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| **Chapter-3**  **Secondary and Higher Education Division** |

**1.0 Introduction:**

The government has continued its efforts to bring about qualitative changes in education in order to create skilled human resources. The Secondary and Higher Education Division has taken up various steps in this regard. Most of these steps directly impact development of children. These programs include training, preparation & implementation of policies and projects, monitoring and evaluation thereof. In addition, this ministry formulates curriculum for secondary level and prints & supplies free text books from grade 1 to 10, provides stipends to students from secondary to undergraduate level. Furthermore, the ministry provides broadband connections in educational institutions, produces multimedia books, arranges ICT-based classroom teaching and implements various other education policy recommendations. By way of implementation of these policies this ministry plays a pivotal role in the implementation of child budget.

**2.0 Activities undertaken for the development of children in the light of National Policies and Strategies:**

| **National Policies/Strategies and Description** | **Activities** |
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| **National Education Policy 2010:**   * Help students to flourish their latent talent and possibilities, * Endeavour to create equal opportunities for children belonging to less privileged section of society and eliminate disparity between regions and different types of secondary education institutions, * Increase teacher-student ratio up to 1:30 by 2018; * Provide educational institutions with IT equipment and other necessary infrastructure, * Make uniform curriculum for certain basic subjects for all streams of secondary education.   **Objective & strategies spelt out in the 7th Five Year Plan for the development of children:**   * Improve quality of education at secondary level; * Increase number of educated population who have completed up to the secondary level and bring parity in education; * Improve resource management and infrastructure; * Upgrade teaching standards; * Enhance enrollment rate and reduce dropouts.   **Child development goals put forward in the SDGs:**   * Ensure completion of free secondary education on equal basis for all girls and boys; * Build and upgrade child, disability and gender sensitive education facilities and infrastructure that ensure an effective and inclusive learning environment. | * Creative talent hunt from among students; * Organize national education week; * Undertake special projects for students of less developed areas (Haor, Charland, Coastal area, Hilly areas); * Distribute information technology equipment and develop necessary infrastructure through various departments of the divisions; * Publish textbooks by NCTB keeping basic subjects compulsory for all to create uniformity of curriculum in all streams of secondary education; * Train teachers and SMC members; * Publish public examination results in scheduled time; * Appoint additional class teachers for   English, Mathematics and Science;   * Distribute free textbooks to all students on January 1st all over the country with due festivity; * Establish new educational institutions in less advanced areas; * Construct and expand secondary education institutions (schools and colleges) and supply adequate furniture; * Repair, renovate and expand existing educational institutions; * Establish Upazilla ICT Training and Resource Center; * Provide scholarships to students at secondary level and students at higher secondary and degree level; * Construct toilets for girls in all educational institutions; * Construct ramps for disable students. |

**3.0 Achievement of the last three years in terms of child budget implementations:**

In order to implement the Vision 2021 and create a skilled human resource to graduate into a middle-income country, and to create a poverty-free Bangladesh; implementation of the National Education Policy-2010, distribution of free textbooks to students, provide stipends, arrange teachers’ training are imperative for the Secondary and Higher Education Division. Therefore it has been perusing multifaceted activities to establish and expand physical infrastructure and nationalize educational institutions as per necessity. From the year 2017 through 2019, 106 crore 86 lakh 70 thousand 289 textbooks have been distributed among 120 crore 89 lakh 54 thousand 457 students. 315 private schools have been transformed into model schools. Online admission activities in government and non-government institutions have already started. Since 2012, so far 337 secondary schools have been nationalized. Apart from this, in the year 2017, 12 schools were established. In 2018, 299 colleges were nationalized. From the financial year 2018-2019, the applications for grants from educational institutions, teachers and students are being received online and money is distributed through mobile banking. Secondary and Higher Education Divisions are working to create a human resource capable of competing in the modern world and therefore have introduced internet based interactive lessons, online admission system & digitalization of education management. In the meantime ICT Resource Centre in the 125 upazillas, Computer Lab in the 3550 educational institutions, multimedia classrooms in 32667 educational institutions have been set up.

**4.0 Share of child budget in Division’s overall budget:**

| *(Figures in Billion Taka)* | | | |
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| **Description** | **Budget**  **2021-21** | **Budget**  **2019-20** | **Actual 2018-19** |
| S&H Edu Div Budget |  | 296.25 |  |
| *Operating* |  | 196.97 |  |
| *Development* |  | 99.28 |  |
| Child-Focused Budget in S&H Edu Div |  | 223.81 |  |
| *Operating* |  | 148.81 |  |
| *Development* |  | 75.00 |  |
| **Total Government Budget** |  | **5,232** |  |
| *GDP* |  | 28,859 |  |
| *Total Government Budget as % of GDP* |  | 18.13 |  |
| *S&H Edu Div Budget as % of GDP* |  | 1.03 |  |
| *S&H Edu Div Budget as % of Total Budget* |  | 5.66 |  |
| *Child-Focused S&H Edu Div Budget as % of GDP* |  | 0.78 |  |
| *Child-Focused S&H Edu Div Budget as % of Total Government Budget* |  | 4.28 |  |
| ***Child-Focused Budget as % of Ministry Budget*** |  | **75.55** |  |
| Source: Finance Division |  |  |  |

This division is highly focused on children's wellbeing related to their Right to Development. The core mandate of the division is to provide quality education from secondary to tertiary level which substantially includes the children. The child focused budget as percentage of the division's total budget has remarkably increased to 66.77 percent in FY 2017-18 from 66.61 percent in FY 2016-17.

**5.0 Case Study**

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| Students in the Secondary School and Dakhil Madrasa have been instructed to form the Student's Cabinet in order to engage themselves in democratic practice who can work for bettering enrollment rate, preventing dropout, enhancing learning activities. They have been encouraged to do themselves works like cleaning school courtyards classrooms, collecting food and water, making seat layout, working for improvement education materials, school building and environment, organize extracurricular activities such as debate, sports and cultural activities. In the collective endeavours of students, required resources and services are collected locally. With the help of the Student's Cabinets, parents get more involved in the activities of school. It inculcates leadership, fellow feelings and democratic values among children which will help them grow up as worthier citizens capable of contributing back to the society then their time comes.  **Student cabinet success:**  Monty Varman is a monstrous girl. She was born in an ultra-poor family in the village of Shialdi Par in Dighir Par Union under Bajitpur upazila of Kishoreganj district, which is a fishing village. She grew up in most shabby condition in a terribly unforgiving environment. The indomitable Monty had a dream to become a doctor. But caught up in the vicious circle of poverty and vortex complexities her dreams were getting shattered every day. Her father unable to support daughter, gave up whatever hope he had for the daughter. Her brother got married and deserted her. She left school for some times. But a burning desire continued. Something extraordinary was beckoning her.  On August 8, 2015, the first student cabinet election was held in Nazirul Islam Collegiate School. Student cabinet was formed with 8 elected members. In the first session of the students' cabinet a decision was taken to bring the list of drop out students. Student's cabinet team went to Monty's house. The cabinet understood why she left school. They assured help. Monty's dormant dreams were restored again. Monty returned to the school with the support of friends and students in the cabinet. Again Monty began studying to implement her cherished dream. She is now a grade ten student and has kept her focus the reach the coveted dream intact.  Thus student cabinets are working exceptionally well in all the secondary schools and Dakhil madrasa of the country. Students cabinets are determined to ensure the participation of the students in all great activities that make their schools a great place.  a - Copy (2).jpg222 - Copy - Copy (1).jpg  **Comparative illustration of distribution process of stipend through mobile banking and traditional methods** |

**6.0 Challenges of the Division to implement child-centric budget:**

* For foreign aided child development projects, in most cases, prior consent from the development partners has to be obtained before any purchase which slows down implementation of projects.
* Acquisition/purchase of land is quite lengthy which often delays project implementation.
* Sometimes construction work is not completed within the schedule period by the contracting firms. As a result, the contract period has to be extended. Apart from increasing the child based project cost, there is a delay in getting benefit from those infrastructures.

**7.0 Plan for child based development:**

| **Duration of plan** | **Actions to be taken in the light of plan** |
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| **Plans for FY 2019-20** | * Twelve best talents are selected from the whole country through creative brainstorming program. Each of them is given Tk 1(one) lakh and certificate. They are sent abroad each year on study tour. This program will continue in FY 2019-2020; * To make education more attractive and fruitful to the students, National Education Week will be organized in FY 2019-2020, like all previous years, to recognize the best institutions, teachers and students; * Winter and summer sports competitions are nationally organized every year for school / college level students. It will be done in FY 2019-2020 too; * 35.45 billion text books will be distributed free of cost to students in the year 2019-2020 for the improvement of education and interest of education among the students; * To reduce drop-out rate and prevent child marriage, students will be given stipends to 66.46 lakh secondary students in the year 2019-2020 fiscal year. |
| **Medium term plans** | * With the construction of new academic buildings in 3000 non-government secondary schools and increasing expansion of the existing buildings of 3250 non-governmen secondary schools, a total of 6250 non-governmen schools will be ready impart education soon. It will cost around Tk. 16 billion; * With the provision of new academic building/vertical expansion, multimedia classroom and necessary equipment, books, sports equipment, scientific equipment, furniture etc., the capacity of 323 government secondary schools will be increased; * Scouting activities will be expanded across the country through 3 projects at a cost of around 240.00 crores, through which the students will get an opportunity to develop themselves into self-esteemed and self-reliant persons. |
| **Long term plans** | * Construction of residential buildings in the existing secondary schools in three hill districts of the country and new residential schools will be carried out according to the demand. One feasibility study project is currently underway in order to assess needs; * With the construction of new academic buildings and hostels, facilities will be expanded in the secondary schools of haor areas and in rest of the country as well. Besides, 10 new secondary schools will be set up in ten upazilla headquarters ; * Bring girls’ schools under MPO arrangement, construction of boundary walls and other infrastructure to create an environment more conducive for girls’ education. |

**8.0 Conclusions**

Initiatives will be taken to prepare an integrated information store and e-services for education boards, training institutes and all other related institutions. This online information facility can be shared among ministries, agencies and boards in order to improve monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Initiatives will be taken to set up more foreign language training labs at secondary schools and colleges which will open up overseas employment opportunities. Initiatives will be taken to providing specialized training to children with disabilities or special needs so that they can get into the mainstream of the society and contribute in the best possible manner within their abilities.