CHAPTER-12

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The importance of human development is widely recognised in all societies irrespective of the levels of development. Now in measuring the stage of development, economic growth is not the only indicator, human development also constitutes an important yardstick. For this reason, now-a-days human development is being considered the centre-point of global development agenda. Regardless of the stage of development, people in any country have the right of access to three essential areas namely, longer life, acquisition of 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 standard of the underprivileged and the poor by formulating a three-year full-blown Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

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 aids them to get out of the vicious circle of poverty. This is because the social sector has the potential to generate higher value addition to the economy through creation of increased opportunities for production, income and employment. Consistent with the declaration of the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) held in 1995 in Copenhagen, the 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 welfare activities are the prime instruments of human resources development. It is indeed critical to strengthen the social sector to carry out these activities for achieving the aforementioned objectives. The government lays increasingly more emphasis on the social sector, especially on education and health areas as the basis for human development. For several years education sector has been receiving the highest 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, reducing child and maternal mortality rates, containing the spread of contagious diseases including TB and AIDS, increasing average life expectancy at birth, etc. the government is trying 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.

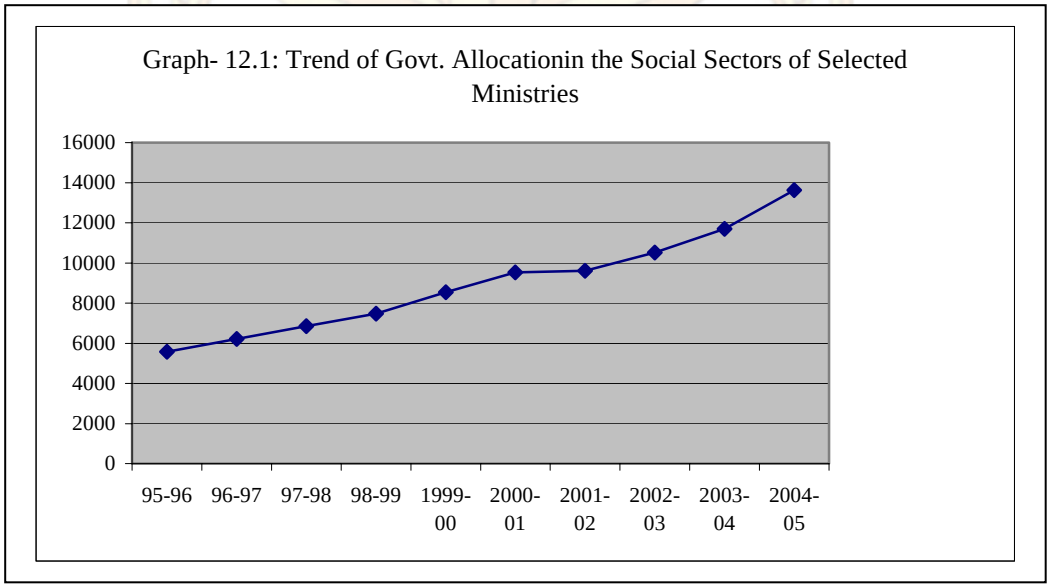
Table 12.1 shows the total allocation in non-development and development budget (ADP) in the social sector during FY 1995-96 through 2004-05. It is evident from the table that the total allocation for the social sector in non-development and development budgets shows a secularly increasing trend during the past decade.

Table 12.1: Allocation in the Social Sectors of Selected Ministries

(Figure in Crore)

	95-96	**96-97**	**97-98**	**98-99**	**99-00**	**00-01**	**01-02**	**02-03**	**03-04**	**04-05**
Education, Relgious Affairs and Science &Technology	3663.7	3961.3	4289	4850	5430	6079	6063	6736	4877.65	7999.18
Health and Family Welfare	1611.0	1834.2	1964	2080	2363	2627	2649	2797	3444.72	3808.31
Youth, Sports and Culture	120.63	193.23	191	176	224	248	217	253	256.64	282.72
Labour and Manpower	31.48	33.45	37	38	46	54	133	70	55.50	82.14
Social Welfare, Women's Affairs, Liberation War Affairs	152.34	187.92	199	255	294	322	354	484	712.60	1188.71
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	-	-	168	74	178	205	201	183	162.64	263.54
Total Allocation (Non-Dev & Dev.)	5579.2	6210.1	6848	7473	8535	9535	9617	10523	11696.99	13624.60

Sources: Finance Division and Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning. Data are based on revised budgets. Data for FY 2004-05 are based on original budget.



Note: 1 According to new GDP series.

Development Programmes in Education Sector

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 in the process of 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 & 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. Programs of supplying furniture, science equipment and books to the educational institutions are continuing. Program of computer distribution for expanding 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 passed permitting establishment of private universities along with expanding capacity and facilities in public universities. This initiative has resulted in the creation of 53 private universities in the country. On the other hand, transformation of 4 BITs (Bangladesh Institute of Technology) into science and technology universities has increased the number of public universities to 21. A committee formed by the Government to evaluate the quality of education in the private universities has recently submitted its report to the Government.

Post Primary Education

Ministry of Education deals with secondary, higher secondary, technical, madrasah, university and tertiary education. According to the statistics published by Bangladesh Bureau of Educational

Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) of the Ministry of Education, currently there are 17,386 secondary schools, 1,225 general colleges, 8,410 madrasahs, 77 polytechnic institutes, 64 vocational training institutes, 21 public universities, 53 private universities and a variety of other educational institutions in Bangladsesh. According to provisional data published in 2005, there are 85,78,637 students at lower secondary and secondary levels, 16,64,074 at college level and 35,97,453 at madrasah level.

To upgrade and develop the quality of education in schools, colleges, madrashas, universities and technical institutes across the country, a total of Tk. 1,358.78 crore has been allocated through 38 ongoing projects in the ADP of FY 2004-05. To empower women and enhance their socio-economic standing through expansion of female education, government has arranged to waive tuition fees of female stipend-holders up to twelfth grade. Also, the Government has planned to award stipends amounting to Tk.209 crore to 25 lakh female students through 5 projects in FY 2004-05. The statistics of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education shows that during FY 2003-04 a total number of 39,04,723 female students enjoyed stipends under 4 different projects. Government's policy of patronising programmes supporting female education has contributed to a remarkable rise in the number of female students in educational institutions. 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' of worth Tk. 630 crore has been undertaken with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. This project involving teachers' training is expected to contribute significantly in raising the quality of education at the secondary level. Construction work of 52 district education complex and 4 zonal education complex under the Secondary Education Sector Improvement (SESIP) project throughout the country is about to be completed. Several reform measures intended to uplift the standard of education have been undertaken under the above noted project. Furthermore, preparation of a study paper to expand the SESIP project to phase-2, in continuation of the reform measures is underway. Ministry of Education is working to formulate a long-term strategic plan for higher education with the support of World Bank. Directorate of Education Engineering is engaged in constructing new buildings and facilities, and renovating the existing ones of schools, colleges, madrasahs, universities and technical education institutions to develop physical infrastructure. To advance science and technology education, the establishment of 4 new science and technology universities is in the implementation stage.

Primary Education

Primary education is the first step in the education ladder. Realising the immense importance of primary education, the Government has accorded top priority to primary and mass education. In line with the fundamental principles of the state policy as enshrined in 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 since 1993. To ensure universal primary education by 2015 commensurate with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this program will continue as long as it is deemed necessary. The decision to

authorise mothers to draw stipend for their children at the primary level reflects the present Government's commitment towards women's empowerment.

In 1991, the total number of primary schools in Bangladesh was 49,539. In 2004, the number rose to 78,000. During this period, though the number of government primary schools remained the same (37,700), the number of non-government primary schools rose from 11,845 to 24,736. There is an increasing trend in the enrolment of female students in primary schools. In 1991, the ratio of male/female students was 55:45. Currently, the ratio is about 50:50. The rate of recruitment of female teachers is also increasing following the provision made in the relevant recruitment rules to recruit 60 per cent female teachers against available vacancies in government primary schools. In 2002, the proportion of female teachers increased to about 38 per cent from 21.09 per cent in 1991. During this period, the rate of completion of five-year education cycle rose to 67 percent from 40.70 per cent. While implementing a number of projects between 1991-92 and 2004-05, emphasis was 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 with continued increase in enrolment rate in primary schools (Table 12.2).

Table 12.2: Enrolment of Students at Primary Level (1990-2002)

(Fig. in lakh)

Year	Total Student	Male student	Female student
1990	120.50	66.60 (55.37)	53.9 (44.73)
1991	126.35	69.14 (54.7)	57.26 (45.3)
1992	130.17	70.49 (54.2)	59.76 (45.9)
1993	140.67	75.26 (58.5)	65.43 (46.5)
1994	151.80	80.48 (53.0)	71.35 (47.0)
1995	172.80	90.94 (52.6)	82.25 (47.6)
1996	175.80	92.19 (52.4)	83.68 (47.6)
1997	180.32	93.65 (51.9)	94.0 (48.1)
1998	183.61	95.77 (52.2)	86.13 (47.8)
1999	176.22	90.65 (51.4)	85.63 (48.6)
2000	176.68	90.33 (51.1)	86.41 (48.9)
2001	176.59	89.0 (51.0)	86.71 (49.1)
2002	175.2	88.42 (50.3)	89.27 (49.7)

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (Primary Education Statistics in Bangladesh 2002)

Primary Education Extension and Quality Improvement Programmes

For quantitative as well as qualitative improvement of primary education in the country, the Government has been implementing 'Primary Education Development Program-II (PEDP)' at a total cost of Tk. 4,933.80 crore with the assistance of development partners. Under this program 35,000 Assistant Teachers, 1,000 Assistant Upazila Education Officers, 128 Computer Operators, 216 PTI Instructors, and for 397 Upazila Resource Centres, 397 Instructors and 397 Assistant

Upazila Education Officers will be recruited. Also, 30 thousand new classrooms in 15 thousand government primary schools will be constructed. In FY 2005-06 under this program, 14,200 new classrooms in 7,100 government primary schools will be constructed and 7,100 arsenic-free tube-wells will be sunk. In these schools 7,100 toilets will be built for teachers. By this time, 205 Upazila Resource Centers will be constructed and 290 Upazila Education Offices will be extended and repaired.

The Government is implementing Post-Literacy and Continuing Education Project-1 with the assistance of World Bank for human development in Bangladesh. This project aims at sustaining the knowledge earned by those individuals aged between 11 and 45 years who received a level of literacy under mass education programme earlier, activating them and enabling them to become active citizens through vocational training. To meet local needs, participants are being trained in skills for income generation, such as goat rearing, cattle fattening, poultry raising, bee keeping, dairy farm maintaining, sewing and tailoring, fish cultivation, nursery maintaining, horticulture, food processing, etc.

To ensure education for all, the Government has been implementing a project (July 2004-June 2010) titled "Reaching Out-to-School Children" at a total cost of Tk. 390.72 crore. Under this project, students of class I-III and IV-V of the new or existing schools will be awarded education allowance at the rate of Tk. 50 and Tk. 60 per month respectively. Besides, students will receive the cost of two sets of school uniform, at the rate of Tk. 200 and Tk. 250 per year for the students of class I-III and class IV-V respectively. Apart from this, Tk. 200 per student will be awarded to the students participating in the class-5 scholarship examination.

The Government has been implementing Basic Education Project (Phase-2) at a cost of Tk. 206 crore over a period from July 2004 to June 2009. The project aims at ensuring improved living of working-children through education, their security and participation in development activities, and juveniles living in Six Divisional cities. It is expected that the project will help attain economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The Government has introduced a stipend program throughout the country by converting food for education into cash assistance programme. In FY 2004-05 the Government allocated Tk. 520 crore from its own resources to primary education stipend project. As a result, about 55 lakh poor students are being benefited. The monthly stipend rate is Tk. 100 for one child and Tk. 125 for more than one child of a poor family for sending kids to school. Women's empowerment has been encouraged and recognised directly and indirectly by giving mothers the right to draw stipend money. Participation of 20 per cent students of Class-V of all primary schools to participate in scholarship examination has been made compulsory. The rate of passing primary scholarship examination has increased to 54.21 percent. The government has increased the number of scholarships, raising the number of talent-pool scholarships and general scholarships to 20,000 and 25,000 respectively. Opportunities for primary education have been created in towns and cities for working children. Special scholarships are being awarded through children welfare trust to working-but-meritorious children to help them continue their studies. The rates of scholarship are Tk. 400 and Tk. 600 at primary and secondary levels respectively.

To create an enabling environment for education, 'School Feeding Programme' is being implemented with the support of World Food Programme in high food-deficit areas such as Kurigram, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat and certain slum areas of Dhaka city. Under this programme, quality biscuits are being supplied to 7,26,917 students of 3,759 primary schools.

The Government has underscored the need for undertaking teachers' training programmes for improving the quality of primary education. Training programmes are being conducted regularly in 54 PTIs of the country. In addition to the teachers of government primary schools, 35,998 teachers working in registered non-government primary schools have been imparted training of Certificate in Education (C-in-Ed) course. Under the Primary Education Development Programme, 2, 90,000 teachers will be trained in the aforementioned course. National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) has been given autonomy for better management of primary education.

The Government has taken measures to recruit teachers against vacant posts in government primary schools for ensuring quality primary education. As a step towards enhancing the participation of women in primary education, the government has decided to recruit 60 per cent female teachers against vacant posts in government primary schools. As a result, the proportion of female teachers has risen to 38 per cent.

During the last three years, the Government has recruited a total number of 3,220 head teachers and 28,690 assistant teachers under revenue budget. Besides, 5,946 assistant teachers have been recruited under the development budget. In order to infuse dynamism in educational administration, Government has recruited 123 Upazila Education Officers and 299 Assistant Upazila Education Officers.

Government is distributing textbooks free of charge among the students of government primary schools. Hon'ble Prime Minister formally distributed books among primary school students on 2 January 2005. The government distributed 4,18,847 books free of charge among the students of 12 districts out of 40 districts affected by the flood of 2004. For free distribution of textbooks in 2005, a total of 6 crore 64 lakh books have been printed. Work is underway to print books for the next year. Given primary education programmes are implemented, it is expected that illiteracy from the country will be eradicated and a qualitative improvement of primary education will take place.

Health and Family Welfare Programmes

Access to healthcare facilities is a fundamental right of citizens enshrined in the Constitution. Keeping this in view, the government has turned health 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 and 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 2002.

Table 12.3: Recent Trends in Health Indices

Indices	Levels	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Crude birth rate(Per'000)	National	30.8	28.8	27.0	26.5	25.6	21.0	19.9	19.2	19.0	18.9	20.1
	Urban	23.7	21.0	20.2	19.4	19.0	16.2	14.0	13.8	13.7	13.6	16.6
	Rural	32.2	30.0	29.1	28.5	27.8	24.5	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.7	21.0
Crude death rate(Per'000)	National	11.0	10.0	9.0	8.4	8.1	5.5	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.1
	Urban	7.5	7.2	7.1	6.7	6.5	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8
	Rural	11.3	10.4	9.3	9.0	8.8	6.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.4
Average age of marriage	Male	25.2	26.6	27.7	27.5	27.6	27.6	27.6	27.7	27.7	25.8	25.6
	Female	18.2	19.6	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.4	20.6
Doctor per population		5304	5156	4725	4866	4955	4915	4671	4439	4218	-	
Average life expectancy	National	56.3	57.9	58.0	58.7	58.9	60.1	60.6	67.6	68.2	68.3	64.9*
	Urban	60.5	60.6	60.0	60.9	61.2	62.3	62.5	70.5	72.6	72.8	67.2*
	Rural	56.0	57.5	57.7	57.5	58.2	59.4	59.9	66.7	66.6	66.7	64.4*
Child[4] mortality rate	National	88.0	84	77	71	67	60	57	59	58	56	53
	Urban	65.0	61	57	53	50	49	47	46	44	43	37
	Rural	91.0	88	79	78	76	69	66	63	62	60	57
Child[5] mortality rate	National	13.2	12.6	12.1	12.0	11.6	8.2	6.3	5.7	4.2	4.1	4.6
Maternal [6] mortality rate	National	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.91**
	Urban	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.58	2.73**
	Rural	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.26	4.17**
Rate of use of contraceptives		---	--	46.3	48.7	--	50.9	51.5	53.6	53.6	53.9	53.4
Fertility rate (per woman)		4.2	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.56	2.56

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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

* Adjusted and provisional
** As per 10th revision of international classification of diseases.

The present 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 (HNPSP) 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. The estimated expenditure for the programme (HNPSP) is Tk. 4,600 crore of which, Tk. 1,400 core will be contributed by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the remaining Tk. 3,200 crore will be funded as project aid. Allocation for this program in the fiscal year 2004-05 is Tk. 1,688 crore, which is 10.42% higher than the allocation in Annual Development Program (ADP) in FY 2003-04. In view of the success of the National Integrated Nutrition Project (NINP), designed to help mitigate the nutrition problem in the country, the Government has started implementing a new project, called 'National Nutrition Project' (NNP) at a cost of Tk. 640.97 crore (GoB: Tk. 70.35 crore and Project Aid : Tk. 570.62 crore) during FY 2000-04. To continue uninterrupted implementation of the project, the activities of the NNP and the nutrition component of HNPP have been amalgamated. In addition, Health, Nutrition and Population Programme Proposals (HNPPP) have been

formulated, based upon a long term HNP Strategic Investment Plan. The tenure of the project is 8 years (FY 2003-10) with an estimated budget of Tk. 31,568.60 crore.

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 government's MDGs. Also, these are expected to ensure good health of the populace, which would contribute to economic development significantly.

The related factors in this regard that have been focused in HNPSP are:

- Ensuring 65 percent of the allocation for essential minimum health services.
- Prioritised allocation and delivery of health services for the poor and in the geographical regions that are relatively backward in terms of receiving healthcare services as well as other benefits.
- Ensuring participation of people at the local level, including the poor in planning activities to improve the management and quality of health and population services-as a part of local level planning initiative.

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 69.4 percent of the country's population in rural areas. Work to add to the number of beds has already been completed in 85 upazilas. Furthermore, the number of beds in 10 district hospitals has been raised from 50 to 100, and in MCHTI at Azimpur (Dhaka) 73 beds have been added to existing 100 beds.

The scope of health service delivery will expand, and demand for health services can 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 for it. At Bogra, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College along with a 500- bed medical college hospital is under construction. Also, works to upgrade Comilla Medical College Hospital from 250 to 500 beds, Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from 500 to 1000 beds, Tangail and Pabna district hospital from 50 to 200 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 ongoing. 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's yard, and it is being expanded to 100 beds. "National Asthma Center" at Mohakhali, Dhaka is also now complete. The following projects are on way to be implemented:

- 6 new Upazila Health Complex with 31 beds each
- 8 new hospitals with 20 beds each
- a 20- bed quarantine hospital at Zia International Airport
- a new 250- bed hospital for government employees in Dhaka
- a hospital at Chittagong comparable with international standard
- two oral saline production and supply centers in the districts of Mymensingh and Jhenaidah
- a 25- bed children hospital at Jhenaidah
- a medical assistance training institute(MATI) in the district of Jhenaidah
- a 100- bed diabetic hospital in Rajshahi
- a 100- bed diabetic hospital in Barisal
- expansion of CCU of the National Cardiac Institute at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka through reorganising its structure
- a 500- bed hospital at Mirpur, Dhaka
- a 500- bed hospital at Basabo, Dhaka
- a 500- bed hospital at Kurmitola, Dhaka
- a 250- bed TB hospital at Shyamoly, Dhaka (1st phase : 150 beds)
- a national medical university at Dhaka
- a national institute of health management at Dhaka

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 three years a total of 3, 777 beds i.e. 875 in 18 district hospitals, 2912 in specialised and medical college hospitals have been added to the existing ones. Total number of beds in government hospitals now stands at 45,188.

Also, to bring control over use, sale/purchase, production and advertisement of tobacco products and smoking, government has enacted a law recently.

Population and Development

Bangladesh is the most populous country in the world. According to the Census 2001, density of population per square kilometer is 839, and the number is 901 by the "Vital Registration Survey 2002". The growth rate of population is now 1.40%, compared to 2.01 per cent back in 1991. Though the growth rate, relatively speaking, is on the decline but continuously increasing total population has produced enormous pressure on this small landscape. Therefore, to be able to achieve Millennium Development Goals by facing the challenge of globalisation, there is no alternative to population control and human development.

Population Control

Remarkable success of family planning, and maternal and child health programmes in controlling population growth has been achieved by Bangladesh, and it has received international recognition. 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 3 in 2004 from 6.3 in 1971-75 (source: Ministry of Health, May 2005). With that the growth rate of population declined from 3 per cent to 1.48 per cent. Infant mortality rate (per thousand live birth) of 87 came down to 65 in 2004. Given the BBS data, average life expectancy has now reached 64.9 years. To improve reproductive health of women, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and deliver basic health services to people - especially to women, children and the poor, field-level service activities are being revitalised by the Directorate of Family Planning. These activities are being carried forward through the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSP) 2003-06.

Following are the goals of the Programme:

- Reduce the total fertility rate (per woman) from 3.0 to 2.8 (by July 2006)
- Raise the contraceptive prevalence rate from the present 58.1 per cent to 63 per cent
- Reduce the dropout rate of contraceptive users from 48.6 per cent to 30 per cent
- Lower the maternal death rate from 3.2 to 2.75 (per thousand live birth)
- Bring down the neo-natal death rate from 66 to 48 (per thousand live birth)
- Reduce under-5 child mortality rate from 88 to 70 (per thousand live birth)
- Increase the safe delivery rate from 13.4 per cent to 25 per cent
- Raise the rate of pre-natal care from 48 per cent to 60 per cent
- Expand the post-natal care service rate from 16 per cent to 30 per cent
- Instill 7,50,000 permanent birth control method
- Implant 9,00,000 I.U.D.
- Apply 3,65,000 implants

Latest Progress of Implementation Activities to Achieve the Goals

- For collection of information, preservation and reporting on family planning activities, family planning assistance register (4th edition) has been distributed to each field worker beginning 01 January 2004. In addition, decision was taken to print and distribute a supplementary register to all field workers in the country, in response to a request from them. To collect information from the national to the lowest level 5 types of reporting forms have been printed, and are to be distributed in each of the upazilas of the country.

- Home delivery of service is continuing. Special camping groups have been organised at the field level to speed up progress in instilling permanent birth control measures. Furthermore, pre-natal and post-natal services, EPI, infant healthcare, nutrition information and other types of services are being delivered through 8 satellite clinics in each union every month.

- Supervision of work from the national to field levels has been strengthened.
- 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, new-natal and adolescent services, etc. is in progress. So far, 3,477 health and family welfare centers have been built in 4,470 unions of the country.
- Mobile clinics have been organised to induce males to participate in adopting family planning device, and to popularise male vasectomy (N.S.V.)
- Through December 2004, 128 doctors were trained in obstetrics/gynaecology. During the same time 122 doctors underwent one-year long training course in anesthesia, and 299 family welfare visitors (FWV) received training for six months in management and nursing care.
- Through December 2004, 376 family welfare visitors received six months long training in mid-wifery and 40 more are undergoing similar training. As a result, family welfare visitors will acquire knowledge and efficiency in nursing, which is expected to help render emergency delivery service at the union level.
- As of December 2004, 631 skilled birth attendants (SBA) completed their training and 440 more are being trained. This is expected to ensure safe motherhood.
- In the current fiscal year, 77 family welfare visitors and woman sub-assistant community medical officers have been provided basic training on MR (Menstrual Regulation) matters. This training has substantially contributed to the reduction of maternal mortality and mitigation of the number of abortion-related complications.
- Twenty-two doctors and family welfare visitors have been trained on violence against women. Thirty-seven doctors and family welfare visitors have received training on youth-friendly service. Fifteen doctors have been awarded training in 'male service'. Furthermore, 223 doctors and family welfare visitors completed training on reproductive infections, post-abortion services, infection control, and HIV/AIDS during 2003-04.

Nursing

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

Currently, there are about 19,000 nurses registered by the Bangladesh Nursing Council. Of them, 14,686 professional nurses serve government under the Nursing Directorate, while 1,000 nurses work outside of Bangladesh. Also, about 6,000 nurses work in the private sector. There are 38 government nursing institutes under the Nursing Directorate. Besides, there are one ‘Armed Force Nursing Institute’ and five private nursing institutes in the country. All government and non-government nursing institutes are accredited by Bangladesh Nursing Council. These institutes

award four-year diploma, i.e. 'Diploma in Nursing' in 3 years, and 'Diploma in Mid-wifery' in one-year or equivalent. Upon successful completion of the course(s), candidates need to be registered with Bangladesh Nursing Council. Between 800-1,000 nurses graduate from these institutes annually.

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 about 20,000 nurses against 40,000 doctors. Therefore, the number of nurses needs to be increased more than the number of doctors. Government has plans to raise the number of registered nurses form 20,000 to 30,000 during the period 2003-2010 including the adjustment of the shortage of nurses in the country, to augment the quality of healthcare service. Ten years down the road the number of registered nurses is expected to climb to 30,000, once 7 nursing institutes currently under construction and 5 proposed ones are established along with the existing 38 institutes. In addition, 4 divisional education centres and 2 rural nursing training centres at the Upazila level under the Nursing Directorate remain functional. These are used for in-service training for nurses at the divisional level, and nursing students can satisfy the field-practice requirement of the nursing curriculum in these centres. There is a nursing college at Dhaka that is affiliated with Dhaka University. The college offers a two-year B.Sc. degree in nursing and a B.Sc. in public health nursing.

Pharmaceutical Industry

In spite of being one of the least developed countries of South Asia, Bangladesh has achieved admirable advancement in the pharmaceutical industry. Almost all necessary drugs save for a few requiring very highly sophisticated technology, are now locally produced. Altogether 233 drug companies turn out about 12,000 types of branded drugs and various essential ingredients for drugs of worth Tk. 4,100 crore every year. Now, locally produced drugs can meet 96 percent or more of the demand for drugs in the country. Besides, legally recognised herbal (Ayurvedic/Yunani) medicines of the east, western homeopathic, and biochemical medicines also contribute to healthcare significantly. Advancement in ‘good medicines practice’ (GMP) in the pharmaceutical industry has resulted in the production of international quality drugs in Bangladesh, and as much as about 42 types of drugs and related raw materials produced in Bangladesh are now being exported to about 62 countries of the world including United Kingdom and United States. 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 stood up to Tk. 130.80 crore from exports to about 62 countries 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 of both domestic and foreign investment having met the global open market challenges.

Nutrition

Development of the nutritional status of the people is a constitutional commitment for Bangladesh. In spite of some significant improvements the nutritional status in Bangladesh, it has not yet reached the desirable level. But the Government is putting immense emphasis on nutritional development.

Overall increase in the quality and scope of services rendered by the Government has caused the recurring expenditure to rise relatively faster. The allocation for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for development expenditure was Tk. 1,286.15 crore in FY 2001-02; in FY 2002-03 it was Tk. 1,333.81 crore, which was Tk. 47.54 crore more than the previous year; the amount became Tk. 1,409.81 crore in FY 2003-04, which meant an increment of Tk 76.12 crore; the figure rose to Tk. 1,954.78 crore in FY 2004-05 for health, nutrition and population sector programs including expenditure for 16 development projects (9 investment and seven technical assistance projects). This means an increase of Tk. 544.97 crore over the allocation of the last fiscal year. Meanwhile, daily allocation for patients' diet in hospitals has been raised from Tk. 30 to Tk. 45, and allocation for MSR has also been increased. This trend is expected to continue through the future.

Women and Children Development

Women play a very important role in the overall development activities of the country. Development, to the exclusion of women is bound to be lopsided. Many programmes aimed at reducing inequality between men and women have been undertaken by both government and non-government entities, in realisation of this truth. A three-year rolling plan has been adopted, with special emphasis on the development of women. To ensure equality, peace and development of women, the main objectives of this three-year rolling plan are as follows:

- achievement of equality between men and women at all levels including equal partnership in decision making;
- establishing women’s rights to control over economic resources, e.g. land, capital, technology, etc. including attainment of economic self-dependence;
- reduction of inequality between men and women in development and maximizing the utilisation of human resources in agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, modern technology areas and non-institutional sectors;

- stopping all kinds of repression of women and preventing trafficking of women and children;
- ensuring women's participation in the peace movement at both national and international levels;

Work to build up a skilled women labor force 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 under the agencies of the Ministry, namely the Department of Women's Affairs, National Women's Organisation (Jatiya Mahila Sangstha), and Bangladesh Shishu (Children) Academy. To expand women's development activities, the Department of Women's Affairs is carrying out women's development activities in 64 districts and 405 upazilas of the country, under the revenue budget of the Government. Notable projects of those are:

- Development of the poor women lacking food security;
- Women's training academy;
- Day-care programmes for children of working women;
- Integrated programs to prevent child trafficking;
- Construction of hostels for working women;
- Agricultural training institute for women, handicrafts and agricultural training center for women, security shelters for women, children and adolescent girls' projects;
- Day-care centres for the children of working women in districts towns, and security shelters and vocational training centres for destitute children;
- In–country Training Program for the Agricultural Training for Women in Bangladesh with the Financial and Technical support form JICA and OISCA;
- 'Advocacy to End Gender Based Violence Through Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs'.

In addition, development of a national work plan, implementation of national policy for women's development and integration of civil society and government's participation, etc. are being carried out for determining policy, leadership and advocacy to ensure gender equality. Allocation for 20 projects under this Ministry in the Annual Development Programmes (ADP) of FY 2003-04 was Tk. 69.16 crore and the expenditure was 91 percent of the allocation or Tk. 62.77 crore. During the current fiscal year 2004-05, the budget allocation for 38 projects of the ministry is Tk.

67.46 crore, and Tk. 38.19 crore or 57% of the allocation has already been spent through March 2005.

The Department of Women's Affairs and the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha under this Ministry have been conducting micro-credit activities since FY 1999-2000. These two agencies have disbursed a cumulative amount of Tk. 258.26 crore as micro-credit, and recovered Tk. 173.62 crore through March 2005. These activities have resulted in the empowerment of thousands of women and the creation of women entrepreneurs.

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 placed ample emphasis on this area. Education, training and rehabilitation work for a large number of disabled people is in progress of the country through the initiative 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 mainly classified under: development of social integration and poverty alleviation programmes; environment and forest, and social safety net programs; and human resources development programmes.

a. Development of Social Integration and Poverty Alleviation Programmes:

Poverty alleviation is one of the developments of social integration activities/programs. 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-burn women and the physically handicapped throughout all upazilas and towns of the country. New investments and reinvestments through a revolving fund were made under the above noted 4 programmes to alleviate poverty. Though the original investment in the 4 programmes amounted to Tk. 188.85 crore only, the accumulated investment through up to June 2005, stood at Tk. 566.55 crore including reinvestments. Similarly, cumulative collection stood at Tk. 511.01 crore, which means a recovery rate of 90 per cent. A total of 2,62,787 families were benefited from the revolving loan funds under the 4 programs. The number of beneficiaries from vocational training was 32,253 individuals. Beneficiaries of social programmes numbered at 22,73,701 individuals. A total of 16,43,644 individuals

received literacy training; 17,78,050 persons were trained in primary healthcare knowledge; and 22,76,040 persons were motivated to the virtue of small family.

b. Environment and Forest:

The Department of Social Services has distributed 20,13,675 seedlings through Rural Social Services (RSS) activities in all upazilas and urban areas of the country to advance the afforestation programmes.

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. 260.37 crore during the FY 2004-05, supporting 13,15,000 beneficiaries. The Ministry of Social Welfare administers a number of programmes for the physically handicapped.

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 2003-04, privately run but registered (with the government) orphanages received allowances for 29,166 orphans at the rate of Tk. 400 per month per child, costing the government Tk. 14 crore as 'capitation grant'. The Ministry of Social Welfare has undertaken plans to formulate and implement new projects, having integrated the existing poverty alleviation programmes, in accordance with the goals set in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the Government.

Youth and Sports

The youths occupy the central position in the national, economic, social, cultural and political spheres of the country. 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 25 lakh of youth up to June 2005 under various completed and ongoing projects. Of those trained youth, as of June 2005 a total of 13.80 lakh youth have engaged themselves in self-employment. Under the credit program of the department, 6,62,716 beneficiaries received credit facilities of worth Tk. 604 crore 22 lakh (including the revolving fund), since the time of inception through June 2005. Of that amount, a sum of Tk. 57, 94,44,000 (including the revolving fund) was disbursed among 48,537 beneficiaries during FY 2004-05. 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 organizations and some found placement in various occupations abroad, including in the Middle East.

To expedite employment generation for youths, the Ministry of Land authorised the Ministry of Youth and Sports to lease out *Khas* land up to 20 acres, and closed water bodies to youth cooperative societies that are registered with the Department of Youth Development, in the light of a decision taken in an inter-ministerial meeting in 1997. According to the laid down policies, water bodies are being leased out to youth cooperative societies through the committees at district/upazila levels. Up to June 2005, a total of 11,471 water bodies have been leased out to youth cooperative societies to generate youth employment. A sum of Tk. 20.48 crore received from the leases has been deposited in the government treasury.

The Department of Youth Development has been working for development and expansion of information technology. Unemployed youths are being trained in basic computer and graphic design skills, including lessons in Internet and networking in 70 centres in 64 districts. So far 54,977 persons have received such training till June 2005.

To involve youths with programmes for population control, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, sanitation etc. a technical assistance project funded by UNFPA is being implemented through 500 youth clubs in all upazilas of the country is continuing. Unemployed men and women are being imparted motivational training on issues like gender, HIV/AIDS, sanitation, environment and reproductive health, etc. Furthermore, to increase consciousness about safe motherhood and adolescent reproductive health, a technical assistance project funded by UNFPA has been implemented in 30 upazilas of the country through 60 youth clubs, which has trained a total of 29,079 persons. A 'National Youth Centre' has been formed to associate members of the public with the national development process, develop social-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. Up to June 2005, 7499 individuals have been trained through this center. One of the principal assignments of the Department of Youth Development is to bring together different youth organizations with the socio-economic development activities of the country. Given this goal, enlistment of youth organizations in the Directorate of Youth Development is moving forward. As of now, 6,743 youth organisations have been enlisted. During FY 2003-04, Tk. 74,97,000 has been disbursed to 747 youth organisations as project-based grants.

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. During the FY 2004-05, Tk. 57.86 crore has been spent in 16 projects out of a total allocation of Tk. 4310 lakh. Besides these Tk 18.54 crore allocated in revenue budget under 6 projects.

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 enlivened since the present Government's assumption of office. Efforts to develop fine arts, including music, dance, etc. through establishing Shilpakala Academy in stages 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 theatre, music and dance artistry. Construction work of National Music Dance Centre and National Art Gallary 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 Library Centre are jointly organizing 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 Development 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.

Efforts are being made to raise allocations in three-year (2004-06) revolving programmes to strengthen and ensure continued development in the cultural sector. In the development budget of the current fiscal year 2004-05, a sum of Tk. 57.65 crore has been allocated for 13 projects now being implemented under different offices/agencies of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, to continue developing the cultural sector. Also, block allocations of Tk. 10 crore have been kept aside for 7 new projects.

Success in human development that Bangladesh has achieved has been duly reflected in the Human Development Report of 2003, 2004 and 2005 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.