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| **Chapter-15**  **Ministry of Youth and Sports** |

**1.0 Introduction**

The role of sports, along with education, for physical and mental development, discipline, good health and character of children is very significant. Contribution of sports is massive for creating an environment of harmony and fellow-feeling that makes children better human beings. Besides, children with autism and special needs should be encouraged to take part in sports for their physical and mental growth. Sport has been playing a pivotal role in the development of international relations for ages. Through international sports competitions, children get an opportunity to come in contact with players from home and abroad. In international competitions sportspersons can bring laurels for their country and can earn respect, goodwill of people all over the world. It will not be possible if the child is not engaged in sports from early childhood. In order to achieve international standards in sports and to ensure good health of all children, it is an imperative to create sporting opportunities for them.

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

| **Policy/Strategy and its brief description** | **Activities** |
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| 1. According to ‘Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the implementation of the SDGs aligning with the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20)’ Ministry of Youth and Sports is the associate partner for achieving SDG goal number 1.2, 4.1, 4.5 and 8.7 that are related to children. Besides, 7th Five Year Plan and paragraphs number 5.1, 6.3.3, 6.34 and 7.2 of National Child Policy, 2011, describe the provisions for ensuring entertainment, good health, mental growth and welfare of children and talent hunt | 1. In order to ensure children's entertainment, good health and mental development, keep autistic and children with special demands physically and mentally fit, arrangement of sports training and competitions is a must and the ministry continues to do that. In addition, sports infrastructures are repaired/renovated throughout the country that will help children grow freely. |
| 2. Article 6.5.10 of National Child Policy 2011 emphasized the arrangement of special education i.e. sports education. | 2. Physical training colleges under the Ministry of Youth and Sports award graduate and post-graduate degrees. These graduate instructors get the opportunity of being recruited in secondary schools and colleges as physical instructors. In addition, Directorate of Sports provides grants to schools for maintaining playgrounds and supplies sports materials. The Bangladesh Krira Sikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) creates great players of international standard through intensive care from their childhood. |
| 3. The 7th Five Year Plan directs to construct play grounds at all divisional, district and upazila levels. | 3. Establish sports infrastructure at divisional and district levels and Sheikh Russell Mini-stadium at upazila level throughout the country |

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

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) trained 6,500 children under various projects in the last three years. Infrastructures of table tennis, taekwondo, Karate, ushu and volleyball were modernized, hockey turf and synthetic athletic turf were replaced. In the last three years, Tk. 97 crore 50 lac 40 thousand were spent for children by this ministry. A significant number of children availed the opportunity of taking parts in sporting events in 130 mini stadiums at upazila levels built under the project titled 'Construction of Sheikh Russell Mini Stadium' by National Sports Council at a cost of Tk.74 crore 11 lac 11 thousand. In order to encourage children in sports, football, cricket, hockey, volleyball, handball, chess, swimming, badminton, rugby, gymnastic, athletics and other forms of rural sports were organized by the Directorate of Sports. During the last three years, 8,470 players took part in football competitions and 112 talented players were trained. In rural sports 48,300 players participated. In FY 2017-18, beach football was organized with participation of 96 children in Cox's Bazar. Tk. 32 lakh was spent for this tournament. A decision was made to arrange ‘Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Gold Cup Football Tournament (Under-17)’ for the children at the cost of Tk.15 crore. Cricket, badminton and table tennis competitions were organized for disabled and autistic children.

**4.0 Share of child budget in Ministry’s overall budget**

| *(Figures in Billion Taka)* | | | |
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| **Description** | **Budget**  **2020-21** | **Budget**  **2019-20** | **Actual 2018-19** |
| Ministry of Youth and Sports Budget |  | 14.89 |  |
| *Operating* |  | *12.75* |  |
| *Development* |  | *2.14* |  |
| Child-Focused Budget in Ministry of Youth and Sports |  | 3.15 |  |
| *Operating* |  | *2.7* |  |
| *Development* |  | *0.45* |  |
| **Total Government Budget** |  | **5,232** |  |
| *GDP* |  | 28,859 |  |
| *Total Government Budget as % of GDP* |  | *18.13* |  |
| *MOYS Div Budget as % of GDP* |  | *0.05* |  |
| *MOYS Budget as % of Total Budget* |  | *0.28* |  |
| *Child-Focused MOYS Budget as % of GDP* |  | *0.01* |  |
| *Child-Focused MOYS Budget as % of Total Government Budget* |  | *0.06* |  |
| **Child-Focused Budget as % of Ministry Budget** |  | **21.16** |  |

Source: Finance Division

The role of leisure, recreation and sports for children's development cannot be over emphasized. The Ministry of Youth and Sports was included in the child budget report in the financial year 2018-19 as these activities are significantly under the purview of this ministry.

**5.0 Good Practice**

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| **Namita Karmakar: A Potential Star**    Namita Karmakar, a teenager, made a new record for throwing spear in National Junior Athletics. Interestingly, she has developed herself into a hockey player too. Namita wants to go a long way. From childhood, she had a craving for sports and wants to take Bangladesh into another height in hockey, like cricket.  Her family lives at Kachurbaria in Narail. In a humble she lives with her parents. Her father Makhon Karmakar is in his 60’s. Infirm, he cannot work hard now-a-days and does a relatively less physically demanding job in a betel-leaf farm. But the work is seasonal, for only six months. During the rest six months of the year the family members depend on the meager income of her mother. Namita joined Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) as Javelin player two years back. Her salary is one thousand nine hundred taka per week. Her initiation as an apprentice in sports at school was done by Dilip Chakrabarty, her physical education teacher. She came to sports through an Athletics Competition and Hockey Training Program organized by District Sports Office, Narail. In the 34th Junior Athletics Competition held last year, Namita came into spotlight. She broke the previous record of throwing spear and cleared 36.36 meters. Namita proved her worth in discus throw and shot puts.  Later, in 2016-17, she was nominated by the Directorate of Sports to take part in women's hockey training programs. Under the supervision of the National Hockey Coach, Namita demonstrated some signature skills at the residential hockey camp at Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium. In that year's Women's Hockey Competition, she represented Narail District Team which won the championship title. In 2017-2018, Namita was nominated again for the training of talented women hockey players organized by the Directorate of Sports. This training mainly prepared Bangladesh Under-17 Women's Hockey Team. The team, called the Dhaka XI, took part in an international hockey match against the Kolkata Warriors. In November, 2018, Namita became part of history. As a member of the country's first women's hockey team, she played a key role in winning the series against the Kolkata Warriors. Not only she herself scored, she helped her teammates to score. She was the best player of Dhaka XI. The achievement of Namita will, undoubtedly, encourage children to participate in sports. |

**6.0 Ministry’s Challenges to ensure child welfare:**

* Formulating national sports policy in consonance with national and international policy and strategy to ensure safe and secure sporting environment for children;
* Making everyone aware of the importance of children's sports;
* Building *mahalla* (community) based play grounds for involving children in sports;
* Ensuring safety of children during the game;
* Providing sports training to autistic children;
* Providing long-term training to attain international standards;
* Retaking Keeping the gates of educational institutions with playgrounds open after class and weekly holidays;
* Retaking playgrounds from illegal encroachers.

**7.0 Child-centered development plans**

| **Tenure of Plan** | **Action taken according to Planning** |
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| **FY 2019-20** | * Selecting 1,300 young talent from the grassroot levels and imparting training on different areas of sports; * Developing training facilities for girls at BKSP; * Organizing 120 competitions on different areas of sports; * Providing sports equipment to primary and secondary schools; * providing training and organizing sports for autistic children; * Constructing of Sheikh Russell Mini Stadium at upazila level (2nd phase) * Organizing Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Football Cup Tournament and Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Football Cup Tournament for the Under-17 children. |

**8.0 Conclusion**

It is the responsibility of to see to it that children keep good health, their faculties are freely developed, and they attain leadership qualities and forge brotherhood and camaraderie among themselves. All these assets and qualities may be achieved through sports. Besides, if autistic children are involved in sports, their way of life will be improved. In order to create sporting opportunities for children the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Local Government Division, Ministry of Public Works and Public Security Division are making a collective plan to introduce *mahalla*-based (community-based) playground. As a result, all children can be involved in sports. If properly trained today’s children can bring fame and fortune for the country in the coming days.