure their active participation in the mainstream of national development activities, the Government has recently declared the National Women Development Policy 2011. In addition, the National Children Policy, 2011 has been adopted to ensure the welfare of children and to protect their interest and rights.]

Overall economic development of a country substantially hinges on human resource development. Human resource development is, therefore, considered as an integral part of world development agenda. Now in measuring the stage of development, human development is considered as an important yardstick. Regardless of the stage of development, people in any country must have the right to live a longer life, acquire necessary knowledge and access to

resources. If rights are ensured in all these areas, people may get the opportunity to live a long, healthy and decent life. An educated, trained and healthy population can play an important role in improving the quality of life, reducing poverty and attaining sustainable economic growth. The development agenda of the present Government, therefore, reflects its commitment to human welfare. In fulfillment of this commitment, Bangladesh Government is continuing its development efforts for improving the living standards of the underprivileged and the poor.

Public Outlay for Human Development

Expenditure on social sector helps generating productive assets (both financial and physical) for the poor, which in turn will help them to get rid of the vicious circle of poverty. Besides, the social sector does have the potentials for generating higher value addition to the economy through creation of increased opportunities for production, income and employment. Bangladesh Government has been spending over 20 percent of the total public outlay in the social sector. The Government considers health and education sector as foundation for human development. In the national budget, adequate allocation has been given for these two sectors. By adopting pragmatic programmes, the Government has been playing active role in improving the education and health and family planning indices; such as reducing gender discrimination in primary and secondary education, reducing fertility rate, child and maternal mortality rates; containing the spread of contagious diseases including TB and AIDS and increasing average life expectancy.

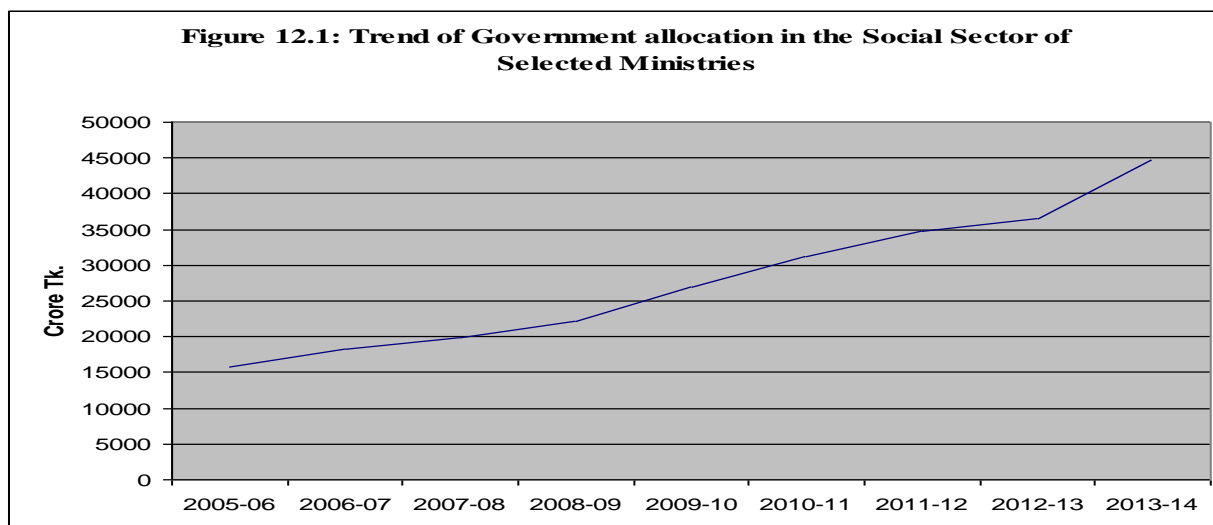
Table 12.1 and Figure 12.1 show the total allocation in development and non- development budget in the social sector during FY 2005-06 through 2013-14. It is evident from the statistics that the total allocation for the social sector in development and non- development budgets shows an increasing trend over the past decade.

Table 12.1: Allocation (Development and Non-Development) of Selected Ministries

(In Crore Taka)

Sector	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Education, Science & Technology	9373	11057	11654	12535	16171	18575	20316	21561	28272
Health and Family Welfare	4112	4957	5261	6196	6833	7617	8869	9130	9955
Youth, Sports and Culture	414	335	287	320	530	911	924	976	1061
Labour and Manpower	106	96	119	120	69	67	82	134	192
Social Welfare, Women's Affairs and Liberation War Affairs	1353	1468	2028	2396	2812	3499	3967	4091	4730
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	367	416	469	553	465	549	560	583	633
Total Allocation (Development and Non- Development)	15725	18329	19818	22120	26880	31218	34718	36475	44843

Sources: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning.



Importance of education, health and social welfare programmes in human resource development cannot be over emphasised. Sports and cultural development can also remarkably contribute to the process. Since majority of the population are women, children and youths, identifying problems and hurdles in those areas, and then taking appropriate measures can help turn them into human resources. This is why implementation of programmes under education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children affairs, social welfare, youth and sports, cultural affairs, labour and manpower sector is very important for human resource development.

Education and Technology

Education is the key to poverty alleviation and socio-economic development. An appropriate education structure and a proper education system play an important role in achieving desired goals of development. The Government has, therefore, approved the National Education Policy, 2010 as a step towards implementing a time befitting and state of art education system in the country which will help establish digital Bangladesh to realise the goals set out in Vision, 2021. The cardinal objective of policy is to foster humanity among the future citizens of the country and to build them as secular, creative, open-minded, rational, patient, free from superstition, respectful to own and other's religion, and patriotic members of the community at large, who will be able to lead the country towards inclusive development and progress.

Primary and Mass Education

The Government is committed to ensure education for all by 2015. This is why Government is giving high priority to primary education, and accordingly it has been making increased allocation of resources to this sector. Several programmes have been adopted by the Government to ensure education for all. These include: school enrolment, pre-primary education, stipend and increase of teacher-student contact time. Moreover, the Government has been implementing different projects and programmes including *the Stipend Programme*, the *Third Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-III)*, the *Reaching Out of School Children*

(ROSC)Project,the School Feeding Programme in the poverty prone-areas, the Basic Education for Hard-to-reach Urban Working Children Project (2nd Phase)and the Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development Projects-II. In 1991, the total number of primary schools in Bangladesh was 49,539. At present, the number stands at 1,06,858 (including the BRAC centre,child welfare and *madrasas*).There is an increasing trend in the enrolment of female students in primary schools. In 2000, the male-female ratio among students was 51.1:48.9. Currently, the ratio is about 49.9:50.1. Table 12.2 shows students' enrolment rate and percentage of male-female students at primary levels from 2000 to 2013.

Table 12.2: Male-Female Enrolment at Primary Level

(In lakh)

Year	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)
2000	176.68	90.33 (51.1)	86.35 (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	184.31	93.59 (50.8)	90.72 (49.2)
2004	179.53	90.47 (50.4)	89.06 (49.6)
2005	162.25	80.91 (49.87)	81.34 (50.13)
2006	163.86	81.29 (49.62)	82.56 (50.38)
2007	163.13	80.35 (49.26)	82.78 (50.74)
2008	167.49	83.25 (49.70)	84.24 (50.30)
2009	165.39	82.41 (49.83)	82.98 (50.17)
2010	169.58	83.95 (49.50)	85.63 (50.50)
2011	184.32	91.39 (49.60)	92.93 (50.40)
2012	190.03	94.63 (49.80)	95.40 (50.20)
2013	195.85	97.81 (49.94)	98.04 (50.06)

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Important Activities in primary Education Sub-Sector

- 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, a 60:40 ratio of female to male is followed. The current ratio of female and male teachers is 64.2: 35.8 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 in phases.
- To improve the living standards of 33 lakh neo-literates of the country, they are being given various income generating training, based on local market demand.
- 1.66 lakh working children aged between 10-14 years in the six divisional cities are being given basic education and life-skill based practical training.
- A terminal examination is being held in grade five country-wide since 2009 using the unique question paper.
- A project named *English in Action* has been implemented at the primary school level for improving the quality of education in English.
- The number of stipend beneficiaries has increased from 48 lakh to 78 lakh following the coverage expanded well- beyond the existing coverage of 40 percent. School feeding programme in poverty- prone areas, introduction of pre-primary education, establishing learning centre in *char*, *haor-baor* areas and bringing all the *upazilas* of the country under basic education are under process.
- To increase enrolment rate and to retain student at school, school feeding programme has been introduced. 75 gram fortified biscuits are being distributed to all students on every school day among 30 lakh students in 84 *upazilas*.
- To bringing all the *upazilas* of the country under the basic literacy, *Basic Literacy Project* (64 districts) has been approved.
- Under *PEDP-III*, implementation of ‘second chance education’ programme is under process to offer the primary education to out of school and dropped out 7-14 year aged 4.5 lakhs deprived children.
- 26,193 registered non-government primary schools have been nationalised and absorption of working teachers in government service according to the service rules has been completed.

Physical Infrastructure Facilities at Primary School Level

Qualitative development of primary education largely depends on infrastructure. In FY 2013-14, reconstruction of 500 government primary schools was completed; reconstructions of another 203 government primary schools are in progress. Under *PEDP-III*, reconstruction of 833 government primary schools was completed; constructions of 5,844 additional class rooms and major repairs of 296 government primary schools are completed. Furthermore, 8,632 deep/shallow tube-wells and 5,710 wash blocks are completed. Establishment of 12 PTI in selected 12 districts head quarters having no PTI are in progress. Establishment of 1,500 primary schools in the village without school is also in progress.

Terminal Examination and Scholarship

Terminal examination in Grade V and *Ebtedayee Madrasas* is being held using a unique question paper throughout the country. A total of 25.19 lakh candidates appeared in the examination in 2013 and the passing rate was 98.58 percent. Total candidates from *Ebtedayee Madrasas* in

terminal examination were about 2.74 lakh and the passing rate was 95.80 percent. As many as 22 thousand talent pool and 32 thousand general scholarships have been awarded among the students on the basis of the result of the terminal examination without taking any separate scholarship examination like previous years. 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 *ShishuKallyan* Trust (SKT) schools so that they can continue their education.

Stipend Project for Primary School Students

Many of the children leave school without completing the five-year primary education cycle. Parents of poor families are used to engaging their children in various works instead of sending them to school. To overcome this problem, the *Primary Education Stipend Project (2nd phase)* for 2008-2015 has been implemented at an estimated cost of Tk.5,687.26crore, entirely funded by the Government of Bangladesh. At present, the number of stipend beneficiaries has increased to 78.17 lakh following the coverage expanded well- beyond the existing coverage of 40 percent. Under the guidelines of the project, a poor family receives a stipend of Tk.100 per month for sending one child to the school and Tk.125 per month for sending more than one child.

Free Book Distribution

The Government has been distributing books free of cost among the students of the primary schools every year at the beginning of academic session. Highest effort has been taken to distribute the books among the students at the beginning of the year. From the year 2010, 100 percent new books were distributed at free of cost to the students. 10.78 crore and 11.60 crore books were distributed in the academic year 2013 and 2014 respectively. The book distribution programme will be continued.

Teacher Recruitment

With a view to ensuring quality primary education, the programme of teacher recruitment against the vacant posts and creating posts in government primary schools is in progress. To increase the participation of women in primary education, 60 percent of the posts of teachers have been reserved for female candidates. As a result, the percentage of female teachers in the government primary schools has reached approximately 64.2 percent. 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 second phase, another 7,500 assistant teacher recruitment is about to finish. Furthermore, recruitment of 3,335 teachers including 667 head teacher for newly created posts for the newly constructed 667 schools in unschooled areas is under process.

Programme for Out-of-School and Working Children

To provide primary education to the out-of-school children, drop-outs and the working children of the city areas, the Government has taken up various projects like- *Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) project* and *Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children*

Project (2nd phase) etc. The *Reaching out-of-school children (ROSC)* project is being implemented with an estimated cost of Tk. 1,140.25 crore over 148 selected *upazilas* of the country, to include the out-of-school children and drop-outs in the primary education system. Under this project, as many as 7.15 lakh deprived children will get the opportunity of receiving primary education from approximately 21 thousand learning centres. The *Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children Project (2nd phase)* is running with the financial assistance of UNICEF with an estimated cost of Tk.303.61 crore. The target group of the project is the working children and adolescents of six divisional cities of the country. Basic education programme is being implemented to cover 1.66 lakh learners through its 6,646 learning centres in four phases. Besides, the life skill training is being imparted to one thousand learners.

Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

A lot of activities has been taken to ensure quality education through development of infrastructure and implementation of proper education system. These activities include: stipended programme, free book distribution, free female education up to graduate level, infrastructure development throughout the country, develop new curriculum, performance based continuous evaluation, introduction of online activities and digitalisation of education system, create opportunity for research, establishment of new public and private university etc. A piece of legislation called the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Act, 2012 to provide assistance and stipend to students up to graduate level has been enacted. The Government has allocated Tk.1,000 crore as seed money to make the fund operational. More emphasis has been given on improving rural educational institutions to reduce rural-urban divide. Initiative has been taken for infrastructure development of 5,540 secondary school, 1,500 colleges and 70 post graduate college. Meanwhile, construction of new buildings in 2,679 secondary schools and 193 *madrasas* has been completed. Construction of new building in 828 secondary school, 355 *madrasas* and 581 College is underway. Under the project titled 'Establishment of 11 Secondary Schools and 6 Colleges in Dhaka', academic programmes have already been started in 4 schools while the establishment of the rest is on way. Many important activities like modernisation of curriculum, teachers' training and reforms in the assessment and examination system are being initiated under these projects. Decentralisation of education administration, school based assessment; performance based incentive for the teachers, students and institutions has been introduced under World Bank assisted *Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP)*. IT based model school and *madrasa* are being established under *Secondary Education Sector Development Project (SESDP)*. IT based mobile van has been introduced in backward and remote schools. The Government is revising curriculum of primary and secondary education in line with the present demand and linking it with the job opportunity. The revised curriculum includes among others authentic history of the liberation war for the new generation, environment protection, and women empowerment and information technology.

Technical Education

It is possible to turn the youths of Bangladesh into productive and skilled manpower through expansion of technical education. For this reason, the vocational courses have been introduced in secondary and higher secondary level education including *madrasas*. Consistent with the national and international labour market demand trade courses for young members of non-affluent families have been included in the technical education curriculum. Beside this, skills certificate is ongoing on different trade. There are 194 polytechnic institutes in the country. There is a plan to establish 10 polytechnic institutes in remaining districts having no polytechnic institute and 2 women polytechnic institutes in Barisal and Sylhet divisional headquarters. To expand technical and vocational education, the Government is going to set up one technical school in each *upazila*. 11 modern language training institutes have been set up in six divisions of Bangladesh to teach English, Arabic, Korean and Malay languages for foreign going doctors, nurses and job seeking unemployed youths of Bangladesh. Erstwhile Dhaka Textile College has been transformed into Bangladesh Textile University to cater the needs of skilled manpower in the booming garments sector. 'National Skill Development Policy 2011' has been framed to transform huge population of Bangladesh into an asset. About 96,229 students of 93 government and non-government polytechnic institute has received stipends at Tk.800 per month up to June, 2014.

Higher Education

A wider range of programmes have been undertaken in order to create better opportunity and to enhance the quality of higher education through the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. At present, there are 37 public and 79 private universities in Bangladesh. Expansion of higher education has been possible because of increased number of universities in the country. New academic buildings, residential buildings for student-teacher, officer-staff and other physical infrastructure are being developed under new development projects. For the expansion of higher education several universities have already been established such as: Bangladesh University of Professionals, Begum Rokeya University Rangpur, Pabna University of Science and Technology. Moreover, there is an ongoing programme to establish a public university in Rangamati in order to facilitate higher education in the Hill Tracts. The Government has also taken initiatives to establish an Agricultural University in Khulna, a Maritime University in Chittagong, a Marine Science University in Barisal, and Rabindra University in Kustia after the name of Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. To turn Bangladesh into a modern and digitalised country, a programme has been undertaken with a view to establishing a Digital University in Gazipur. Recently, Government has taken necessary initiatives for establishing Arabic University and Pandit Bihar University in the country. 'Private University Act 2010' has already been enacted for enhancement of quality education in the private universities. In order to materialise 'Vision 2021' and establishing 'Digital Bangladesh' the Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission of Bangladesh has taken a project named '*Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)*' with the assistance of World Bank. Under this project,

Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) is being disbursed for encouraging research activities, improving quality and relevance of higher education in the universities. At the same time a fruitful initiative has been taken for enhancement of technical skills and connecting local universities and faculties with the foreign research institutions and university communities through the establishment of ‘Bangladesh Research and Education Network’. On the basis of demand of the present age modern laboratories, research centers and institutions are being modernised adequately. In order to control the standard or quality of the universities the formation of ‘Accreditation Council’ is now at final stage. Moreover, for development, expansion and enhancement of quality of tertiary education the process of transforming the University Grants Commission (UGC) into Higher Education Commission (HEC) is now at final stage.

Madrasa Education

In the light of recommendations made in the National Education Policy-2010 importance has been given to necessary reforms, establishment and infrastructure development for the modernisation of *madrasa* education. For academic supervision, holding of examination, awarding of certificates and conducting of other activities at tertiary level of *madrasa*, the Islamic Arabic University Act, 2013 has been passed in the parliament for the establishment of Arabic University. With a view to ensuring the proper operation of *madrasa* education and necessary initiatives have been undertaken for the establishment of Directorate of *Madrasa* Education. In order to make *madrasah* education time-befitting, alongside the teaching of religious subjects such as Quran, Aqaid and Fiqh, Arabic and Hadith from Class 1 to 12, endeavors have been made for the design of unified curriculum and syllabus. In the session of 2014, total 4,62,00,000 textbooks have been distributed free of cost among 50,00,000 students from class 1 to 9 at 16,000 *madrasas*.

ICT in Education

ICT in Education Master Plan has been devised to make the full use of IT in education sector. 13,700 schools, 5,200 *madradas* and 1,600 colleges around the country were provided with a laptop and a multimedia each. Information and Communication Technology is included as a compulsory subject in all levels of education with a view to building a knowledge-based *Digital* Bangladesh. Results of JSC, SSC, HSC, *Dakhil*, *Alim* and teachers’ recruitment and registration examinations are published online and thus accessible through short message service (SMS) and e-mail. Educational data are collected through the online data query of Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS). Eighteen software modules are designed by the Education Management Information System (EMIS) cell of DSHE to extend online service to rural areas. 19,226 teachers were trained up on developing digital contents and to conduct classes with multimedia. Establishment of computer labs has begun in 1,500 non-government colleges. To enhance the quality of education, establishment of computer labs is going on in 70 Post Graduate Colleges in district level. With a view to developing human resource skilled in foreign languages, 19 Digital Language Laboratories has been established. Till now, computer course

has been started in 3,121 *madrasas* with proper curriculum. Most of the books approved by NCTB have been uploaded on website and any one can download these books free of cost. Following this, all books of pre-primary, primary and secondary level is converted to PDF and have been uploaded on website with the assistance of education ministry and A2I project. Academic, administrative and financial management related information of private university are now available in 'Private University Management Information System'. Multimedia class room has been established in different Polytechnic Institute and Technical School and College under Directorate of Technical Education.

Female Education

Stipend programme is an important factor to achieving gender parity at primary and secondary education level. A programme for granting free studentship, financial assistance for purchasing books as well as paying fees for appearing at the public examinations has been introduced for the students from class VI to graduate level especially for female students as part of the initiative for woman empowerment and ensuring participation of woman in socio-economic activities. Besides, the amount has been enhanced and also the coverage widened in the case of meritorious female students and technical education stipend. 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 already been increased from 10 percent to 20 percent by Ministry of Education.

Reform Activities to Improve the Quality of Education

Various programmes have been undertaken to improve the quality of education. These include: teacher training in home and abroad, Performance Based Management (PBM), Continuous Assessment (CA), devising new curricula, restructuring testing system and so on. To eradicate malpractices and anomalies in education sector, formulation of education act has been undertaken. National Education Law, 2013 has already been drafted. Bangladesh *Koumi Madrasa* education commission has been established in the light of National Education Policy, 2010. To ensure quality of higher education 'Accreditation Council for Private Universities, 2012 has been drafted.

Budgetary Allocation

Education sector has been taken as a priority sector in the budget of FY 2013-14. Total allocation made for education (education, science and technology) sector was Tk.28,272crore during the fiscal year. Up to June 2014, Tk.26,702crore has been utilised which is 94.44 percent of the total allocation. In FY 2012-13, the allocation for this sector was Tk.21561.00 crore and the actual utilisation was Tk. 21,284 crore which was 98.71 percent of the allocation (According to iBAS).

Health Sector Development

Human welfare is the main commitment of the development agenda of the Government. To fulfill this commitment, the Government has implementing different programmes for the deprived and poor people to improve their living standard. Due to adoption of different activities,

remarkable progress has been made in health sector. In terms of health services delivery, prenatal care visits for pregnant women by medically trained providers increased from 33 percent in FY 1999-00 to 55 percent in 2011 and delivery by medically trained providers increased from 12 percent to 32 percent during the same period. The rate of use of family planning or birth delaying methods has been increased to 61 percent in 2011 from 54 percent in 2000. As a result, total fertility rate reduced to 2.3 in 2011 from 6.3 in 1971-75 (BDHS-2011). Gradual improvement of basic health and nutrition services also resulted in substantial reduction of under-five mortality (from 94 deaths per 1000 live births in 1999-2000 to 53 in 2011) (NIPORT 2013), for which Bangladesh received the United Nations MDG Award 2010 for being on track in reducing infant and child mortality (MDG 4). In order to contain the rate of population growth for sustainable development, the Government has drafted a National Population Policy in the light of concepts of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Besides, the Government has also adopted the National Health Policy. The initiatives and achievements of the Government in terms of using information technology in the health sector have been rewarded by the South-south ICT of the Women and Children Affairs of United Nations. Table 12.3 shows the trends in health indicators from 2003-2011.

Table 12.3: Recent Trends in Health Indicators

Indicator	Level	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Crude birth rate (per 1000)	National	20.9	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.6	20.5	19.4	19.2	19.2
	Urban	17.9	17.8	17.8	17.5	17.4	17.2	16.8	17.1	20.1
	Rural	21.7	21.6	21.7	21.7	22.1	22.4	20.4	20.1	17.1
Crude death rate (per 1000)	National	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.6	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.6
	Urban	4.7	4.4	4.9	4.4	5.2	5.1	4.7	4.9	5.9
	Rural	6.2	6.1	6.1	6	6.6	6.5	6.1	5.9	4.9
Average age at marriage	Male	25.2	25.3	23.2	23.4	23.4	23.6	23.8	23.9	23.9
	Female	20.4	19.0	18	18.1	18.4	19.1	18.5	18.7	18.7
Population per doctor		3532	3137	3261	3110	2991	2860	2832	2785	2860
Average life expectancy (year)	National	64.9	65.1	65.2	65.4	66.6	66.8	67.2	67.7	66.8
	Urban	67.6	67.8	67.9	68.0	68.1	68.3	68.7	68.9	68.3
	Rural	64.3	64.3	64.5	64.6	66.0	66.2	66.9	67.4	66.2
Child mortality rate (neonatal, <1) per 1000	National	53	52	50	45	43	41	39	36	43
	Urban	40	41	44	38	42	40	37	35	42
	Rural	57	55	51	47	43	42	40	37	43
Child mortality rate (1-4 years) per 1000	National		88	-	-	65	-	-	-	53
			92	-	-	63	-	-	-	-
			98	-	-	77	-	-	-	-
Maternal mortality rate per 1000	National	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.59	1.94	1.94
	Urban	2.7	2.5	2.75	1.96	2.2	2.4	1.79	1.78	
	Rural	4.0	3.9	3.58	3.75	3.9	3.9	2.85	2.30	
Contraceptive users rate (%)		55.1	56	57	58.3	55	52.6	56.1	56.7	61.2
Fertility rate per women		2.6	2.6	2.5	2.41	2.4	2.3	2.15	2.12	2.3

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics; Health Bulletin-2010, DGHS, BDHS-2011, BMMS-2010.

Budgetary Allocation

An amount of Tk.9,955crore has been allocated for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the revised budget of FY 2013-14. An amount of Tk.9,257crore has been utilised up to June, 2014 which is 92.98 percent of the total allocation. In FY 2012-13, this sector was allocated with Tk.9,130crore and Tk.8,549crore was utilised that year, which was 93.63 percent of the allocation (according to iBAS).

Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme

To accelerate family welfare, reproductive health, maternal and child health programmes the Government started implementing the sector wide programme titled Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme (HPNSDP) since July 2011 at an estimated cost of Tk.56,993.54 crore (GoB: Tk.43,420.38 crore; PA: Tk.13,573.16 crore). The programme will be implemented over a period of five years. It aims to ensure quality and equitable health care for all citizens of Bangladesh by improving access to and utilisation of health, population and nutrition (HPN) services in order to reduce morbidity and mortality, particularly among infants, children and women; reduce population growth rate and improve nutritional status, especially of women, children and vulnerable groups.

Community Clinic (CC)

In 1998, through the HPSP the Government took an initiative to set up community clinics at village/ward level to make health and family welfare services available at the doorsteps of rural population through essential service package at a selected centre. Following this, as many as 10,723 community clinics were established in FY 1999-01, of which 8,000 clinics started functioning. However, services from these clinics were suspended during 2002-08. Subsequently in 2009, with a view to revitalising community clinics, a five-year (2009-14) development project *Revitalisation of Community Health Care Initiative in Bangladesh (Community Clinic Project)* was approved. Under this project 12,577 CC have been made functional by June 2014. Besides this, construction of 1,572 new community clinics has been completed and construction work of 387 CC is going on. 13,500 new posts of Community Health Care Providers (CHCP) have been created to serve the community. A separate OP named Community Based Health Care (CBHC) under HPNSDP is being implemented to support the activities of Community Clinic Project. Meanwhile, 13,240 CHCP have already been recruited and provided with in-service training to work in the community clinics. These clinics have also been provided with adequate medicines. Community Clinics have provided primary health services to 76.5 lakh persons and referred 1.7 lakh person to higher service centers during FY 2013-14 (Health Bullettine: 2013). Laptop and internet modem has been given to the CC as a part of making health sector digital.

Primary Health Care

In the rural areas, with the assistance of field workers, a number of programmes are continued to help eliminate diseases like diarrhoea, malaria, filaria, tuberculosis (TB), leprosy, blindness due to vitamin A deficiency etc. The distribution of anti-helminthes is also going on along with the

immunisation programme. All these activities are carried out through field workers and volunteers. After implementation of all these programmes, the nation experienced reduction of infant mortality, child mortality, maternal mortality and improvement in average life-expectancy. This will enhance participation of the population in the economic activities to increase productivity. At present, diseases like dengue, swine flu and SARS are under control. Through DOTS programme, detection rate of the smear positive tuberculosis of lung is 100 percent. Besides this, complete cure rate is now 91 percent. Diseases like filaria and malaria is expected to be eliminated by 2015. Primary Health Care Problem and Service awareness is being created among school going children and adolescents through Child Health Programme, Adolescent Health Programme, *KhudeDaktar* (little doctor) programme etc.

Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI)

The Government is providing preventive health care for the children under EPI Programme in order to ensure primary health care service. The ongoing EPI programme to control preventable diseases like diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, TB, measles and Hepatitis B. Polio has been eradicated completely and virtually leprosy has also been eliminated. World Health Organization (WHO) has already declared Bangladesh as Polio Free Zone. Rubella and influenza vaccines have also been added in the EPI. Full immunisation coverage for children less than one year has increased to 81 percent and for children less than two years, the coverage is 92 percent. The immunisation coverage for major life threatening diseases are as follows: BCG: 99.2 percent, OPV: 95.1 percent, Penta-3: 90.0 percent and Measles: 88.5 percent respectively (Bangladesh EPI Coverage 2011). In addition, around 2.20 crore children are also provided with vitamin A capsules (under five years children) and de-worming tablets (2-5 years children).

Maternal and Neonatal Health Services

Government has provided reproductive and maternal health care to all *Upazila* Health Complexes (UHCs), Mother and Child Welfare Centres and District Hospitals. Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) services are being provided to 132 *Upazila* Health Complexes (of which 101 UHC is functional), all district and medical college hospitals and mother and child welfare centres. To provide service in the EOC centers, 1 year training has been provided to 323 physician and 6 months training has been provided to 576 FWVs. The maternity leave has been extended to 6 months. The coverage of demand side financing (DSF) maternal health voucher scheme will be expanded from 53 *upazilas* to another 100 *upazilas* within 2016. 1,441 union health and family welfare centres have been equipped for providing effective maternal care including normal delivery. To provide services in the community level 6 months post basic midwifery training has been provided to nurses and FWVs. 8,932 skilled birth attendants have completed their training and are working in the community. National Strategy Paper about Obstetric Fistula has been approved and Bangladesh National Strategy for Maternal Health has been finalised. Besides these, National Menstruation Regulation Services Guideline has been approved and published. Government also encouraged non-government organisations for their active participation with maternal-neonatal health programmes.

Nutrition

Targets 1,4 and 5 of MDGs are directly related to nutrition. The National Nutrition Services (NNS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing modern and scientific nutritional services throughout the country. One of the purposes of the NNS is to create awareness among the people for a healthy life style meaning personal care, change to healthy food habit, mental and intellectual order etc. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been working to prevent and control malnutrition and to reduce child and maternal deaths. The NNS has been mainstreamed with the regular services. It is expected that the NNS programme activities will strengthen the endeavors for reduction of child mortality and intensifying maternal care which ultimately will help reducing poverty. In all the *upazilas*, district and medical college hospitals across the country, management facilities for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have been developed. At the community level, integrated management of childhood illness programme (IMCI) 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 hard to reach areas. Important activities that have been performed in last financial year are summarised below. Drafts of National Nutrition Policy and National Food Safety Policy were developed. A dietary guideline was also developed. IMCI and Nutrition corner has been established at 150 *upazila* health complexes (UHCs). SAM management has been rolled-out in 39 health facilities including 10 district and 18 tertiary level hospitals. 3 days basic nutrition training for MOs and field workers of DGFP for establishment of Nutrition Unit/Corner in UHCs and CCs in 50 *upazilas* are already completed. Weighting Scales (11,900), weighting trousers, MUAC tape, Height- Length Board and GMP Cards were supplied to all District Hospitals, MCWCs, UHCs of 105 *upazilas* in 15 Districts. Weighting scales have been provided to 8,000 CCs to start GMP activities. Community-based nutrition (CBN) started in 9 hard to reach *upazilas* of Barisal and Khulna districts.

Health Insurance

The objective of introducing health insurance is to develop a framework for extending alternative health financing options, removing financial hurdles of the poor in getting health services and to raise efficiency and accountability in the health sector to different segments of population in the country. For this, piloting of health insurance is in progress. In the short- term, a three-fold strategy is recommended for Health Insurance: in the first phase, people below the poverty line are being considered to be given health cards for free of cost indoor health services at the UHCs and for this purpose three *upazila*s have already been selected. Gradually this programme will be extended to other *upazilas*.

Health Information System and E-health

The government efforts and successes in the use of information and communication technology for improvement of maternal and child health has been recognised in international arena. The MIS-DGHS is playing the leadership role in scaling the e-Health nationwide. Mobile phone health service is being provided from all district and *upazila* hospitals. From 800 hospitals and

health organisations, clients' grievances are received and resolved through a SMS system. Laptop computers with internet connectivity have been provided to all community clinics. An initiative to provide each citizen a unique health identifier code linked with national citizens' identifier system to develop national population registry and life time health records is underway. Meanwhile, a programme to register and track every pregnant woman and under-five child is also in operation now to help contribute to attainment of MDGs 4 and 5. All the other national and sub national health facilities and organisations are already connected. Medical and dental admissions are being done by digital means.

Family Planning Services and Reproductive Health

In spite of weak social infrastructural condition and low literacy rate, Bangladesh gained commendable progress in the family planning programme. The great achievement earned by the Government has been through introducing modern and active contraceptive methods and ensuring their sufficient availability. The TFR declined sharply from 6.3 births per woman in 1971-75 to 2.3 births per woman in 2011. In order to sustain the successes made so far and to reduce the population growth further the Government has adopted new National Population Policy in the light of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Use of contraceptives among married women in Bangladesh has increased gradually from 8 percent in 1975 to 61 percent in 2011. With the implementation of six OPs of DGFP under HPNSDP, Bangladesh aims to increase overall use of contraceptives to 72 percent by 2016. Unmet need increased from 11 percent of currently married women in 2004 to 17 percent in 2007 and then decreased to 12 percent in 2011. The HPNSDP 2011-2016 has set a target to reduce unmet need for family planning services to 9 percent and the TFR to 2.0 by 2016. The target for increasing contraceptive acceptance rate has been set at 74 percent by 2016 from the current level of 61 percent. Under the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), family planning along with maternal and child health services are being provided throughout the country. Area wise work plan has been undertaken to popularise long acting and permanent family planning methods in low performing areas including urban slum, hard to reach area, and *haor* area. For effective maternity service, 1441 union health and family welfare centers have been upgraded with improved facilities. Most of these upgraded facilities are providing safe and normal delivery. DGFP has established a web based software namely Supply Chain Informal Portal to ensure the supply of contraceptive, medicine and other necessary equipment and to monitor the activities.

Health in Private Sector

Currently, there are 8,367 registered hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres in the private sector, of which 2,983 are private hospitals and clinics and 5,384 are private diagnostic centres. NGO's role in health service delivery is also important. Under HPNSDP, several NGO's are engaged to implement the programme. Under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) strategy Government has taken initiative to expand kidney dialysis service of two public hospitals, i.e. National Institute of

Kidney Disease and Urology (NIKDU) and Chittagong Medical College (CMC) by engaging private sector.

Medical Education

The opportunities of medical education for brilliant poor students have been expanded. The number of seats in the government medical and dental colleges has substantially been increased from 2,749 in 2008 to 3,444 in 2014. There are 23 Medical Colleges, one Dental College, 24 Post Graduate Institution (with 2,091 seats), 15 Alternative Medical Care College (with 450 seats), 8 Medical Assistant Training School, 8 Institute of Health Technology, 44 Nursing Institute and 13 Nursing Colleges in government sector to produce skilled manpower. Besides, in private sector, there are 68 Medical colleges (with 4800 seats), 13 Dental Colleges (with 1,065 seats), 10 post graduate institutions, 52 Nursing Institute, 18 Nursing Colleges, 83 Institute of Health Technology and 103 Medical Assistant Training Schools.

Nursing Services

A separate Nursing Directorate under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was established in 1977 to improve management and overall development of nursing services in Bangladesh. The charter of duties of the Nursing Directorate have now been expanded substantially to make them consistent with the improved health services and increased number of bed in hospitals. At present Bangladesh have 30,546 registered nurses. Among them 14,202 are in government services, 1,000 are in overseas job and others are engaged in private sector hospitals. There are 44 Government Nursing Institutes (including 1 armed forces), 7 basic nursing colleges and 3 post basic nursing college under the Nursing Directorate. Besides, there are 46 private Nursing Institutes, 15 private nursing colleges in the country. To provide improved services in specialised hospitals, 361 nurses got the training from various foreign countries. As per World Health Organization (WHO), the ratio of doctor and nurse in a country should be 1:3. But in Bangladesh the ratio is 2:1. In order to produce 3,000 Midwives, MOHFW has introduced Diploma Midwifery courses wherein 480 students have already been enrolled. Also 194 registered nurses were provided post-basic Certified Midwifery training. Recently government has created 10,000 posts of Nurses and 3,000 positions of Midwives for different level of facilities. To increase the number of experienced nurse, the government has established an MSC nursing college at Sher-E Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Recently government has recruited more than 4,000 nurses for different hospitals of the country. As a result it will be possible to increase the number of nurses up to 40,000 within 2016.

Health Sector Reform

To make the health sector effective and up-to-date some reform activities have been taken under HPNSDP Programme, such as :

- Approval of *National Health Policy* and *National Population Policy* by the government.
- Creating demand for health services among poor people through health advocacy and maternal voucher scheme.

- Establishing ICU/CCU in every district and specialised hospitals.
- Strengthening the public health sector through sector wide programme management approach (SWAP).
- Diversifying health service delivery by augmenting financing both from the public and the private sectors.
- Expanding nutrition services all over the country by mainstreaming nutrition through the regular channels of DGHS and DGFP.
- Introducing e-health services at all health facilities including the community clinics.
- Strengthening area wise and targeted family planning services and activities relating to unmet needs of family planning.
- Preparing a map of hard to reach areas for ensuring need-based HPN services; decentralisation and preparation of local level planning and its implementation; reform and prioritisation of the policies and restructuring of the public institution.
- Introducing various programmes under PPP and strengthening PPP programme in health sector.

Development Activities for Women and Children

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is playing a pioneering role for the advancement of women and children. Various development projects and programmes are being implemented by the 3 agencies of the Ministry, namely the Department of Women Affairs, *JatiyoMohilaSangstha* (JMS) and Bangladesh *Shishu* Academy. Department of Women Affairs in 64 districts and 412 *upazilas*, *JatiyoMohilaSangstha* in 64 districts and 48 *upazilas* and Bangladesh *Shishu* Academy in 64 Districts are implementing these programmes.

Programmes for Women Development

In order to build a progressive society, it is necessary to accommodate women in the mainstream development activities by ensuring women rights, empowerment and creating for them work-friendly environment. Following the declaration of ‘Women Development Policy 2011’, efforts are under way to educate and empower women to ensure their active participation in nation building activities. Besides, a law titled ‘The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010’ has been enacted to prevent violence against women. The ministry works to ensure empowerment of women in all spheres of national life, to eliminate violence against women, to eradicate women trafficking, to ensure security of women in work places and to ensure women’s participation in the main stream of overall socio-economic development. Notable among them include *Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme*, *Vulnerable Group Development Programme for Ultra Poor (VGDUP)*, *Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality (PLAGE) Project* and *Early Learning for Child Development Project (ELCD)*. Projects and programmes like building hostels for working women, establishing daycare centres, distributing sewing machines and delivering widow allowance programmes are playing positive role for the advancement of women.

Along with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, some women and child development activities are also being conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. In order to

engage women in productive work, 6 Technical Teaching Centres (TTCs) have been established in 6 divisional headquarters. Training programmes are being conducted in these TTCs in double shifts. As many as 4,320 women are receiving skill enhancement training from these centres. As a result, the scope of employment generation for women is widening at home and abroad.

Programmes for Child Development

The Government has adopted a *National Child Policy* in 2011 to protect child interest and rights and to ensure child welfare. There is hardly any alternative to ensuring nutrition, education and entertainment for the intellectual and cultural development and children and their welfare. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has taken up for implementation different projects, programmes and activities in the light of UN Convention meant for preserving children's rights assuming wellbeing of children providing them training to ensure better life and livelihood, resisting oppression against children along with facilitating pre-primary educational programmes and to eliminating discrimination against girl child.

The ministry of Labour and Employment has undertaken a number of programmes to reduce hazardous forms of child labour from the existing formal and non-formal sectors of the country as because of the child labour is a very sensitive issue in the present world. The ministry has already provided non-formal education and skill development training to 40,000 children. Child Labour Unit (CLU) has been established in the labour wing of the ministry which acts as a catalyst in implementing all the policies and programmes related to reduction of child labour in the country in a planned and coordinated way.

Budgetary Allocation

In the FY 2013-14, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has been allocated with Tk.1425 crore of which Tk.1373 crore was utilised up to June 2014 which is 96.35 percent of the total allocation. In FY 2012-13, an amount of Tk.1333 crore was allocated of which Tk.1309 crore was utilised that year which was 98.19 percent of the allocation (according to iBAS).

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 in this sector. The Ministry of Social Welfare is working for poverty reduction, human resource development and other development activities for rehabilitation of the neglected segment of population along with the persons with disabilities (PWDs), orphans, destitute, poor and helpless. Among the programmes being implemented, 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.

Welfare and Service Delivery Programmes

Financial assistance, psychological counseling and treatment aid are provided for the poor and destitute patients under hospital social service programme. In FY 2013-14, as many as 3,73,995 poor persons received such services and the total number of beneficiaries stood at 28.89 million since the inception of 90 Hospital Social Services units. Under the integrated education programme, visually impaired students get educational facilities along with the normal students in the local educational institutions. The number of beneficiaries under this programme is 1162. Moreover, a plastic goods production centre is functioning by the physically handicapped people. The Government has installed a mineral water plant which produces mineral/drinking water and bottled with the brand name “*Mukta*”. There is an increasing demand for the “*Mukta*” mineral water in the market. Brail book is distributed free of cost among the disable persons.

Addressing the Social Disintegration Programmes

With a view to preventing juvenile delinquencies and rectifying juvenile delinquents by making them law-abiding citizens, correctional services are now in operation. Under this programme 3 Juvenile development centres are functioning. The total numbers of beneficiaries are 19,286 under this programme. These centres are guided by the provision of Children Act, 2013 and Children policy, 2011. Another correctional programme named as Probation and After Care Services provides correctional facilities for the first offenders. The total number of beneficiaries stands at 13,377 and 81,660 persons respectively since inception. The Department of Social Services (DSS) is running 6 *Sharkari Ashroy Kendra* for the vagrants are also providing training and rehabilitation services. To keep them in a separate and congenial environment apart from jail, DSS has established 6 safe homes for the women and adolescent girls.

Training, Research, Evaluation and Publication Programme

The Department of Social Services provides in-service training facilities through one National Academy and 6 Regional Training Centers for about 11,000 officer/staff members. Till June 2014, 11,205 Class I & class II officers and 11652 class III & class IV staffs were provided training facilities. Moreover, DSS publishes a good number of books, implementation manuals/guidelines, booklets, brochures, annual reports and prospectus on various programmes regularly.

Human Resources Development Programmes

There are 85 state orphanages (*Sharkari Shishu Paribars*) under the Department of Social Services for providing subsistence, education, training and rehabilitation of orphans. The Government has allocated Tk.30.88 crore in this regard for FY 2013-14. Moreover, government allocated Tk.71.40 crore as grants for non-government orphanages at the rate of Tk.1000 per person every month in FY 2013-14. A number of 59,629 orphans have been benefited through this grant in the same period.

Youth and Sports Development Activities

Youth Development

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) is implementing different programmes to make the youth self-dependent through training. The department has imparted skill development training to 42,37,462 youths since its year of inception (1981) to June 2014. Among them, as many as 20,03,528 young people have already become self-employed as on June 2014. The target of training in FY 2013-14 was 2,16,749 youths and the achievement was 1,91,303. An amount of Tk. 1259.15 crore had been distributed as soft loans under the Department's credit programme to 8,13,897 beneficiaries since its inception till June 2014.

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, Borguna & Gopalganj had been chosen for pilot programme. This programme has been extended to 8 upazilas of 7 districts under Rangpur division. Duration of pilot scheme has already been completed. As many as 14,528 and 14,467 youths have already been trained and employed in the extended period. In FY 2013-14 an amount of Tk. 235 crore had been allocated for this programme. It is under active consideration of the present government to roll it out in other districts of the country.

The DYD is working for the advancement and expansion of Information Technology (IT). Educated youths are being provided training by 70 centres across the country on computer basics, graphic design and internet usage in 64 districts. Till June 2014, a total of 1,25,705 youths have been provided training on IT. To establish a programme based networking between the DYD and the youth clubs/organisations, a project had been completed in 2013. Internet connection is being installed in all districts and upazilas along with the headquarters of DYD under this project. To make youth related information available, a data-base for trained and self-employed youths, micro credit and employees of DYD have already been developed. *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 14,283 youths upto June, 2014.

Sports Development

Young generation and people as a whole achieve physical and mental well-being by means of games and physical education. This has immense implications on proper discipline, sound health, dynamic leadership and standard ethics in national life. The contribution of sports towards human resource development is well recognised. Bangladesh has implemented comprehensive sports development programme which has led us to increase our reputation in international sports arena. In spite of resource constraints, the Government has undertaken and implemented a number of development projects to promote sports. As many as 768 training programmes and 3,456 motivational programmes are being implemented at grass root level. Bangladesh

KriraShikkhaProtisthan(BKSP) is doing hard for sports talent search, proper nurishment of them and produces qualified trainer and sports specialists.

Budgetary Allocation

In the FY 2013-14, the Ministry of Youths and Sports has been allocated with Tk.830.00 crore of which Tk.745crore was utilised up to June 2014 which is 89.75 percent of the total allocation. In FY 2012-13, an amount of Tk. 792 crore was allocated of which Tk.763 crore was utilised that year which was 96.33 percent of the allocation (according to iBAS).

Cultural Affairs

The 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 is making relentless efforts to preserve, promote and conserve the 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. 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. Renovation activities are going on for modernisation of Bangladesh National Museum. Development activities of *AhsanMonjil* have been completed. Bangladesh Corner has been decorated in the Dalala International Bodhu Museum at Candi, Srilanka.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 to increase awareness regarding Copyright and Copyright Act.

Budgetary Allocation

In the FY 2013-14, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has been allocated with Tk.235croreof which Tk.227crore was utilised up to June, 2014 which is 96.59 percent of the total allocation. In FY 2012-13, an amount of Tk. 1840 crore was allocated of which Tk.169 crore was utilised that year which was 91.84 percent of the allocation (according to iBAS).