

CHAPTER TWELVE

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The importance of Human Resource Development (HRD) has got new dimension in order to face the challenges of globalization. For this reason, the government has included HRD as one of the main goals of its development agenda along with the economic growth. To achieve this goal the government of Bangladesh has allocated 22.09 percent of budget to the HRD related sectors, such as-Education and Technology, Health and Family Welfare, Women and Children, Social Welfare, Youth Sports development, Culture, Labour and Employment etc. Various programs including the adoption of the 'National Education Policy-2010' have been undertaken to create skilled and competent Human Resources for the country by enhancing the quality of education and increasing accessibility to Secondary and Higher Secondary, Technical and all tiers of higher education. Due to the government's policy for recruiting 60 percent female teachers in the government primary schools, the number of female teachers has been increased from 21.09 percent in 1991 to 64.18 percent till 2018. Bangladesh has achieved Millennium Development Goal (MDG) related to health sector, prior to the stipulated time due to undertaking many priority based programs in health, nutrition and population sector. In this regard, Bangladesh has won 'UN South-South Award' twice. Both fertility and mortality rates have come down. Remarkable progress has been made in reducing child and maternal mortality and in increasing average life expectancy. Malnutrition has also been reduced significantly. At Present, Bangladesh is working hard for achieving health sector related goal and targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to ensure the desire development of women and to ensure their participation in the national development activities the government has legislated 'National Women Development Policy-2011'. Furthermore, 'Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act-2010' has been enacted to prevent violence against women and children. Apart from, the government has formulated 'National Child Policy-2011' and 'Child Marriage Prevention Act-2017'. Moreover, two national action plans have been prepared to implement National Women Development Policy and to protect violence against women and children. As a result of implementation of various development programs, Bangladesh is gradually improving in the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the 'Human Development Report-2018' the position of Bangladesh has been improved to 136.

A skilled manpower is an essential element for the socio-economic development of a country. Currently, 58.7 percent of our total population is active. The government is implementing different types of development programs to accumulate demographic dividend by utilizing the huge number of working age people. Under this circumstance, the government has taken relentless efforts

and various initiatives for human resource development of the country through improve the standard of living of the under privileged and impoverished segments of the population. This has resulted in progress in the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the 'Human Development Report-2018' the position of Bangladesh has improved to 136. At present, Bangladesh is a middle ranking

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country in consideration of HDI. Among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries Sri Lanka (76), India (130) and Bhutan (134) are ahead of Bangladesh (136) in respect of HDI. Other SAARC countries, such as Nepal (149) and

Pakistan (150) are below the ranking of Bangladesh in HDI. Allocations of human development related sectors have been boosted up day by day. Position of Bangladesh in the HDI of recent few years have been presented to the Table 12.1.

Table 12.1: HDI Position of Bangladesh

Year	2000	2010	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017
Index value	0.468	0.545	0.566	0.583	0.592	0.597	0.608

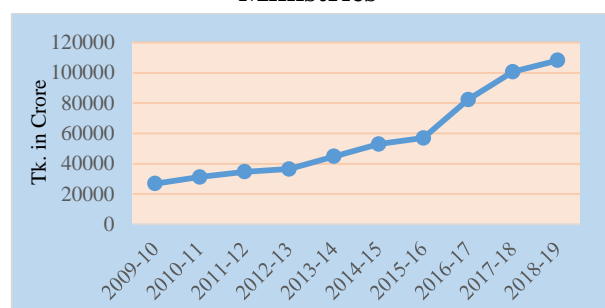
Source: Human Development Report- 2018. UNDP

Public Expenditure for Human Resource Development

Adequate investment in social sectors including education and health is necessary for human resource development. Government is consistently enhancing the allocation in sectors that are related with human resource development like education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children, social welfare, youth and sports development, cultural affairs, labour and employment generation. 22.09 percent resource of the total budget has been allocated in these sectors related to human resource development in the FY2018-19. Education and health is considered as the base of human resource development. Government is allocating adequate resources for the development of education and health

sectors. Tk.76,437 has been allocated in these two sectors in the current fiscal year, which is 16.45 percent of the total budget allocation. Government could contribute positively by implementing realistic programs in education and health sectors, as a result. As a consequence, gender balance has been achieved by elimination of discrimination in the primary and secondary education level. Human resource development process is going on through achieving significant progress in reduction in fertility rate, reduction of child and maternal mortality rate, prevention of spread of Tuberculosis and AIDS. Sports and youth development can also contribute in human resource development. For that reason, budget allocation is also increased in these sectors.

Figure 12.1: Trend of Government Allocation in the Social Sector of Selected Ministries



Sources: *Information's are based on Budget.

Chart: Operating and Development budget allocation in social development sector during 2009-10 to 2018-19. Note that the allocation has been growing across the years in this sector.

Figure 12.1 and Table 12.2 presents the total allocation in operating and development budget in the social sector during FY2009-10 to FY2018-19.

Table 12.2: Allocation (Operating and Development) of Selected Ministries

(In Crore Taka)

Sector	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Education, Science & ICT	16171	18575	20316	21561	28272	33499	34370	52914	65444	67935
Health and Family Welfare	6833	7617	8869	9130	9955	11537	12695	17486	20652	23,383
Youth, Sports and Culture	530	911	924	976	1061	1068	1199	1343	1803	2008
Labour and Employment	69	67	82	134	192	226	302	308	262	227
Social Welfare, Women's Affairs and Liberation War Affairs	2812	3499	3967	4091	4730	5962	7613	9433	11394	13343
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	465	549	560	583	633	684	779	840	1150	1309
Total Allocation (Operating and Development)	26880	31218	34718	36475	44843	52976	56958	82324	100705	108205

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

Education and Technology

To build an educated, confident and scientific-minded nation, who is capable of facing 21st century's challenges, government has undertaken lots of activities by giving the highest priority to education sector. The government has approved the 'National Education Policy-2010' as a step towards implementing a time befitting technical education system in the country which will help to establish digital Bangladesh where is the main goal set out in Vision 2021. The cardinal objective of policy is to foster humanity among the future citizens of the country and to grow them as creative, rational, tolerant to others opinion and liberal who will be able to lead the country towards inclusive development and progress.

Primary and Mass Education

The government has constitutional obligation to ensure education for all. In line with global

initiative the government is committed to achieve inclusive and quality education for all. Therefore, allocation of education sector is increased step by step. In FY2018-19, the government has made an allocation of Tk. 22,466 crore for primary education development.

The Goal 4 of the 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) declares to ensure 'inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all'. The government has targeted to achieve SDG 4 by ensuring quality education for all children by 2030. Target has been set to provide quality primary education for all children by 2030 who are ready to go to school. Government is implementing Stipend project, 4th Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4), Reaching Out of School (ROSC) project, School Feeding program for poor areas, Need based government and newly nationalised primary school development project

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(1st phase), Basic Literacy project (64 district) and some other projects for attaining the goals of SDG.

Number of primary schools in the country was 49,539 in 1991. The number has increased to 1,34,147 (25 types of schools including BRAC centre, ROSC centre, different NGO schools, child welfare and Madrassa/Mosque based centre/Qawmi

madrassa) at present. Number of enrolment and ratio of female students is increasing consistently. Rate of enrolment of female students is more than the male students. The ration of male to female students was 55:45 in 1991 which is 49.25:50.75 at present. Table 12.3 shows students' enrolment rate and percentage of male-female students at primary levels from 2006 to 2018.

Table 12.3: Boys- Girls Enrolment at Primary Level

(In lakh)				
Year	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Net Enrollment rate (%)
2006	163.86	81.29 (49.62)	82.56 (50.38)	90.9
2007	163.13	80.35 (49.26)	82.78 (50.74)	91.1
2008	167.49	83.25 (49.70)	84.24 (50.30)	90.8
2009	165.39	82.41 (49.83)	82.98 (50.17)	93.9
2010	169.58	83.95 (49.50)	85.63 (50.50)	94.8
2011	184.32	91.39 (49.60)	92.93 (50.40)	94.9
2012	190.03	94.63 (49.80)	95.40 (50.20)	96.7
2013	195.85	97.81 (49.94)	98.04 (50.06)	97.3
2014	195.53	96.39 (49.30)	99.14 (50.70)	97.7
2015	190.68	93.69 (49.14)	96.99 (50.86)	97.9
2016	186.03	92.28 (49.60)	93.75 (50.40)	97.9
2017	172.55	85.08 (49.32)	87.47 (50.68)	97.97
2018	173.38	85.39 (49.25)	87.99 (50.75)	97.85

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

Some students are compelled to leave the school before completion of primary education for various reasons. Rate of drop out is consistently decreasing as the

government has taken several realistic steps. Table 12.4 shows remarkable changes of drop-out scenario of students at primary level during the period.

Table 12.4: Year wise Drop-out Rate at Primary Level

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dropout rate (%)	45.1	39.8	29.7	26.2	21.4	20.9	20.4	19.2	18.8	18.6

Source: Annual Primary School Census, 2018, Directorate of Primary Education.

Important Activities in Primary Education

- ‘4th Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4)’ has been implemented to develop the quality of primary education. Through various activities under this program, priorities have been given to increase enrolment and attendance of school-going children, reduce drop-out and enhance school contact hour. Now, the government has taken the Fourth Primary Education Development Program.
- Under the present policy of recruitment of teachers, 60:40 ratio of female to male has been followed. The current ratio of female and male teachers is 64.18:35.82 in government primary schools.
- Decentralisation of administrative and financial power in primary education has been implemented. As a step towards decentralisation, ‘School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP)’ and ‘Upazila Primary Education Plan (UPEP)’ have been implemented phase wise.
- Non-formal Education Bureau has been established to carry out non-formal education along with formal education. ‘Non-formal Education Act-2014’ has been promulgated in order to make non-formal education more dynamic, effective and job oriented. The government has also enacted ‘Non-formal Education Policy and Non-formal Education Board in 2017.
- Amount of stipend has been significantly increased. At the same time the number of beneficiaries has also been increased. At present, 1.4 crore students are being provided with stipend.
- To increase enrolment rate and to retain student at school, school feeding program has been introduced. 75gram fortified biscuits are being distributed to all students on every school day among 29.42 lakh students in 104 *upazilas*. The government is considering for further expansion of the program.
- Under PEDP-4, ‘Second Chance Education Program’ is being implemented to offer the primary education to out-of-school and dropped out 8-14 year aged 10 lakh deprived children.
- Primary Education Development Program-4, Establishment of PTIs in 12 districts which don’t have PTIs, Need based government primary school development project (1st phase) is being implemented. Basic literacy (64 districts) project is also being implemented to bring all the *upazilas* of the country under basic education program.
- 26,193 registered non-government primary schools have been nationalised and teachers employed in these schools have been brought under Monthly Payment Order (MPO). Government notification has been issued in favor of nationalising 26,185 schools following all necessary formalities. Five posts of teachers including one head teacher in each school have been created. Furthermore, 211 more schools have been nationalised under special consideration of the Prime minister.
- In order to upgrade the level of primary education to 8th grade in accordance with National Education Policy-2010,

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education in 6th grade has been introduced in 764 schools.

Physical Infrastructure Facilities at Primary School Level

Infrastructure development activities have been undertaken for increasing the quality of primary education. Under Fiscal 2018-19, till Feb 2019-

- The establishment of 12 PTI in selected District's headquarters have already been completed.
- Development work of total 8,150 schools have been approved under Need based primary education development project (1st phase) in fiscal 2018-19. Construction work of 243 schools has been completed in the meantime.
- Development work of total 6,717 schools have been approved under Need based newly nationalised school primary school development project (1st phase). Construction work of 77 schools has been completed in the meantime.

Terminal Examination and Scholarship

Since 2009, terminal examination in Grade-5 and Ebtedayee madrasas is being held based on unique questionnaires throughout the country. Total candidates in Grade-5 examination in 2018 were about 26.52 lakh, among them 97.59 percent examines were passed. On the contrary, 2.74 lakh Ebtedayee madrasa students took part in terminal examination and 97.69 percent students passed the examination.

Scholarships are being awarded on the basis of final examination instead of separately conducting scholarship tests. Number of

scholarships is also being increased every year. 82,500 students were awarded scholarships in 2018. Number of students who were awarded scholarship in talent pool category is 33,000 and general category is 49,500.

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 ShishuKalyan Trust (SKT) schools to continue their education.

Stipend Project for Primary School Students

Poor parents do not send their disciples to school, rather engage them in economic activities or sometimes employ as associates in their own profession. Huge number of children drops out from the school before completing five year long cycle of primary education. Stipend for primary education project-3rd phase is being implemented costing Tk. 6923.05 crore in order to overcome this problem. Total 1.4 crore students were registered under this program. Rate of stipend for grades 1 to 5 is Tk. 100, Tk. 200, Tk. 250 and Tk. 300 for first, second, third and fourth child respectively. On the other hand, rate of stipend for grades 6 to 8 is Tk. 125, Tk. 250, Tk. 350 and Tk. 400 for first, second, third and fourth child respectively.

Distribution of Books at Government Cost

Government is distributing free textbooks for primary students every year. Students are getting free textbooks on the first day of the 10.25 crore textbooks were distributed in 2019. 34.28 lakh books and 34.28 lakh related

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educational materials were distributed in 2019. Four color text books are distributed to attract the attention of the children. 34,000 books and related educational materials of same number for pre-primary students as well as 2.07 lakh books for students of grades 1 and 2 has been distributed among students of 5 minority ethnic groups (Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo and Sadri).

Increase of Contact Hours

In the past, the annual contact time for class One and Two students was 595 hours. For the students of class Three–Five, the time was 833 hours at double shift schools. In order to increase contact time at primary level, about 4,000 schools have been transformed into single shift school. As a result, the contact time has been increased to 919 hours for class One and Two and 1,428 hours for class Three–Five at newly transformed single shift school. In double shift, for class One and Two the contacting time is 600 hours and 789 hours for class Three–Five.

Recruitment of Teachers

Recruitment of teachers in vacant posts and newly created post of government primary schools is ongoing in order to ensure the quality of primary education. Government has taken the decision to recruit 60 percent female teachers in government primary schools. The ratio of female and male teachers in primary level is 64.18 percent. 9,767 assistant teachers and 325 non-cadre headmasters, recommended by PSC were recruited in 2018-19. The process to recruit 10,000 more assistant teachers is ongoing.

Program for Out-of-School and Working Children

Government has taken multi-faceted programs in order to provide primary education to out of school, drop outs and urban working children. Reaching out of school children project (2nd phase) is being implemented for bringing drop out and under privileged children under primary education system in order to ensure ‘Education for all’ policy. 7.20 lakh drop out or out of school children from 21,361 teaching centres will get the chance to obtain 5 year long primary education. Students from grades 1 to 3 will get per head 80 taka and students from grades 4 and 5 will get 100 taka per head as educational assistance. Other than that, 400 taka is being given on account of uniform per annum. Taka 200 for grades 1 to 3 and taka 300 financial assistance is being given for purchasing educational materials. Taka 1,000 is being given to a 5th grader for taking part in the terminal examination and a fresh 6th grader is being given taka 2,000 following the presentation of a certificate from the headmaster. Around 83,000 students are participating from 3,586 centres in 2019 academic year. Furthermore, Second chance education program is going on for drop outs and out of school children. To facilitate this program, Second Chance division has been created in Primary Education department. ‘Basic Literacy Project (64 district’s)’ has been Implemented in 250 *upazilas* of 64 district’s provide basic literacy and life skills to 45 lakh illiterate adolescents and adults in 15-45 age group.

Secondary Education

Government has framed National Education Policy-2010 in the previous tenure for developing a human resource with quality education and knowledge of modern technology by ensuring comprehensive and quality education for all in order to face the challenges of twenty first century. In accordance with the education policy, topics on religion and moral education, corruption, extremism, climate change and disaster management, abuse of women, sexual harassment, AIDS and HIV, autism, human rights, child and women trafficking, ICT etc. were included in the curriculum for developing the sense of patriotism, ethics and value system, social consciousness, mutual respect.

Free text books are distributed among students for ensuring the opportunity of education for both rich and poor, preventing drop outs and making education standard, comprehensive and effective. First day of the year is celebrated as the ‘Textbook day’. Free textbooks are distributed among primary and secondary students on this day across the country at the same time. 35,21,97,882 textbooks were distributed in 2019 under this program. Brail textbooks were distributed for the first time in 2017. 5,857 Brail textbooks were distributed in 219-19 academic year among 750 students under this program. Other than that, 2,76,784 textbooks were distributed for pre-primary students of 5 minority ethnic groups (Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo and Sadri) in 2018-19 academic year.

Meetings, awareness workshops, mother’s meetings are arranged under different stipend programs for expanding female education and

prevention of drop outs. Construction of new classrooms in 100 secondary level schools is underway through Secondary Education Sector Investment Program (SESIP) for bringing dynamism in the activities of Secondary and Higher Education Directorate. Additional classes are conducted (English, Mathematics and Science) in selected secondary schools for making student more proficient through Secondary Education and Access Enhancement (SECAEP) Project.

Academic activities are ongoing in ‘Establishment of 6 colleges and 11 high schools in Dhaka Metropolitan City’ project. Academic activities are also ongoing in already constructed 4 schools under Establishment of 7 government secondary schools in Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna cities. 62 Model schools have been established in under privileged areas under Secondary Education Sector Development Program (SESDP).

1,624 Non-government educational institutions were brought under MPO since 2009 for enhancing the quality of education and Manpower structure and MPO policy for Non-government Educational Institution (School and College) 2018 has also been issued for inclusion of recognized non-MPO institutions into MPO. At present, activities are underway for inclusion of recognised institutions into MPO.

Technical Education

The expansion of technical and vocational education, the youths of the country can be developed as productive and skilled manpower. For this reason, the vocational courses have been introduced in secondary and higher secondary level education including madrasas. Unprecedented

advancement have been achieved in technical education in the last ten years. Last year 2018 the enrolment rate in technical education was 15.12 percent. In continuation to the advancement, several projects/programs have been taken in order to increase the enrolment rate of technical education up to 20 percent by 2020. Again, necessary steps have been taken to implement National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) at all levels. An 'Integrated TVET Development Action Plan' has been developed aligning it with SDGs and 7th Five Year Plan. Time-befitting trade and technologies have been included in technical education to make the youths of the country able to be self-employed and competent enough to meet the challenges of the job market in the local and global market. Currently, in total 8,852 TVET institutions are in operational mode. Out of these, 119 institutions operate through government. The rest of 8,733 institutions are running privately.

Along with different short-term courses, BSC Engineering courses are being conducted in Engineering colleges in *Mymensingh, Faridpur, Sylhet* and *Barishal* districts. To expand technical and vocational education, many projects such as: 'Establishment of 8 Women Technical School and Colleges at 8 Divisional headquarters', 'Establishment of 23 Polytechnic Institutes' and 'Establishment of 4 female polytechnic institute at *Barishal, Sylhet, Rangpur* and *Mymensingh* Divisions' are being implemented. To further expand Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), a number of projects have been proposed for approval. The proposed projects are 'Capacity development of 64

existing technical schools and colleges', 'Establishment of 329 Technical School & Colleges (2nd Phase)' and 'Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Stipend Project'. Besides, project proposals for 'Establishment of Technical Teachers' Training and Research Institute', 'Technical Leadership Training Centre at Cox's Bazar TSC Premises', 'Modernization of the Courses of Graphics Arts Institute and Introducing a New Department', 'Capacity Building of the Madrasahs to Introduce *Dakhil* (Vocational) Course', 'Capacity Building of the Secondary Level Institution to Introduce SSC (Vocational) Course' and 'Capacity Building of the Selected Private Polytechnic Institutes' are being prepared.

Madrasah Education

Directorate of Madrasah Education is a newly created organization as an apex body for ensuring proper management and administration in the field of Madrasah education. Presently there are 7,624 madrasahs (MPO enlisted) in the country. In order to make madrasah education time-befitting, the curriculum has been improved alongside the teaching of religious subjects such as Quran, Aqaid and Fiqh, Arabic and Hadith from Class One to Twelve.

Similar to general education system, madrasah education system is also following the NCTB developed syllabus and curriculum for general core subjects and elective subjects except for the Arabic subjects for madrasah education. Text books for all subjects except Arabic and Islamic subjects have been printed and distributed from NCTB. Initiatives have been taken to conduct all madrasah examinations except the Arabic and Islamic

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subjects with the same syllabus up to the secondary level since 2014. Competitive, modern and life skill oriented subjects like Agriculture, ICT and career related education have been included in the syllabus of Madrasah education. In ensuring more transparency and accountability of the activities under Madrasah Education Board, filling up of forms and students' registration are being done online using ICT.

Under the Directorate of Madrasah Education, the project 'Establishment of Multimedia Classroom in 653 Madrasahs' has already supplied 01 projector, 01 laptop, 01 interactive white board, 01 speaker, 01 UPS and 01 modem in each of the 322 Madrasahs and to improve the education management system, necessary steps have been undertaken to establish 'Madrasah Education Management Information System (MEMIS)' cell.

Higher Education

The government has taken several significant initiatives for ensuring quality and expansion of higher education through the University Grants Commission. One public university has been established in almost each old district of the country. At present, 42 public and 104 private universities are conducting their academic activities. Process is going on to establish 7 more public universities in the country. Government is working relentlessly to reach the scope of higher education at the doorstep of the people through establishment of universities. The expansion of higher education is being done by establishing different infrastructures including academic buildings of the old and new universities through development projects.

Enactment of 'Cross Border Higher Education (CBHE) Act-2014' has facilitated the establishment of permanent campus of the world-renowned private universities in Bangladesh. To encourage research based educational environment in higher educational institutions Academic Innovation Fund is being disbursed with the World Bank's support under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN)' has been established by the government. As a result, students and teachers from different faculties are getting a chance to connect them with international academic community and database.

Private Universities Act-2010 has been enacted to enhance the quality of education at the private universities. With a view to ensuring the quality of higher education, the process of establishing the National Accreditation Council Act is in the final stage. Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) has been established to enhance the mobility and transparency of the universities' education, administration, finance, development, research and so on. Data are being served from the universities through the HEMIS portal. Likewise, the activities of UGC Digital Library (UDL), HEQEP have been launched. The total number of UDL member universities is now 92. The students, teachers and researchers of UDL member universities are getting access to e-books and e-journals through UDL.

ICT in Education

ICT in Education Master Plan has been prepared involving all strata of education for

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building a skilled and modern education system by including ICT in education sector. 255 posts of ICT teachers have been created in government colleges in order to ensure ultimate development, meet challenges of present world and for building a society with ICT knowledge. ICT training labs were established in 125 *Upazilas* by constructing UITRCE through ‘*Upazila* ICT training and Resource Centre for Education (UITRCE)’ project, implemented by BANBEIS under the Ministry of Education under the auspices of Bangladesh and South Korea Economic Development Co-operation Fund (EDCF) for strengthening the education information system for developing ICT literate skilled human resource in order to implement e-governance in the education sector. Establishment of more 160 UITRCE is underway under the 2nd phase of the same project. 1 lakh and 38 thousand teachers were trained in ICT, according to the data provided by BANBEIS. 32,667 multimedia classrooms were installed for making education more effective, pleasant and timely. 31 digital language laboratories were established under ‘Establishment of Foreign Language Training Centres-2 (FLTC-2)’ project. As a result, those intending to go abroad could be trained in English, Arabic, Korean, Japanese, French languages to turn them into skilled human resource. 30 thousand participants have been trained so far in different languages.

Development of Female Education

It has been possible to eliminate at the primary and secondary level education because of introducing stipend program for female student. In order to ensure women empowerment and increase their participation

in socio-economic activities, government has been providing stipend, granting free studentship and financial assistance for purchasing books to the female students. The government also offers fees to the female students for appearing in the public examinations. The amount of general scholarships and technical and vocational education scholarships for female students has been enhanced significantly. Moreover, the coverage extends for the meritorious female students.

Development of Health and Family Welfare Sector

Health care facilities are the fundamental right of every citizen of the country. To fulfill this commitment, the government has been implementing different program for the under privileged and impoverished population to improve their life standard. Due to adoption of different activities, remarkable progress has been made in health sector. Because of the government’s timely interventions, the fertility rate as well as death rate has decreased, average life expectancy has increased and neonatal and maternal death rate has decreased notably. The health and social safety program of the government has contributed to the expansion of health service as well as to improve the quality of the service. In addition, it helps to control the infectious diseases. Also, the improvement in food security system, expansion of women education and other fruitful interventions enhance living standard of people and life expectancy has also increased consequently. Table 12.5 shows the trend of health indicators from 2013 to 2017.

Table 12.5: Recent Trends in Health Indicators

Indicator	Level	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	National	19.0	18.9	18.8	18.7	18.5
	Urban	18.2	17.2	16.5	16.1	16.1
	Rural	19.3	19.4	20.3	20.9	20.4
Crude Death Rate (per 1000 population)	National	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1
	Urban	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.2
	Rural	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.7
Average Age at Marriage	Male	24.3	24.9	25.3	25.2	25.1
	Female	18.4	18.3	18.4	18.4	18.4
Life Expectancy at Birth (year)	Both	70.4	70.7	70.9	71.6	72
	Male	68.8	69.1	69.4	70.3	70.6
	Female	71.2	71.6	72.0	72.9	73.3
Infant Mortality Rate (<1 year) (per 1000 live births)	National	31	30	29	28	24
	Urban	26	26	28	28	22
	Rural	34	31	29	28	25
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	National	41	38	36	35	31
	Urban	35	30	32	32	27
	Rural	43	40	39	36	33
Maternal mortality Ratio (per 1000 live births)	National	1.97	1.93	1.81	1.78	1.72
	Urban	1.46	1.82	1.62	1.60	1.57
	Rural	2.11	1.96	1.91	1.90	1.82
Contraceptive users rate (%)		62.4	62.2	62.1	62.3	62.5
Total Fertility Rate (per women, 15-49 years of age)		2.11	2.11	2.10	2.10	2.05

Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics-2017.

Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP)

Based on 7th Five Year Plan, Vision 2021, Health Nutrition and Population related Policy and many more international commitment 4th Sector Program of Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP) is currently being implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW). The key objectives of this program is to increase the demand of health, family planning and nutrition service delivery for people specially for women and children, make available the effective service delivery and minimize the population growth rate, mortality rate and increase the nutrition

started by ensuring the best use of health, family planning and nutrition service. Many activities are being undertaken under this program regarding to management and operational enhancement.

Current 4th sector program of HPNSP will be carried out through 29 Operational Plans (OPs).

Community Clinic (CC)

Community Clinic (CC) is the first tier public health facility to provide primary health care services to the people at periphery, especially in remote and very hard to reach areas. The initiative for establishment of CC was taken in 1,998 to extend coordinated health and family planning services to the door steps of

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rural population. At present 13,779 CCs are functional all over the country at the union level, each for about 6,000-8,000 population. It is estimated that an average of 40 patients per day receive service from each CC and 80 percent of them are women and children. Beneficiaries from the CCs from 2009 to 2018 are the rural people getting services through around 75 crore visits. During the same period, more than 3.69 crore emergency and complicated patients were referred to centres with higher facility for better management and about 60,000 normal deliveries were conducted in 4,000 CCs. Recruitment of the Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs) with proper skill development training and distribution of adequate medicines and contraceptives have made the CCs fully functional. Apart from outdoor services, Community Clinics provide health education, nutritional services, micronutrient supplementation and referral to higher facilities.

Primary Health Care

Bangladesh has achieved significant success in providing free healthcare services at the grassroots level people from various types of field level healthcare facilities. *Diarrhoea, Malaria, Filaria, Kala-zar, Tuberculosis*, Leprosy control, Eradication of Vitamin A related blindness, distribution of De-worming medicine and Vaccination program have been strengthened by rural level field workers and volunteers. As a result of proper implementation of these programs, maternal and neonatal mortality rate have been reduced as well as average life expectancy has been increased. Now *Dengue, Swine Flu* and

SARS disease have been controlled successfully in Bangladesh. Detection of Smear Positive Pulmonary Tuberculosis rate has increased upto 100 percent by Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) program. Furthermore, creation of awareness building on the health problems and provide primary healthcare service among the children and adolescent through Child Health Program, School Health Program, Adolescent Health Program, *Khude Doctor* Program and so on.

Extended Program on Immunization (EPI)

With a view to ensuring Primary healthcare, government is continuing vaccination program against vaccine preventable disease through Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) under HPNSP. EPI is providing vaccines against 10 vaccine preventable diseases named: *Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B, Haemophilus influenza-type-B, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Rubella*. Currently, fully vaccinated EPI coverage is around 85 percent nationwide. WHO declared Bangladesh as Polio-free country in 2014 following successful implementation of EPI and that status is still maintained. The HSD responded effectively to the outbreak of *measles* and *diphtheria* among the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN) population in *Ukhiya* and *Teknaf upazilas* of *Cox's Bazar* district. A total of 48,14,528 doses of different vaccines/antigens (MR, bOPV, OCV, Penta, PCV, Td and Vitamin A) were given through vaccination campaign among the FDMNs during September 2017 – December 2018. Table 12.6 shows the yearly EPI coverage.

Table12.6: Vaccination under EPI Program

Year	BCG (%)	OPV-1 (%)	OPV-2 (%)	OPV-3 (%)	Penta-1 (%)	Penta-2 (%)	Penta-3 (%)	Measles (%)	Total Vaccination (%)
2011	99.0	98.9	97.6	94.5	98.9	97.4	89.6	85.5	80.2
2012	99.0	99.0	97.7	95.1	99.0	97.6	90.0	88.5	80.6
2013	99.3	95.1	94.1	91.6	90.9	92.6	92.1	85.5	80.7
2014	99.2	95.8	95.1	92.7	92.6	93.3	93.0	86.6	81.6
2015	99.2	93.4	94.5	93.9	93.9	94.5	93.6	87.4	82.5
2016	99.5	97.8	97.0	90.1	97.8	97.0	90.1	87.5	82.3
2017	101.3	100.1	99.3	97.9	100.1	99.9	98.5	98.8	98.8
2018	100.6	99.3	98.2	97.7	98.7	97.3	96.6	97.6	97.6

Source: *Bangladesh EPI Census 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, DHIS2 2017, 2018

Maternal and Neonatal Health Services

As special priority to the improvement of Maternal and Child Health, many activities have been undertaken at the national level. Among these Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) training for the doctors', Community based Skilled Birth Attendant (CSBA) training for the field staff are most notable. In addition, scaling up of family planning services, safe MR services, encouraging private sectors expansion, advocacy for increasing facility delivery services have been carried out by the government. Various kinds of training activities are running on for developing skill of the doctors, Family Welfare Visitors (FWV) and all field level workers who are involved in providing for maternal and child health care. The government has been implementing Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) activities all over the countries with technical and financial support of the Development Partners (DPs). Now, Comprehensive EmOC services are available in all the medical college hospitals, 59 district hospitals, 132 *Upazila* Health Complexes and 63 maternal and child welfare centres. Rest of the *Upazila* Health Complexes is providing Basic EmOC

(BEmOC) services. Due to EMONC services MMR falls to 170 and NMR 28. The government has provided short-term training for community based skilled birth attendant (CSBA) and midwives and deployed them to the remote and rural areas. Till to date 11,544 CSBAs have been trained to provide maternal health care services at the rural level. 3 years midwifery training course is going on and 3,000 posts have been created for midwives. Till to date 11,544 CSBA have been trained to provide maternal health care services at the rural level.

Nutrition

To expand the nutrition service throughout the whole country, the Operational Plan (OP) 'National Nutrition Services (NNS)' has been taken up under 4th HPNSP. It's being implanted by the Directorate of Health for a period of 2017 to 2022. The main purpose of the program are provide up to date and scientific nutrition service to the vulnerable population, awareness building for the food habit changing and nutrition induced life style and reducing maternal and child mortality by prevention of malnutrition. The nutrition improvement activities relate to control of nutritional deficiencies, provision of nutrient supplements

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and strengthening of the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment in primary, secondary and tertiary level health facilities. 252 SAM facilities have been created at District and *Upazila* hospitals. 395 Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Programs and Nutrition Corners have been established at District and *Upazila* hospitals. Furthermore, training and awareness raising programs have been taken up for changing the behavioral pattern of people. Besides, creation of Nutritionist position in 64 districts and

development of BCC e-Toolkit for Field Workers have been completed. Nutrition status in Bangladesh has been improving consistently, as the underweight, stunting, wasting and low birth weight figures have been reduced. Breastfeeding feeding within one hour of birth, exclusive breast feeding, children 6-59 months old supplemented with vitamin A bi-annually and night blindness, etc. figures also indicate on-track status.

Table 12.7 shows a whole picture of nutrition status of Bangladesh.

Table 12.7: Nutrition Status of Bangladesh

Index	2007 %	2011 %	2014 %	(Target %) 2022	Remark
Underweight child (0-59 month's)	41.0	36.4	32.6	25	On Track
Stunted child (0-59 month's)	43.2	-	36.1	25	On Track
Wasting (0-59 month's)	17.4	-	14.3	<10	On Track
Low birth weight	-	-	22.6	<18	On Track
Exclusive breast feeding	43	47.1	50.8	60	On Track
Rate of Anemic pregnant women's	-	-	-	Less than one-third decrease	On Track
Rate of Anemic adolescence girl's	-	-	-		On Track
Rate of Anemic child	-	-	-		On Track
Night blindness	-	-	0.2	<1	On Track
Usage rate of Iodine salt at household level	-	82	-	Less than one-third decrease	On Track
Rate of breast feeding child	43	64	55.3	65	On Track
Rate of Vitamin-A capsule intake (6-59 month's)	88	60	92	>90	On Track

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Health Insurance

In order to develop alternative health financing options, removing financial hurdles of the poor in getting health services and to raise efficiency and accountability in the health sector the Government has adopted National Health Policy-2011 and in line with

the HNPSD to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2032 the health Sector Development Strategy (2012-2032) has been prepared. As a first step towards achieving the UHC three *upazilas* of *Tangail* district have been brought under a pilot program called Health Insurance Skim. Under this

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Scheme over eighty thousand households below poverty line has been enrolled as a beneficiary of this program and receiving inpatient services for 78 diseases free of cost. This strategy is to ensure Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by the year 2032. Till 14 February 2019 a total number of 81,220 BPL households have been registered. Among them total number of 6,855 SSK cardholder patient have received healthcare services from IPD.

Health Information System and E-health

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has drawn global attention for the successful utilization of Information Technology (IT) in the health sector. Laptops and Android Tablets have been provided at the community clinics and other grass root level workers. Programs are active for enrolling information related to each pregnant mother and under-5 children. A uniform 'Health identifier Code' is being provided to every citizen which will be used in making the permanent health record software design linking with the national ID card database. A draft of national 'E-Health Policy and Strategy' has been finalized. Programs regarding admission in medical and dental colleges, human resources management in the health sector, leave and deputation of the doctors, every type of training and higher study management have been digitalized. The digital office management has been introduced along with ensuring attendance through finger print on the machine. Health services are being provided through mobile phones from every district and *upazila* level government hospitals of the country. The clients can submit complains or receive health services

through SMS at about 800 government hospitals. Advanced telemedicine services are being provided from 82 hospitals. A full-fledged call centre named '*Sasthyo Batayan*' has been functioning. 'Skype Based Tele-consultation' has been introduced alongside the telemedicine service.

Family Planning Services and Reproductive Health

As a result of taking various effective initiatives by the government, Bangladesh could achieve commendable progress in the family planning programs. In 2001, Bangladesh's population growth rate was 1.57 percent, which is now 1.3 percent. So far, the greatest achievement of the government is to ensure availability of modern and active contraceptive methods. At present, 62.4 percent of couples are using birth control methods, but in 2001 it was 53.8 percent. According to BDHS report in 2014, Total Fertility Rates (TFR) has been declined sharply from 3.0 in 2011 births to 2.05 in 2017. The government has identified achieving the replacement level population growth from present rate of 2.05 to 2.0 as one of its main target and has taken many programs in that direction. In line with this target activities are being implemented for increasing net reproductive rate at 75 percent. Besides, maternal and child mortality rates have decreased due to providing mother and child health services and providing full-time child care services at the union level. At present maternal mortality rate has decreased from 3.2 to 1.76 (per thousand live births) and infant mortality rate decreased from 88 to 35 (per thousand living births).

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One fifth of the total population of the country is adolescent. To provide health care service of this large portion, the health centres are made adolescent friendly. Currently, to provide health care services for adolescent, adolescent friendly health corner are introduced in 64 mother and child welfare centres and 337 union health and family welfare centres.

At present, by 3,364 union health and family welfare centres, family planning, mother and child health care services are provided in village level and 24/7 hours free emergency maternal health services are provided through 2,854 health and family welfare centres. In national level, MCHTI *Azimpur*, MFSTC *Mohammadpur* and in district level there are 70 mother and child care centres. Besides, for local requirement, a total of 96 MCWCs are located in 12 *upazilas* and 24 unions. With a view to provide family planning, emergency maternal health service, reproductive health care services at door step. As per local requirement, the present Government have constructed 89 mother and child welfare centres (MCWCS) at the union level. For proper management of family planning, mother and child health care provide 10 district offices and 149 family planning store and *upazila* family planning centres are constructed. Besides, a construction of a maternal and child welfare centre is going on, which is supposed to be end in June 2019.

At present, Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) service is being provided from Maternal and Child Health Training Institute (MCHTI), *Azimpur* and Fertility Services and Training Centre and 70 Mother and Child welfare centre. So far 347 Doctors have received one

year training and 722 family planning supervisors have received 6 months long EOC training. Besides, 1,954 family welfare visitor's (FWV's) working at union level are also trained in midwifery services for six months. To work in the grass root level 11,257 Community Based Skilled Birth Attendants (CSB's) have got training.

Area wise work plan has been taken to popularize long lasting and permanent family planning methods in low performing areas including urban slums, remote areas and haor areas.

Health in Private Sector

Providing demand base health service for all people by Government alone is not possible although various effective step taken. For this, to flourish private health sector, government is providing monetary and other support. In private sector through registered hospital, clinic and diagnostic centres health service delivery is carried out. NGO's are playing significant role on health service like sanitation supply of pure drinking water and elimination of contagious diseases like diarrhea. Besides, lots of NGO's are working actively in HIV/AIDS, nutrition and other programs under health, population and nutrition sector development program. Scope for investment in the projects run by Public Private Partnership (PPP) has been created. Under the Public Private Partnership strategy Government has taken initiative to expand kidney dialysis service of two public hospitals, i.e. 'Establishment of kidney Dialysis centre' in CHT Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology (NIKDU) by engaging private sector.

Medical Education

The government not only pays attention at health service but also health education. In addition to various specialized institutions, postgraduate courses have been started in medical colleges. The number of admission seats in MBBS and BDS courses has been increased to 12,611 in the government and private levels of the country. There are 36 government Medical Colleges (4,068 seats in the government level), one Government Armed Forces Medical College (125 seats) and 5 Army Medical Colleges (250 seats), 9 Government Dental College (532 seats), 28 post-graduate Medical Institutions (1,518), 9 Medical assistant training institutions (818 seats), 11 Institute of Health Technology (IHT) (2,585), and 15 nursing colleges and 69 Non-government Medical Colleges (6,231 seats), 26 Dental College (1,405 seats), 200 Medical Assistant Training Institutions (13,540 seats), 97 Institute of Health Technology (8,940 seats) are working to create skilled manpower. In 2018-19 session MBBS course have been started in 5 new Government Medical colleges (*Netrokona, Nilphamari, Naogaon, Magura, Chandpur*). Besides, administrative approval has been given to establish an Institute of Health Technology in *Gopalganj* and *Gazipur* districts. Apart from this to encourage alternative medical service, 19 alternative medical care colleges are functioning.

Nursing Services

Nursing directorate has been upgraded to Nursing and Midwifery Directorate on 16 November 2016 in order to strengthen nursing education and services. The main objective of this directorate is to frame policy

for improvement in the health services, produce adequate number of nurse/midwife/nurse graduates and send proposal to the government for establishing nursing institutes besides assisting the government in implementing development and welfare activities. At this moment, 33,297 nurses are serving in government health service and nursing institutes. 3 year long Diploma in Nursing and midwifery course has been introduced in 43 government nursing institutes for improving the quality of nursing education and services. Number of seats has been raised from 1,580 to 2,580 in Diploma in nursing science and midwifery course. 7 nursing institutes have been upgraded to nursing colleges and 4 years long BSC. In nursing course has been introduced there. More 15 nursing institutes are on the process for upgradation to nursing colleges. 5,100 senior staff nurses were recruited in 2018. 3,000 posts were created for Midwives in accordance with the pledge of the Prime minister. 1,600 senior staff nurses were imparted Post basic advanced midwifery training. 1,200 certified midwives were posted in different *Upazila* health program and Union sub centres. Recently, 1,148 midwives were recruited through the recommendation of the BPSC. Process for recruiting more 600 midwives is going on.

Reform in Health sector

Several reform activities have been undertaken in the health sector for ensuring the health service of the people. 'Medical services act' and 'Mental health act' has been framed to fulfill this objective. Laptop and Android Tablets were distributed were distributed in grassroots level including

community clinics. Every citizen is being given a Health identification code. The draft of National E-Health policy and the strategy has been finalized. Admission in medical and dental colleges, human resource management, leave and deputation of doctors, training and higher education management has been digitized.

Digital attendance system as well as digital office management has been introduced. Health service is being delivered through mobile phones from all district and *upazila* government hospitals. People are able to complain or receive health service from around 800 government health centres through sms. '*Shastho batayon*', a 24 hour call centre is made fully functional. A skype based tele consultation service is also functional.

Programs for Women and Child Development

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is working for total socio-economic development of women. Important activities of the ministry include women empowerment, taking steps for self-employment of women through bringing the products of the grass root level women entrepreneurs in the business, stop women abuse, stop women trafficking, facilitate safety of women in work place and ensure women's participation in the mainstream economic activities etc. 'Domestic violence (prevention and security) Act-2010' has been enacted as well as rules have been framed under this Act for establishing equal rights and elimination of discrimination against women at all levels of state and public life. 'National Women

Development Policy-2011, 'National Child Policy-2011' and 'Comprehensive policy on Initial Care and Development of Child-2013', 'Dowry Prevention Act-2018', 'Child marriage Prevention Rules-2018', '*Shishu* Academy Act- 2018' and 'Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act-2014' and Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Rules- 2018' has been enacted.

Government is implementing various programs for protection, establishment of rights and development of women. Different types of allowances as well as food assistance are being provided to poor and destitute women for their socio-economic development. Poor mothers are being financially supported through Maternity Allowance for Poor Mothers and Lactating Mother Assistance Fund. Besides, micro credit program for self-employment and income generation trainings are being imparted at the *upazila* level. Five *Karmajibi Mohila* Hostel (working women's hostel) are being operated in Dhaka, *Chattogram*, *Khulna*, *Jashore* and *Rajshahi* for the working women. Construction work of two more hostels in *Mirpur* and *Khilgaon* is underway. Construction work of a six-storey hostel in *Gazipur* is also underway.

Female Assistance centres have been established in six divisional cities for providing legal assistance to abused women. 60 One stop crisis cells have been set up in 40 district hospitals and 20 *upazila* health complexes across the country under Multi-sectoral Program (4th Phase) for Prevention of Women Abuse for providing service to abused women and children. *Joyeeta* Foundation has been established for providing psycho-social counseling to women and children numbering 1,451 from National

Trauma and Counseling centre and 54,511 from national Helpline 109. As a result, a countrywide women friendly marketing network for female entrepreneurs has been established and hopefully, a society based on gender equality could be established through their economic empowerment. Government is conducting various activities for psychological and cultural development as well as flourishing the latent genius of the children with an objective to developing them as competent citizens of the country. There are six *Shishu Bikash Kendro* (child development centre) in the country including one for female children in *Azimpur* and two for male children in *Keraniganj* and *Gazipur* and also three in *Rajshahi*, *Khulna* and *Chattogram* divisions. One *Shishu Bikash Kendro* and one pre-primary education centre has been established in 71 offices including 64 districts and 6 *upazilas*. Children of 4-5 years of age are being developed for admission to primary schools through these centres. More than 900 books for children have been published by *Shishu Academy* for developing reading habit in children. Significant activities that have been undertaken for ending child labour and child abuse, providing education to children with health, education, nutrition and vocational training include Implementation of social awareness and parenting activities for development, safety and social security of child from embryo to 8 years of age, Establishment and operation of *Shishu Bikash Kendro* for children of 4 years of age, Expansion of activities of *Shishu Bikash Kendro* for the ultra-poor and separated children, vocational training for student of qawmi madrassas in the rural areas,

establishment of day care centres for female workers of tea garden and garments etc.

Social Welfare

The overall socio-economic development of a country largely depends on the development of destitute, poor and left-out segment of the society. The government is giving much emphasis on this sector. The Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) is working for poverty reduction, human resource development and other activities for rehabilitation of the neglected segment of population along with the Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), orphans, destitute, poor and helpless. Among the programs are 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. The MOSW conducts Hospital social service, integrated blind education program, school for vision and hearing impaired children and so on. In addition, destitute children's training and rehabilitation centres, stipend program for the disabled students and vocational training centres and rehabilitations for physically disabled are being implemented by the government.

Integrated blind education program being conducted over 64 districts Headquarters in order to disburse education among visually impaired children in their own environment. In addition of the above programs the social security services are being provided to the street children through 'Drop in centre' under project of child sensitive social protection in

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Bangladesh. The government has been continuing the social safety net programs with a view to alleviating poverty through improvement of socio-economic condition of the ultra-poor. In FY2018-19 an amount of Tk.4,316.8 crore has been allocated against social safety net programs for Ministry of social welfare. The allocation is 1.07 percent of the budget and 0.19 percent of GDP of the same fiscal year.

Currently, different types of allowances and food assistance activities are running under social safety net programs of the MoSW. Old age allowance, destitute women allowance, widow and husband deserted allowance, food allowance for orphans, rehabilitation program are the most notable safety net programs of MoSW.

With a view to preventing juvenile delinquencies different programs are being conducted for their rectification and rehabilitation in the society. Under this program, 3 juvenile development centres are functioning and 85 government *Shishu Paribars*, orphans are getting livelihood support, education, training and participating in rehabilitation programs. The Department of social services has established 6 baby homes in 6 division for unclaimed and abandoned babies up to 0-7 years of age. 3 institutions are functioning for training and rehabilitation of the destitute children.

Moreover, through the National Handicapped Development Foundation, the social Welfare Ministry is conducting programs like Support centres for services and help for the disables persons, Autism Resource centres, school for Autistic and Mentally retarded persons, construction of Sports complex for the

disabled persons and awareness raising for autism related issues.

Youth and Sports Youth Development

Youth Directorate is implementing various programs for converting youth force to skilled human resource through training, technology and technical knowledge. 'National Service' program is being implemented through youth directorate for creating job opportunities for the educated and unemployed youth. Young male and females having secondary and upper level of education are being given the chance to contribute in nation building activities following the policy of the program.

Youth directorate is working for the development and expansion of information technology. Educated but unemployed youths are being trained through 70 centres in 64 districts in internet, networking, computer basic course, graphic design and video editing course. 56, 63,988 male and female youths were trained skill development in different trades till February 2019 for providing them the chance for employment and self-employment. Among them, 21,66,676 male and female youths became self-reliant through self-employment. 9,24,409 beneficiaries were given loan facility worth Tk.1,803 crore 40 lakh 78 thousand from principal and revolving loan fund for taking up and extension of projects. Furthermore, Sheikh Hasina National Youth Centre has been established for facilitating the arrangement of national and international conferences, meetings, seminar, workshops, research, publication and training.

Sports Development

Directorate of Sports is playing an effective role in motivating the children, juvenile and youth towards sports at grass root level. Comprehensive training is being imparted to both male and female participants in various disciplines in educational institutions, sports club and sports institutions. Directorate of Sports is also arranging different competitions for assessing the capability in sports and also to develop that capability. Directorate of Sports is also contributing in raising national and international level players, extension of social security in sports arena, prevention of abuse of drugs, health consciousness, environment consciousness, empowerment of women and increase the social status of the sportsmen. Awareness is being raised through annual sports competition for people with autism and other disorders related to neuro-development. Sports items are being supplied for free to educational and sports institutions for arranging sports events. Bachelor of Physical Education (BPED) program is being conducted through 6 government physical training institutes.

Cultural Affairs

The history, civilisation, national character and identity of a nation is reflected through its culture. 17 organizations under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs is conducting various activities for the development, preservation, expansion and extension of Bangladeshi culture and provides necessary patronage to Bangla language and literature, music, fine art, drama, film and creative publication.

Renovation, preservation, survey and excavation of the archaeological sites of the country is going on in order to properly preserve the archaeological resources and artifacts of the country. *Bhorot vaiyna dhibi* is made tourist friendly, exhibition centres in *Imambara* of *Haji Muhammad Muhsin* and *Rajar Vita* (kings residence) in *Kalurpol* of *Chuadanga* district, archaeological museum has been established in *Binnadighi* of *Nilphamari* district and other sites of archaeological importance till February 2019 of FY2018-19. Other than that, archaeological renovation of 26 archaeological sites/museums, preservation, repairs and construction work has been furnished. The task of declaring 17 tourist friendly archaeological installations as 'Preserved archaeological artifact' has been done at present.

Bangla Academy is working for cultural enlightenment and conducts important activities including compilation of dictionary, research and publication in different areas as well as arranges book fair in the month of February and celebrates different significant days every year. Bangladesh *Shilpakala* Academy works for the development, preservation, expansion and patronization of fine art, dramatic art, music etc. Syllabus-based training workshops on vocal music, dance, dramatic art, fine art and rhythm instruments is being conducted in *Shilpakala* Academy of 64 districts.

Jatiyo Gronthokendro (National Book Centre) is working for collection and distribution of books and reading materials, e-book, journal and different reading materials which could be accessed online by the readers, according to their taste.

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Providing registration certificate to 55 private libraries and distributing books as grants to 676 private libraries has been done in fiscal 2018-19. 71 libraries are being operated under this directorate. *Nazrul* Institute is working on art and literature of National Poet *Kazi Nazrul islam*. *Nazrul* Isntitute published 37 books till February 2019.

Development of *Chattogram* Hill Tracts

The *Chattogram* Hill Tracts is an integral part of our culture and heritage. The government is working heartily for the development of the marginal people of the hill tracts. In FY2018-19, a total of 2,216 projects/ schemes have been taken in the three hill districts at a cost of Tk.989.04 crore. The government arranges different types of development and technical projects for the betterment of hilly people and their glorious culture.

Broadcast

Ministry of Information is one of the most important publicity coordination departments of the government. Information on all the development activities of the government is being sent to the top level of the government including different print and electronic media from this ministry. The government is taking various projects/activities for the modernization and development of the media. In FY2018-19 (up to February) 17 projects/activities have been taken at a cost of Tk.527.80 crore. All these activities were aimed of bringing about the ‘unprecedented development of communication networking, including global media, in keeping with the technological advancement and excellence in the context of globalisation and that Bangladesh is going ahead in this development.