

Chapter-13

Ministry of Youth and Sports

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Youth constitutes about the one-third of the country's total population. This large portion of the population is the invaluable asset for the development of the country. As they are the most creative and productive force for the country, they can contribute significantly to the development of the country by using their enthusiasm. National development and advancement largely depends on the proper utilization of the young people. It is, therefore, important to engage them prudentially into the national development process. It is also indispensable to transform them into human resource through appropriate guidance and by making them well organized and well disciplined. To achieve these objectives, the Ministry of Youth and Sports have been persistently adopting and implementing different activities and programs.
- 1.2 'Sports' is one of the important yardsticks of the overall development in the modern world. Along with social and economic development, sports play an important role in promoting international relations. For this reason, 'sports' has now become one of the vital elements of development activities. Over the recent years, Bangladesh has also undertaken enormous programs for the development of sports sector, which glorified the image of Bangladesh globally. Sports also play a significant role in creating gender equality. Planned sports activities contribute to development of women both in physically and mentally. Women's participation in sports activities increases their knowledge, experience and skills that ultimately contribute to the development of leadership qualities among them. This in turn leads to women empowerment. The ministry has been trying to achieve the objective that all physically capable men and women in the country should participate in sports activities. The ministry has contributed a lot to the women's advancement and their freedom by involving them in various sports.
- 1.3 Different policies including the National Youth Policy 2017, National Sports Policy 1998, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Seventh Five Year Plan emphasized on effective utilization of youth in pursuit of socio-economic development. Apart from laying emphasis on the employment generation through skills development, equal importance has also been given on the overall mental and physical development through sports and other physical exercises. Participation of women in sports has been encouraged particularly in the Seventh Five Year Plan. As part of this plan more sports centers will be constructed in

divisional cities to promote woman's participation in sports. Moreover, Honorable Prime Minister declared to build mini-stadium in every upazilas. In order to ensure women's participation in all sorts of sports, talents are identified and provided with intensive training.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ To turn the youth into skilled human resources and integrate them into mainstream development through implementation of training, development and welfare oriented activities;
- ❖ To create self-employment opportunities for the unemployed youth and encourage their voluntary participation in development activities. To reward successful youth entrepreneur and provide grants to youth organizations;
- ❖ To integrate the youth into nation building activities and empowerment;
- ❖ To hunt sports talent and develop skilled athletes;
- ❖ To organize sports events at notional and international level and ensure participation;
- ❖ To provide welfare grants to different sports organizations and insolvent sports persons;
- ❖ To construct, develop and maintain sports related infrastructure and facilities.

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry and impact on women development

- 3.1 **Creation of skilled and productive youth society:** During the last three years, the scope of the income generation has been created for 2,91,077 young women by providing training on housekeeping, tailoring, rearing of livestock, nursery raising, boutique and printing, bamboo and cane crafts, poultry and embroidery; and credit facilities to 30,945 young women. Besides, as their participation in the "National Service" program will be equally ensured; these activities will directly impact on the women's advancement.
- 3.2 **Improvement of the standard of sports:** In the last three years, 25,500 skilled women athletes have been prepared after identifying talents from the grassroots level through providing training in different age-groups and terms. Nine women for District Sports Officers out of 32 vacant posts and six women for Lecturers out of 26 vacant posts have been recommended for appointment. This will help in increasing the women's participation in the area of sports. In addition, 390 elderly and distressed sports women have been provided with allowances. Allocation of grants/allowances and distribution of sports equipment will encourage women's participation in sports and open avenues to raise their income.

4.0 Role of the Ministry in Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1 The Ministry of Youth and Sports has been playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the country by imparting training to the youth and enhancing their skills, creating opportunities for self-employment and engaging them in the nation building activities. Simultaneously, it brings honor for the country both from the national and international level through promoting sports and transforming the identified sporting talents as skilled sportspersons. The ministry has been contributing a lot in women's development and emancipation by engaging them in sports.
- 4.2 The Government has undertaken a wide range of programs for advancement of youth in line with the national development and progress. With this end, training programs, making youth self-reliant by undertaking self-employment projects after training, and runs credit program, poverty alleviation programs, technology transfer and different social activities i.e. environment development, blood donation, prevention of eve teasing and HIV/AIDS programs have been conducting for youth in 64 districts, 10 metropolitan thanas and 488 upazilas of the country. It is noteworthy to mention that under the auspices of six completed development projects, young men and women are being provided with technical trainings. In addition, employment opportunities have been widened in and outside the country under these six completed projects. During fiscal year 2011-12 to 2017-18, 1,07,599 number of young women were provided with temporary jobs and during fiscal year 2015-16 to 2017-18 45,000 number of young women were provided with temporary jobs under 'National Service Program'. In this regard, Tk.750.00 crore and Tk.402.00 crore have been allocated during fiscal year 2011-12 to 2017-18 and fiscal year 2015-16 to 2017-18 respectively. Besides, 1,541 young women have been trained in house-keeping during fiscal year 2015-15 to 2017-18, all of whom are working abroad.
- 4.3 The activities undertaken by the ministry like talent hunt and development of sports, improving the quality of sports standard, extending social safety net in sports and increasing social dignity of the sportspersons, will impact on women development and establishing their rights. These programs will transform the young women as skilled human resources leading to the gradual alleviation of their poverty. Women sports complex will be constructed and renovated in order to hunt and develop sports talents and improve standard of sports. Among the 18,458 youth organizations listed in Department of Youth Development, 1210 are administered by women and dealing with women's rights. Youth women organizations are given priority for the allocation of grants from Youth Welfare Fund.

- 4.4 In addition to the regular activities, the ministry also undertakes some projects related with women development. Among those ‘Development of Sultana Kamal Women’s Indoor Stadium, Dhanmondi, Dhaka’ and ‘Development of Women Sports at BKSP’ projects are notable. In every training session social awareness issues, like: providing education regarding reproductive health, chance to give more birth resulting from child marriage, population increase and its demerits; and engaging youth in skill-based activities for self-employment, are discussed. Young women will be made aware of their legal rights, health and other social issues leading to their empowerment; and as women will enjoy equal opportunity like men, it will impact positively on women empowerment.
- 4.5 To ensure the national development, creating favorable environment for productive pragmatic education, training and self-employment for the youth and bringing out all dormant potentialities including their leadership quality, creating disciplined and efficient work force having responsibility of good citizen and creative mentality with a view to involving the youth in the mainstream of national development also having respect to national heritage and culture through a planned process is the main objective of the National Youth Policy. Basically, the National Youth Policy has emphasized on the welfare and development of entire citizens including the youth. According this policy all Bangladeshi citizens, irrespective of gender, aged between 18 and 35 will be considered as youth. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has taken initiatives to make the National Youth Policy as women-friendly.
- 4.6 According to paragraph 8.3.21 of the National Youth Policy 2017, incentives are to given to youth women for creating women entrepreneurs; paragraph 10.4.5 ensures security for youth women in every spheres of society and paragraph 10.4.6 directs to reserve seats for youth women in public transport. Besides, paragraph 2.3 and 2.10 of the National Sports Policy, 1998 emphasize on the development of women sports. The paragraph 6 of the policy mentions that women’s sports are particularly important for the overall development of sports of the country. Women’s participation and leadership should be increased in all sports organizations. Emphasis should also be given on providing sufficient facilities for women to participate in games and sports as well as training and practice. On the whole, there should be social dignity of women sports.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women’s Advancement

| Sl. No. | Priority spending sector/programmers | Impact on women’s development (Direct and Indirect) |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Training for unemployed | ❖ One of the main objectives of National Youth Policy is |

| Sl. No. | Priority spending sector/programmers | Impact on women's development (Direct and Indirect) |
|---------|--|--|
| | youth, provision of loan and employment creation | <p>to make arrangements for creation of employment and entrepreneurship skills for youth by providing appropriate education and income generating and skill development training. If easy access to credits/loans can be ensued for the trained youth, they will be able to establish themselves as self-employed worker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ As women's advancement was indispensable for the attaining MDG goals, so as to for attaining SDG goals. Women should be made capable of earning by increasing professional skills for socio-economic development. For this reason, they are provided with training on rearing of live-stock and poultry, hatchery and agriculture, block-boutique, house-keeping and computer applications. As a result, women are being employed abroad by receiving training on house-keeping. Women are becoming capable of earning and self-dependent and therefore, contribute for the economic development of the country. |
| 2. | National Service Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The National Service Program is continuing its operation for generating two-years temporary employment for unemployed young men and women between 24 and 35 years old having educational qualification of HSC and above. After three months of basic training in ten different training modules, they are being employed temporarily for a two years term in nation building activities. ❖ Under the National Service Program, in order to create access to employment by providing with computer, information technology and technical training to the women from the disadvantaged areas of the country helps to integrate them into mainstream of economy. They have been transformed into human resources by availing modern training. It helps to bring equality among men and women. |
| 3. | Age-group training and allowance for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Through identifying sports-talent from schools and colleges, training will be imparted to develop skilled |

| Sl. No. | Priority spending sector/programmers | Impact on women's development (Direct and Indirect) |
|---------|---|---|
| | impoverished sportswomen | and quality sports persons. If the future of sportspersons is well protected, and social security is strengthened, people will be more attracted to sports. ❖ Insolvent women sports persons will be provided with allowances from 'Bangabandhu Sportspersons Welfare Foundation'. It will widen their way of income. Therefore, their level of confidence will be boosted along with socio-economic development that is important for the overall development of women. |
| 4. | Participate and organize competition at local, national and international level | ❖ Participation of women's team in the national and international sports creates huge encouragement and enthusiasm among women. Women from football and cricket teams and other events have participated in sports outside the country. Bangladesh's women cricket team has attained oneday status in international cricket. This has exerted a positive impact on women's emancipation and awakening. ❖ Sportswomen will be encouraged to participate in sports like football, volleyball, cricket, gymnastics, swimming, kabadi and archery and so on. Women's participation in sports helps them being established as sportsperson all over the country and encourage them for further participation in sports. |
| 5. | Construction of physical infrastructure for youth and sports | ❖ Women's access to sports has been increased through establishment of youth training complex and women sports complex. By participating in sports youth women are being developed physically and mentally. These centers are also helping in creating skilled sportswomen. Thus, the participation of women in all spheres of the society is being established. |

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

| Description | Budget 2019-20 | | | Revised 2018-19 | | | Budget 2018-19 | | | Actual 2017-18 | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| | Budget | Women Share | | Revised | Women Share | | Budget | Women Share | | Actual | Women Share | |
| | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent |
| Total Budget | 523190 | 161247 | 30.82 | 442541 | 136036 | 30.74 | 464573 | 136938 | 29.48 | 321861 | 88441 | 27.48 |
| Ministry Budget | 1489 | 302 | 20.27 | 1520 | 285 | 18.76 | 1498 | 264 | 17.64 | 1033 | 168 | 16.27 |

| Description | Budget 2019-20 | | | Revised 2018-19 | | | Budget 2018-19 | | | Actual 2017-18 | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| | Budget | Women Share | | Revised | Women Share | | Budget | Women Share | | Actual | Women Share | |
| | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent |
| Development | 214 | 36 | 17.01 | 320 | 92 | 28.9 | 305 | 185 | 60.79 | 215 | 70 | 32.61 |
| Operating | 1275 | 265 | 20.81 | 1200 | 193 | 16.06 | 1194 | 79 | 6.63 | 818 | 98 | 11.96 |

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) of the Ministry in relation to Women's Advancement in last three years

| Indicator | Unit of measurement | Actual | | |
|--|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
| 1. Women's participation in the National Service program | % | 71 | 75.84 | 51 |
| 2. Women's participation in the physical education at the tertiary level | % | 35 | 21 | 16.55 |

8.0 A life history of a self-employed woman

Life Sketch of A Successful Entrepreneur

Ishmetara Sarkar was born in 1975 in a farmer's family at Badateghoria village under Pakuria union of Sherpur Sadar upazila. As the eldest child of the family, she had to take responsibility for her sick father in the family after passing the SSC examination. With BSCIC training, she was able to earn a limited amount of money by making low-cost clothing. In the meantime, she became thoughtful seeing the helplessness of a neighboring woman who fell burden on family by divorce due to dowry; and hated socially. With divorced 'Jyotsna', she acquired special skill from four months training provided by the Department of Youth Development, Sherpur. By utilizing acquired skill, she developed 'Banglar Ponna Hostoshilpo (Handicraft: Product of Bangla)' project. With the help of the Karmasansthan Bank and Youth Development Department, she has been successfully pursuing her project activities.

She gained social dignity by being self-dependent because of her relentless efforts and state of the art planning. At present, six men and 13 women salaried workers are working regularly in her farm. Eighteen young entrepreneurs were successful by working in his project. The present capital of his project is 27 lakh 26 thousand taka and net annual income 8 lakh 22 thousand taka. She established social welfare organization named 'Bohumumukhi Unnayan Sangstha (Multipurpose Development Organization)' while managing her own project. Through this project, she has been working to increase public awareness on anti-social activities including prevention of oppression of women and children, prevention of dowry customs, elimination of gender discrimination, development of the disabled, anti-drug activities, polygamy and child marriage; and empowerment of women. In view of poverty reduction with additional family-based income by ensuring local opportunities and resources, she is organizing training programs on fisheries farming in fallen ponds, nursery preparation, poultry farming, livestock farming, vegetable cultivation, cultivation of native fruits, handicrafts etc. Local youths

are being inspired to engage themselves to self-employment by her activities.

Ishmetara Sarkar has been given the National Youth Award for the year 2018, in recognition of her glorious contribution of employment generation and self-employment.



Ishmetara Sarkar is receiving National Youth Award, 2018 from Honourable Prime Minister

9.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ Priority to be given for sanctioning loan/credit facilities in favor of trained women and enhancing financial grants to create self-employment. Increasing financial grants in favor of women organizations to organize awareness programs for prevention of child marriage, anti-dowry activities, eve teasing, demerits and misuse of narcotics including anti-militancy programs;
- ❖ To ensure women's equal representation in the executive Committee of District Sports Organization for managing sports;
- ❖ To organize football, cricket, hockey, volleyball, handball, badminton, swimming, chess, rugby, gymnastics, table tennis, athletics and rural sports and to confer certificates and awards for achievement in sports;
- ❖ To encourage public and private investment in community based sports activities undertaken to promote women's participation;
- ❖ To encourage women to participate in sports by providing sports equipment in the programs organized by District Sports Office;
- ❖ To increase allocation by 30% to the respective head of expenditure at upazilla level to increase women's participation in sports and cultural activities;
- ❖ To construct women friendly facilities (dressing room, toilets, day care etc.) in all sports complex;
- ❖ To ensure appointment of female sports instructor at all women sports complexes.