

CHAPTER TWELVE

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Human resource development is the government's principal goal, in addition to generating rapid growth, through increasing the living standards of disadvantaged and underprivileged people. To combat the long-term impacts of the coronavirus, the government is making continuous efforts to ensure the basic needs of the people through economic restructuring with priority on life and livelihood, as well as to improve the living standards of the disadvantaged and poor people. As a result of implementation of various development programmes, Bangladesh is gradually improving in the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the 'Human Development Report-2020' the position of Bangladesh has been improved to 133. In FY 2021-22, the government has spent about 24.93 percent of the total budget for the sectors related to human resource development such as education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children, social welfare, youth and sports development, culture, labour and employment etc. Multiple programmes have been adopted in light of the 'National Education Policy-2010' with the aim of creating opportunities for admission at all levels of education and creating skilled and qualified human resources by improving the quality of education. In order to ensure education for all in primary schools, special emphasis has been laid on increasing school enrollment, pre-primary education, stipends and student-teacher connectivity hours. In order to build skilled manpower to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, maximum emphasis has been laid on technical education. Bangladesh has achieved Millennium Development Goal (MDG) related to health sector, prior to the stipulated time due to undertaking many priorities based programmes in health, nutrition and population sector. Remarkable progress has been achieved in reducing child and maternal mortality and in increasing average life expectancy. The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan has already been formulated under the Extended Immunisation Programme (EPI) to protect lives and prevent deaths from the COVID-19. Through this initiative, work is underway to vaccinate 70 percent of the population against COVID-19. Various development initiatives, programmes, and other activities are being undertaken, as well as necessary legislation and regulations for the creation of equal rights in all aspects of state and public life and the elimination of all types of discrimination against women. Sheikh Russel Children Training and Rehabilitation Centres are working across the country to protect all disadvantaged and endangered children. The government is carrying out various activities for the welfare of the poor, disadvantaged, neglected, special needs and orphans. Various reform initiatives, including as financial sector reform, anti-corruption and preventative actions are being adopted and executed in order to promote balanced development and to establish good governance.

The main goal of the government is to achieve high growth through sustainable and inclusive development as well as qualitative change in the living standards of the people by alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. It is necessary to build a skilled population to accelerate the economic development of the country by tackling the long term effects of COVID-19 and the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

According to the labor force survey 2016-17, conducted by BBS, the economically viable workforce above the age of 15 years is 6.35 crore. The government is implementing different types of development programmes to accumulate demographic dividend by utilising 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 improving 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-2020' the position of Bangladesh has improved to 133. Among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, Sri Lanka (72),

Maldives (95), India (131) and Bhutan (129) are ahead of Bangladesh (133) in respect of HDI. Other SAARC countries, such as Nepal (142), Pakistan (154) and Afghanistan (169) 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 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Index value | 0.468 | 0.545 | 0.592 | 0.597 | 0.608 | 0.614 | 0.614 | 0.632 |

Source: Human Development Report- 2020. UNDP

Public Expenditure for Human Resource Development

The government is committed to ensure the basic needs of the people as well as human resource development through economic reform focusing on life and livelihoods to combat the long-term effects of the coronavirus. More investment is essential in social sectors including education and health for human resource development. That is why the government is gradually increasing the budget allocation for the sectors related to human resource development such as education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children, social welfare, youth and sports development, culture, labor and employment. Particular emphasis has been placed on strengthening the health sector infrastructure, increasing the area of social security, developing human resources and establishing good governance in government institutions.

In FY 2021-22, about 24.93 percent of the total budget has been allocated for the sectors related to human resource development, which was 23.75 percent in FY 2020-21. The education and health sectors are considered as the mainstay of human resource development. Therefore, the

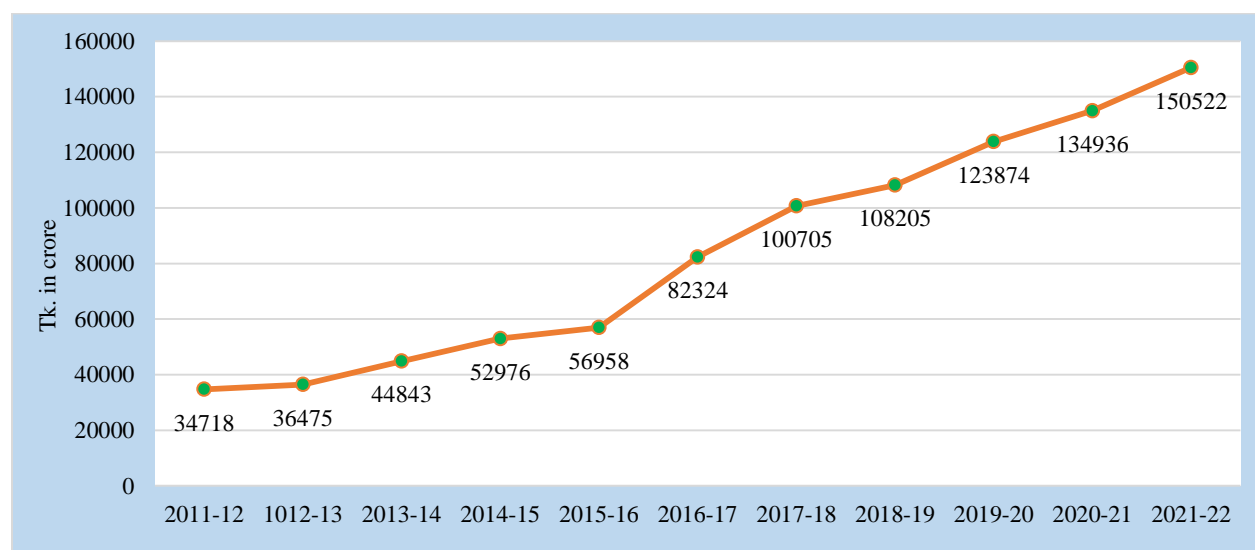
government is providing adequate allocation every year in the national budget for the development of education and health sector. In FY 2021-22, a total of Tk. 1,04,684 crore has been allocated in these two sectors, which is 17.34 percent of the total budget. As a result of the execution of practical initiatives in the education and health sectors, the government is playing an effective role in education, health, and family welfare. 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. Table 12.2 and Figure 12.1 present the total allocation in operating and development budget in the social sector during FY 2011-12 to FY 2021-22. It is noteworthy that in the last one decade, the total budget allocation in this sector, including the operating and development budgets, has been steadily increasing.

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

(In Crore Taka)

| Sector | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Education, Science & ICT | 20316 | 21561 | 28272 | 33499 | 34370 | 52914 | 65444 | 67935 | 79488 | 85762 | 94877 |
| Health and Family Welfare | 8869 | 9130 | 9955 | 11537 | 12695 | 17486 | 20652 | 23,383 | 25733 | 29247 | 32731 |
| Youth, Sports and Culture | 924 | 976 | 1061 | 1068 | 1199 | 1343 | 1803 | 2008 | 2063 | 2057 | 1709 |
| Labour and Employment | 82 | 134 | 192 | 226 | 302 | 308 | 262 | 227 | 313 | 350 | 365 |
| Social Welfare, Women's Affairs and Liberation War Affairs | 3967 | 4091 | 4730 | 5962 | 7613 | 9433 | 11394 | 13343 | 15083 | 16285 | 19658 |
| Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs | 560 | 583 | 633 | 684 | 779 | 840 | 1150 | 1309 | 1194 | 1235 | 1182 |
| Total Allocation (Operating and Development) | 34718 | 36475 | 44843 | 52976 | 56958 | 82324 | 100705 | 108205 | 123874 | 134936 | 150522 |

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

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

Sources: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance*Information's are based on Budget

Education and Technology

The government is taking various steps to ensure inclusive and science-based modern education system along with implementation of inclusive and science-oriented education activities and development of infrastructure in order to accelerate the development of education by overcoming the crisis of COVID-19. 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 the main goal is 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

As a consequence of the government's prompt actions to promote inclusive and equitable quality education for all and create opportunities for lifelong learning, success in primary education

has been achieved in different indices and human resource development has been expedited. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), target has been set to ensure quality pre-primary education for all children and quality primary education for all school-going children by 2030. Government is implementing Stipend project, 4th Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4), Reaching Out of School (ROSC) project, School Feeding programme for poor areas, need based government and newly nationalised primary school development project (1st phase), Basic Literacy project (64 districts) 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 1,33,002 (25 types of schools including BRAC centre, ROSC centre, different NGO schools, child welfare and *Madrassa/Mosque* based centre/*Qawmi madrassa*) in 2020. Number of enrolment and ratio of female students is increasing consistently. Rate of enrolment of female students is more than the male students. In 1991, the male-female students ratio was 55:45. Currently, the ratio is about 49:51. Table 12.3 shows students' enrolment rate and percentage of male-female students at primary levels from 2010 to 2020.

Table 12.3: Boys- Girls Enrolment at Primary Level

(In lakh)

| Year | Total | Boys (%) | Girls (%) | Net Enrollment Rate (%) |
|-------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| 2019* | 201.22 | 99.69 (49.55) | 101.53 (50.45) | 97.34 |
| 2020* | 215.51 | 105.60 (49.00) | 109.91 (51.00) | 97.81 |

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education * With pre-primary

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 2010 to 2020.

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

| Year | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dropout rate (%) | 39.8 | 29.7 | 26.2 | 21.4 | 20.9 | 20.4 | 19.2 | 18.8 | 18.6 | 17.9 | 17.2 |

Source: Annual Primary School Census, 2020, Directorate of Primary Education.

Important Activities in Primary Education

- ‘4th Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4)’ has been implemented to develop the quality of primary education. Through various activities under this programme, priorities have been given to increase enrolment and attendance of school-going children, reduce drop-out and enhance school contact hour.
- The Government of Bangladesh has been distributing books free of costs among the students of the primary schools every year at the first day of the academic session through a book distribution festival. In 2022, 66.50 lakh for pre-primary level students, 9.30 crore for primary level and 2.19 lakh reading materials/Textbook for students (1st-3rd class) of 5 minor ethnic groups (*Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo, Sadri*) has been distributed.
- 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.
- ‘Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament’ for boys and ‘Bangamata Sheikh Fazilutunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament’ for girls has been arranged every year with a view to enhance physical and mental strength and to create a competitive attitude among the students. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the two football tournaments scheduled to be held on 2020 and 2021 has been postponed.
- Since 2009, terminal examination in Grade-5 has been held based on unique questionnaires throughout the country. *Ebtedayee madrasas* have been included under terminal examination system since 2010. A total of about 24.54 lakh students took the Grade-5 examination in 2019 and the pass rate was 95.50 percent. A total of about 3.04 lakh students took *Ebtedayee* terminal examination in 2019 and the pass rate was 95.96 percent. 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.
- Provision of stipends through mobile banking to the mothers/guardians of a total of 1.40 crore students of government primary schools is in progress. In addition to that, Tk.1000 are given to the beneficiaries as Kit allowance on the birth centenary of Father of the nation *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*. The management of stipend activities has been transferred to revenue budget from July 2021.
- To increase enrolment rate and to retain student at school, school feeding programme has been introduced. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government is continuing the activities under the ‘School Feeding Program in Poverty Stricken Areas’ in 104 poverty stricken *Upazilas* of the country. This helps meet children's nutritional needs. To introduce this support in all government primary schools of all *Upazilas/Thanas* of the country in phases will be implemented a new ‘Primary School Mill Project’ for the period from July 2021 to June 2026 in

accordance with the National School Mill Policy.

- Government orders have been issued to nationalise 26,404 schools following all these regulations. In order to ensure quality primary education, recruitment of teachers for vacant/created posts in government primary schools is in progress. In FY 2019-20, 18,147 assistant teachers have been appointed. Besides, 26,366 posts of assistant teachers have been created for pre-primary classes in government primary schools.
- Under PEDP-4, implementation of 'Second Chance Education' programme will offer primary education to 10 lakh deprived children, aged 8-14 years who are out of schools and dropouts. Institutional teaching programme of 1 lakh children has been completed and centre opening for the rest 9 lakh learners is under process.
- The Basic Literacy (64 Districts) project is under implementation to bring all the *Upazilas* of the country under the basic education programme.
- To make sure that the students stay focused on lessons and remain attentive in their study during the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary level lessons broadcasting programme titled 'Learning at Home' is being implemented through broadcast by *Sangsad* Bangladesh Television. This has made possible to keep about 1.40 crore primary students engaged in their study.

Physical Infrastructure Facilities at Primary School Level

Infrastructure development activities have been undertaken for increasing the quality of primary education. Infrastructure development scenario is as follow in FY 2021-22, till February 2022:

- During 2009 to February 2022, a total of 1,01,435 classrooms have been constructed in 26,704 schools.

- Under PEDP-4, 40,000 additional classrooms and 10,500 head teachers' rooms will be constructed. So far, construction of 5,763 classrooms has been completed in 1,488 schools. In addition, 29,000 separate wash blocks will be constructed for students and pure drinking water supply system will be installed in 15,000 schools
- Under Need-based Infrastructure Development of Government Primary School (1st phase), 8,682 schools have been selected for development. A total of 6,720 schools have been approved for development till the current financial year, out of which 19,202 classrooms have been constructed in 4,206 schools. In addition, 2,148 wash blocks and 2,633 tube wells have been installed.

Secondary Education

The government has been attaching the highest importance to the expansion of sustainable and quality secondary and higher secondary education. To sustain the success achieved in the rate of secondary education together with the gender parity, emphasis is being placed on the implementation of various programmes like general, science and technology based education and training, provision of financial assistance for students and teachers, various talent development activities, providing supportive policies and environment, and building capacity and constructing and developing the infrastructure of government secondary schools. Activities, such as providing financial benefits to teachers of MPO-enlisted private educational institutions, distributing free textbooks, introducing e-books, and setting up of *Upazila* ICT training and resource centres are underway.

Establishment of educational institutions and development of physical infrastructure

Development works including construction of academic buildings of 70 government post graduate colleges and 200 government colleges

located in the district headquarters are in progress. 18 new government secondary schools and 06 colleges have been set up and 19 government secondary schools are being set up. Besides, construction of academic buildings of 323 government secondary schools, construction of buildings of 1,610 selected private colleges and other development works are in progress. 33 model madrasas have been modernised and 62 new schools have been set up in disadvantaged areas.

Use of information technology in education

Considering the importance of science and technology based education, especially the Fourth Industrial Revolution, a number of initiatives have been taken to leverage ICT and digital technology in education management and education programme.

- In order to build skilled manpower, maximum emphasis has been laid on technical education. To this end, vocational courses have been introduced in 640 general secondary schools from January 2020. Later it will be implemented in all secondary level educational institutions.
- Admission of students from 1st to 9th class in government and private secondary schools has been completed centrally through online lottery in 2022. This has established merit equality, reduced stress on students and stopped the coaching trade. It is to be noted that this is the first time that private secondary schools have been subjected to a district-level digital lottery.
- MyGov service has been launched. With the easy adoption of digital applications by citizens through a service platform, it has become possible for government services to reach the doorsteps of the people.
- The blended learning approach will add a new dimension to the teaching-learning experience by integrating technology and

digital media with traditional classroom activities.

- Online entry of secondary schools under the Department of Secondary and Higher Education is in progress. Field level offices and educational institutions are being monitored under the Digital Monitoring System (DMS) app.

Providing stipends to students

The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the distribution of Tk. 97.10 crore to 1.82 lakh poor and meritorious students of undergraduate and equivalent classes under the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust on 28 February 2021 from *Ganobhaban* through video conferencing. The distribution of stipends and tuition fees among 52.50 lakh poor and meritorious students at the secondary and higher secondary level was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Education on 22 June 2021 through video conferencing from the Ministry of Education.

Free text books distribution among students

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. A number of 34.70 crore textbooks were distributed in 2022 under this programme. National Curriculum Framework 2021 has been formulated for pre-primary to twelfth class for formulation of revised curriculum. The preparation of curriculum and sixth-grade teaching materials on the basis of this framework is ongoing for the 2022 academic year. Students with visual impairments have provided free Braille textbooks.

Educational Activities during Covid-19 Pandemic

- During the closure of educational institutions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, distance education for the students of secondary level through *Sangsad* Bangladesh Television titled '*Amar Ghore Amar School*' has been started. Major subjects of class VI to X have been broadcasted since March 29, 2020. The students can also re-watch later through YouTube/Social Media.
- Out of the conventional examination system, the students have passed the next class in 2020 by evaluating the assignments of the secondary level students.
- In order to ensure the participation of students of all levels in online education activities, soft loans have been provided to 41,501 financially indigent students who cannot afford smart phones at a maximum of Tk. 8,000 per person.
- The Department of Secondary and Higher Education has prepared a guideline on the reopening of educational institutions after long time closure due to COVID-19. According to this guideline, the institutions make various preparations for opening.
- 2nd dose has been completed for all teachers and staff. Students between the ages of 12-18 have been vaccinated and vaccination of students is underway.

Technical Education

The government's efforts to improve technical and vocational education (TVET) continue. Various initiatives have been taken to mainstream technical education in preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. At the same time, opportunities for quality technical education have been expanded to create skilled manpower suitable for the domestic and international labor market. For example, infrastructure development for the purpose of enrolling more students, project implementation

for capacity building of 49 polytechnics and 64 TSCs, training of English and Mathematics teachers. There are a total of 10,452 technical education institutions in government and private educational institutions approved by the Bangladesh Technical Education Board. In the last 10 years, progress has been made in the field of technical education. In 2020, the enrollment rate in technical education was 17.14 percent. In that continuity, various projects/programmes have been taken to improve the enrollment in technical education by 25 percent by 2025.

Again, necessary steps have been taken to implement National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) at all levels. To eliminate inequality in technical and vocational education, stipends are being provided to the students, free textbooks are being distributed, and one-time grants are being provided to the poor and meritorious students and teachers. Several programmes, such as setting up of 1 technical school and college (TSC) in each of 100 *Upazilas*, establishment of 1 women's polytechnic institute in 4 divisional cities (*Sylhet, Barisal, Mymensingh, Rangpur*), establishment of Polytechnic Institutes in 23 districts and establishment of 1 Engineering College in each of 4 divisions (*Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur*) are underway.

Madrasah Education

The government has undertaken extensive activities for the development and modernisation of *madrasas*. To enhance the quality of *madrasa* education, construction of new buildings for 1,800 *madrasas*, setting up of multimedia rooms for existing 653 *madrasas* and capacity building of *madrasa* teachers will continue through the 'Development of Scheduled *Madrasas*' project. As part of the integration of *madrasa* education into the mainstream of education, steps are being taken to ensure transparency in the funding available from various sources in the private sector for the development of *madrasas*. At

present, there are 7,954 MPO registered *madrasas* in the country. Curriculum on Quran, *Aqeedah* and *Fiqh*, Arabic and Hadith has been developed from 1st to *Alim* class in order to make *Madrasa* education up-to-date. In line with the existing general education curriculum and syllabus formulated by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) for general compulsory and optional subjects except Arabic subjects up to secondary level for *madrasa* education are being followed. Textbooks on all subjects are being printed and distributed through NCTBA.

Higher Education

During last decade radical change has been accomplished in higher education sector in Bangladesh. The government has taken a number of significant steps through the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) to expand and enhance the quality of higher education. A public university has been established in almost every old district of the country. At present, number of public universities stands to 53; 50 of which started academic programme and out of 108 private universities, 99 already started academic activities. For improvement of higher education and research activity, 'Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh: 2018-2030' has been formulated as well as initiatives taken to implement it by UGC.

Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has been set up in 107 (public 38 and 69 private) universities to evaluate the activities of each department and institute of the country's universities and to ensure quality teaching and the cells are being closely monitored. Instructions have been issued by the Commission for the establishment of IQAC in the remaining universities. The Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF) formulated by the Commission has been approved by the

government and has been sent to all the universities for necessary purposes. Although the office was closed during the corona period, 1,646 educational institutions under the Department of Secondary and Higher Education have been registered as MPO in 2020 under special arrangements to ensure receipt of government share of salaries and allowances, retirement benefits and welfare allowances. In order to governmentise one private college in each *upazila*, 369 private colleges and 355 private secondary schools have been governmentised.

Development of Health and Family Welfare Sector

The government is making continuous efforts to address the global pandemic of coronavirus properly and to overcome its economic impact by giving priority to life and livelihood. In order to build a healthy, strong and functioning population, the government has intensified its efforts to ensure affordable and quality healthcare for all citizens through development of health, nutrition and population sectors. Significant progress has been made in the health sector as a result of taking various activities. As a consequence of prompt intervention of the government, significant progress has been made in lowering the fertility rate and mortality rate, improving average life expectancy, and lowering infant and maternal mortality rates. The expansion and quality of health services has improved and significant success has been achieved in controlling infectious diseases due to the health and social protection programs adopted by the government. In addition, due to the development of food security system, expansion of women's education, the standard of living of the people has improved and life expectancy has also increased. Table 12.5 shows the trend of health indicators from 2013 to 2020.

Table 12.5: Recent Trends in Health Indicators

| Indicator | Level | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population) | National | 19.0 | 18.9 | 18.8 | 18.7 | 18.5 | 18.3 | 18.1 | 18.1 |
| | Urban | 18.2 | 17.2 | 16.5 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 15.3 |
| | Rural | 19.3 | 19.4 | 20.3 | 20.9 | 20.4 | 20.1 | 20.0 | 20.4 |
| Crude Death Rate (per 1000 population) | National | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| | Urban | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.9 |
| | Rural | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| Average Age at Marriage | Male | 24.3 | 24.9 | 25.3 | 25.2 | 25.1 | 25.5 | 25.3 | 25.2 |
| | Female | 18.4 | 18.3 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 19.1 |
| Life Expectancy at Birth (year) | Both | 70.4 | 70.7 | 70.9 | 71.6 | 72 | 72.3 | 72.6 | 72.8 |
| | Male | 68.8 | 69.1 | 69.4 | 70.3 | 70.6 | 70.8 | 71.1 | 71.2 |
| | Female | 71.2 | 71.6 | 72.0 | 72.9 | 73.3 | 73.8 | 74.2 | 74.5 |
| Infant Mortality Rate (<1 year) (per 1000 live births) | National | 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 24 | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| | Urban | 26 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| | Rural | 34 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) | National | 41 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 28 |
| | Urban | 35 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 26 |
| | Rural | 43 | 40 | 39 | 36 | 33 | 31 | 29 | 28 |
| Maternal mortality Ratio (per 1000 live births) | National | 1.97 | 1.93 | 1.81 | 1.78 | 1.72 | 1.69 | 1.65 | 1.63 |
| | Urban | 1.46 | 1.82 | 1.62 | 1.60 | 1.57 | 1.32 | 1.23 | 1.38 |
| | Rural | 2.11 | 1.96 | 1.91 | 1.90 | 1.82 | 1.93 | 1.91 | 1.78 |
| Contraceptive users rate (%) | | 62.4 | 62.2 | 62.1 | 62.3 | 62.5 | 63.1 | 63.4 | 63.9 |
| Total Fertility Rate (per women, 15-49 years of age) | | 2.11 | 2.11 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.05 | 2.05 | 2.04 | 2.04 |

Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics-2020.

Community Clinic (CC) based Primary Health Care Services

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. At present 14,141 CCs are functional all over the country at the union level, each for about 6,000-8,000 population. These community clinics have become fully operational by recruiting community health care providers (CHCPs) based on community clinics to provide them with appropriate training to develop their skills and distribute adequate medicine and family planning materials.

It is estimated that an average of 40 patients per day receive service from each CC and 95 percent of them are women and children. Beneficiaries

from the CCs from 2009 to February 2022 are the rural people getting services through around 111.17 crore visits. During the same period, more than 7.62 crore emergency and complicated patients were referred to centres with higher facility for better management. About 4,000 community clinics across the country are providing normal delivery services and about 1.06 lakh normal deliveries have been completed so far in this system which has been started gradually since 2009.

Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI)

Government is continuing vaccination programme against vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) through the expanded programme of immunization (EPI) to protect the children against those diseases. EPI is providing vaccines against 10 vaccine preventable diseases named:

Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B, Haemophyllus Influenza-type-B, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Measles and Rubella. As a result of successful implementation of EPI, World Health Organization (WHO) declared Bangladesh as Polio free country and this position is maintained.

Through the implementation of Measles Rubella Campaign 2020, the vaccination target has been

achieved by giving 1 dose MR vaccine to 3.66 crore children below 9 months to 10 years and eradication of Measles and Rubella disease from the country by 2023. To achieve the year wise coverage, EPI programme has procured and disbursed routine vaccination for children and women of 62,188.81 lakh in FY 2020-21. In FY 2021-22 the process of procurement of Tk. 67,407.08 lakh of routine vaccine are ongoing. Table 12.6 shows the yearly EPI coverage.

Table 12.6: Vaccination under EPI Programme

| Year | BCG (%) | OPV- 1 (%) | OPV-2 (%) | OPV-3 (%) | Penta-1 (%) | Penta- 2 (%) | Penta-3 (%) | Measles (%) | MR- 1 | MR-2 | All vaccines (%) |
|------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------|------|------------------|
| 2012 | 99.0 | 99.0 | 97.7 | 95.1 | 99.0 | 97.6 | 90.0 | 88.5 | | - | 82.9 |
| 2013 | 95.0 | 95.0 | 94.0 | 92.0 | 91.0 | 93.0 | 92.0 | 86.0 | | | 81.0 |
| 2014 | 99.2 | 95.1 | 94.2 | 94.0 | 91.0 | 93.0 | 93.0 | 86.6 | - | - | 81.6 |
| 2015 | 99.2 | 94.0 | 94.7 | 92.7 | 92.6 | 93.3 | 86.6 | 86.6 | - | - | 81.6 |
| 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 | 97.7 | 86.3 | 98.8 |
| 2018 | 100.6 | 99.3 | 98.2 | 97.7 | 98.7 | 97.3 | 96.6 | 97.6 | 97.1 | 95.3 | 97.6 |
| 2019 | 102.3 | 101.4 | 100.3 | 99.3 | 101.4 | 100.3 | 99.3 | 99.0 | 98.7 | 96.8 | 97.1 |
| 2020 | 97.3 | 95.9 | 93.9 | 92.6 | 95.7 | 93.7 | 92.5 | 91.4 | 92.8 | 91.8 | 92.0 |
| 2021 | 103.2 | 102.1 | 101.0 | 99.9 | 102.1 | 100.9 | 99.7 | 99.7 | 99.1 | 97.2 | 99.3 |

Source: *Bangladesh EPI Census 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, DHIS2 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy, Management and Steps

The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan has already been formulated under the Extended Immunization Program (EPI) to protect lives and prevent deaths from the COVID-19 epidemic, through which the World Health Organisation (WHO) targets 70 percent of the population to be vaccinated against COVID-19. At the initiative of the Department of Health Services, age and

authority based registration is introduced through the web portal www.surokkha.gov.bd. So far, 97,736,432 (82%) people have registered for the vaccine against the target. The government has stocks of vaccines required to provide vaccines with booster to the target population.

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. Various training programmes are being introduced to improve the skills of physicians, nurses, midwives, and other professionals who offer emergency maternity care, encourage institutional delivery, and provide maternal and child health services. The government has launched Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) in each district with the help of various development partners to provide emergency maternity services. At present Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Care (CEmONC) services are available in all Medical College Hospitals, 59 District Hospitals, 03 General Hospitals, 132 *Upazila* Health Complexes and 63 Maternal and Child Welfare centres. Rest of the *Upazila* Health Complexes is providing Basic Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Care (BEmONC) service. Expansion of EmONC services has reduced maternal mortality to 163 per 1,00,000 live births and neonatal mortality to 28 per 1,000 live births. In addition, more than 200 mothers are being screened for cervical and breast cancer in each *upazila* every month. At present there are 43 colonoscopy centres in Bangladesh at district and *upazila* level.

The Maternal Health Voucher Scheme has provided services to 49,169 poor mothers in 55 *upazilas* of the country from July 2021 to December 2021 and provided cash incentives and travel allowances through Tk. 1,196.82 lakh through mobile banking. 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 12,510 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 and 2,550 midwives are posted in different health facilities.

Nutrition

To expand the nutrition service throughout the 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 programme is to 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.

To provide nutrition services to children suffering from acute malnutrition, activities are being done out in all District Hospitals, Medical College Hospitals, and *Upazila* Health Complex 410 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) units. At the grassroots level, 412 Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Nutrition Corners have been set up to prevent child malnutrition. In order to provide nutrition services to the people in slums, remote areas of villages especially in *char*, *haor* area, NNS is conducting nutrition services activities in coordination with various Ministries/Divisions/Departments and local and foreign private aid agencies. Guideline on COVID-19 has been formulated and guidelines have been distributed among all health and family planning officers/service providers. About 62,000 officers/service providers have been trained on Comprehensive Competency Nutrition Training (CCTN). In addition, 108 episodes of the weekly programme titled 'Nutrition Prosperity' have been aired on BTV World. Table 12.7 shows a whole picture of nutrition status of Bangladesh.

Table 12.7: Nutrition Status of Bangladesh

| Index | 2011 (%) | 2014 (%) | 2018 (%) | Target 2023 (%) | Remark |
|---|----------|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Underweight child (0-59 month's) | 36.4 | 32.6 | 22 | 25 | On Track |
| Stunted child (0-59 month's) | - | 36.1 | 31 | 25 | On Track |
| Wasting (0-59 month's) | - | 14.3 | 8 | <10 | On Track |
| Low birth weight | - | 22.6 | - | <18 | On Track |
| Exclusive breast feeding | 47.1 | 50.8 | 69 | 60 | On Track |
| Rate of breast feeding child | 64 | 55.3 | 65 | 65 | On Track |
| Rate of Anemic pregnant women | - | - | - | Less than one-third decrease | On Track |
| Rate of Anemic adolescence girl | - | - | - | | 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 Vitamin-A capsule intake (6-59 month's) | 60 | 92 | 79 | >90 | On Track |

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Health Information System and E-health

MOHFW has drawn global attention for the successful utilisation of IT in the health sector. Laptops and Android Tablets have been provided at the community clinics and other grass root level workers. Programmes 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 finalised. Programmes 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 digitalised.

A call centre named 'Swasthya Batayan-16273' has been set up to provide health services to the people. Health services are being provided through mobile phones from every district and *upazila* level government hospital in the country. Advanced telemedicine services are being provided from 96 hospitals. Video conferencing systems have been installed in all Divisional and District Health Offices, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Hospitals, and more than 300 *Upazila* Hospitals in collaboration with the Department of Health.

Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi (SSK)

The government has developed the 'Strategy for Finance in the Health Sector: 2012-2032' in order to provide universal health care in the country by 2030. The '*Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi* (SSK)' has been developed in accordance with the policy to fund healthcare services for those living

in poverty. The pilot programme under the SSK has been initiated to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of the poor population and protect them from the catastrophic health expenditure in receiving hospital-based services. While receiving inter-departmental services from hospitals, every family holding a card gets free treatment including costs of diagnosis and medicines. As on April 30, 2021, a total of 20,931 members of 81,619 enlisted families have received services under this programme, and it will gradually be expanded across the country.

Specialised Health Care

The project is being implemented to set up a 100 bed full-fledged cancer treatment unit at the Government Medical College Hospital in the divisional town to facilitate the treatment of cancer patients. In addition, action has been taken on Autism and Neuro Developmental Disorders in accordance with the National Strategic Plan 2016-2021. Educational measures have been taken to raise awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. At the same time, patients with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders are being provided integrated treatment (combining child physicians, clinical psychologists and developmental therapists) by setting up child development centres in 33 hospitals.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and Protecting Public Life

As soon as COVID-19 was first identified in the country in March 2020, a National Preparedness and Response Plan was prepared to prevent and control the virus. Later on, with some minor revisions, the Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan was finalised and activities are currently being carried out in accordance with the Plan. During the second wave of the pandemic, medical treatment services have been continued in specialised isolation units in district and *upazila* levels, 14 COVID-19 dedicated hospitals in the capital city, and 67 COVID-19 dedicated

hospitals in the district level which were established during the first wave of the pandemic last year. Alongside, 55 laboratories established in the last fiscal year and improved government healthcare institutions are providing COVID-19 services. There have been constructed 09 new COVID-19 dedicated hospitals. Dhaka North City Corporation Specialised Hospital and Isolation Centre has been opened to provide quick treatment to patients.

Training activities for healthcare workers are provided to improve infection prevention control and case management. Recently graduated intern doctors have also been encouraged to work in hospitals with the highest number of cases. The health care department has been recruited an additional 6,000 nurses, 11,136 medical doctors and 3,000 technical support staff. Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) is always updating the information of COVID-19 on their website. A COVID-19 dashboard has been created in MIS-DGHS where daily updated information is available. This portal provides information regarding laboratory, number of people in quarantine and isolation etc. To combat COVID-19, the government has increased the capacity of *Shastho Batayon* '16263', an online application where the general public is able to access health services. The general public can also get ambulance service information using this number. In addition, information related to supply chain management is managed through a separate system called Electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS), which is interconnected with the Coronavirus data dashboard. A lump sum of Tk. 10,000 crore was allocated in FY 2020-21 budget to meet any urgent need to address COVID-19. A lump sum of Tk. 10,000 crore has also been provided in the budget of FY 2021-22 to cover the immediate demand to address COVID-19.

Family Planning Services and Reproductive Health

The family planning programme has achieved significant success as a result of various effective initiatives taken by the government. In 2001, Bangladesh's population growth rate was 1.57 percent, which is now 1.37 percent. At the same time, the number of birth control users has increased. At present, 63.9 percent of couples are using birth control methods, but in 2001 it was 53.8 percent. According to BDHS report in 2020, Total Fertility Rates (TFR) has been declined sharply from 3.0 in 2011 births to 2.04 in 2020. The government has identified achieving the replacement level population growth from present rate of 2.04 to 2.0 as one of its main target and has taken many programmes in that direction. Activities to increase the net reproduction rate to 75 percent are being implemented in accordance with these goals. 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 1.72 to 1.63 (per thousand live births) and infant mortality rate decreased from 31 to 28 (per thousand living births).

To ensure smooth implementation of programmes on family planning, maternal and child health services, *Upazila* Family Planning Offices, including 10 District Offices and 145 Family Planning Stores have been established. To expand services at the grassroots' level, 89 new 10-beds MCWCs (Maternal and Children Welfare Centers) have been constructed at the union level. Family planning services are being provided through Web-Logistic Management Information System. At the same time, e-health programs are being conducted as part of widening the use of information technology in medical services. To ensure safe maternity services, safe delivery services for 24 hours a day

7 days a week have been introduced in Health and Family Welfare Centres in 2,854 Unions. The National Newborn Health Program (NNHP) is being implemented in order to protect the health of newborns and children as part of health management. In addition, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) services are being provided in 192 facilities.

The government is emphasizing the need of providing health services to adolescents. A total of 603 Adolescent Friendly Health Corners have been opened at Union Health and Family Welfare Centers and Maternal and Child Welfare Centers for the physical and mental development of adolescents, through which services and information are being provided to them. Under the ongoing sector programme, a total of 979 adolescent-friendly corner will be established by 2022. Adolescent website (www.adoinfobd.com) has been developed to provide adolescent healthcare. In FY 2021-22, training and education activities are being carried out for 2,000 secondary and higher secondary level teachers and 1,200 health service providers, 1,800 peer educators, 2,100 gate keepers and 1,500 field health workers involved in adolescent health programme. Besides, adolescent friendly health care activities are being carried out in 140 *upazilas*. Adolescent health activities are underway in 23 school health clinics across the country.

Health in Private Sector

Despite a number of successful programmes, the government has not been able to meet the health requirements of the entire country on its own. 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 programmes under health, population and nutrition sector development programme. Scope for investment in the projects run by Public Private Partnership (PPP) has been created.

Medical Education

The government's multiple endeavors to reform the medical education system have resulted in significant changes in medical education. Under the direction of Hon'ble Prime Minister, an initiative has been taken to set up a Medical University in each division. After the commencement of activities of *Rajshahi*, *Chattogram* and *Sylhet* Medical Universities, the establishment of *Sheikh Hasina* Medical University, *Khulna* is in progress. Modernisation and expansion of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and setting up of Nephrology Unit and Kidney Dialysis Centre in Government Medical College Hospital and all District Sadar Hospitals are underway. Besides, establishment of *Sheikh Saira Khatun* Medical College and Nursing Institute, establishment of *Kushtia* Medical College and Hospital, establishment of *Sheikh Lutfar Rahman* Dental College, Gopalganj is in progress.

Expansion of quality health-education, technology-based, research-based health-education is needed to sustain the achievements of the health sector and increase its ability to recover from future epidemics. In FY 2020-21, an 'Integrated Health Science Research and Development Fund' has been set up for the development of research in the field of health education and technology. Tk. 100 crores have been allocated for this fund in FY 2021-22. Fellowships and grant-in-aid activities continue to innovate new technologies and techniques.

Nursing Services

At present, 46,500 nurses are serving in government health service and nursing institutes. In order to improve the quality of nursing and

midwifery education and services, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (4 Years' Course) has been started in 13 government nursing colleges where 1,200 seats exist. Diploma in Nursing Science and Midwifery (3 years' course) is being conducted in 44 government nursing institutes where 2,730 seats exist. Diploma in Midwifery (3 years' course) is being conducted in 60 government nursing institutes where 1,750 seats exist. Another 16 existing Nursing Institutes have been upgraded to Nursing and Midwifery Colleges. It is to be noted that in addition to these educational institutions at the government level, for pursuing higher education in Nursing, 05 Nursing Colleges are running 02-year Post Basic B.Sc. in Nursing and Nursing in Public Health and 01 institutions are conducting 2-year MSc Nursing courses. Admission test for nursing and midwifery courses has started in every government and non-government institution of the country in a uniform manner since 2018 to maintain the quality of nursing and midwifery education in the country.

To address the global corona risk, 5,075 senior staff nurses have been recruited in 2020 and 8,128 senior staff nurses in 2021. Another 2,000 senior staff nurses are in the process of being recruited. In order to provide quality nursing and midwifery services, nurses and midwives have been posted in connection with the COVID-19 dedicated hospitals. In addition to the recruitment of nurses in early 2021, a total of 1,408 midwives were recruited. In order to improve the quality of nursing and midwifery services, the government has undertaken various programmes, such as- Nurse Expert Exchange with different countries, foreign training, creation of higher education opportunities at home and abroad etc.

Programmes for Women and Child Development

The government is committed to women's political, economic, and social empowerment, as well as the abolition of gender inequity, the

establishment of child rights, and their integration into the mainstream of overall development. The role of women in empowerment and development in Bangladesh has been strengthened as a result of the government's timely execution of policies and plans. Necessary laws and regulations have been formulated for the establishment of equal rights in all spheres of state and public life and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and various development projects, programs and other activities are being implemented. National Women Development Policy-2011, National Child Policy-2011, Comprehensive policy on Initial Care and Development of Child- 2013, Prevention and Protection of Domestic Violence Act, 2010 and Rules, 2013, Dowry Prevention Act-2018, Child Marriage Prevention Rules-2018', *Shishu* Academy Act- 2018, Women and Child Abuse Suppression (Amendment) Act, 2020 and The Child Daycare Act 2021 have been enacted.

An incentive package has been implemented for women to enable them to address the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and facilitate economic recovery. Maternity allowances and working and lactating mother allowances have been provided to meet the health and nutritional needs of poor pregnant women in rural and urban areas and ensure complete development of the child, and micro-credit activities have been running to ensure self-employment of women. A total of 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) have been set up in 47 District *Sadar* Hospitals and 20 *Upazila* Health Complexes under the Multisectoral Programme to provide services to women and children victims of persecution across the country and 13 One-Stop Crisis Cells have been set up in Government Medical College Hospitals. These One-Stop Crisis Centers and One-Stop Crisis Cells have provided services to a total of 1,51,430 abused women and children as of February 2022. Besides, instant support is being provided through the mobile app '*Joy*'. Initiatives

have been to make less educated, poor and helpless women self-reliant by providing income generating training and IT training. Projects for the establishment of Community Nursing Degree College for Women in Dhaka, and the 'Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Empowerment at Grassroot Level' are in progress. Under the project, 14,450 women have been trained in 6 trades (beautification, catering, fashion design, interior design and event management, baby care and housekeeping) till February 2022 in 80 training centers in 72 *upazilas* in 5 years.

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. Among them-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, safe internet, safe children etc. are significant. 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.

Social Welfare

The government is carrying out various activities for the welfare of the poor, disadvantaged, neglected, special needs and orphans. The Social Security Programme is a successful programme of the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW). Currently, different types of allowances and food assistance activities are running under social security programmes of the MoSW. Old age allowance, destitute women allowance, widow and husband deserted women allowance, insolvent disability allowance, education stipend for students with disabilities, development projects of the marginalised people, financial support programmes for patient with cancer, kidney and liver cirrhosis, stroke paralysis, congenital heart diseases and thalassemia, rehabilitation of beggars and alternative employment programme etc. are the most notable social security programmes of MoSW. Apart from government activities, financial grants are being provided for the adoption and implementation of service-oriented projects in private enterprises.

In the country, 85 *Sarkari Shishu Paribar* are operating for the upbringing of non-parental children, instilling a sense of responsibility and discipline in them, as well as rehabilitation through training and education. In FY 2021-22 430 meritorious orphans have been given scholarships to study beyond the age of 18. There are 6 institutions (*Chotomani Nibash*) in 6 districts of the country for the upbringing, maintenance, sports and general education of abandoned children aged 0-7 years without parental identity. 03 child development centres for correction of disobedient children of parents to prevent social degradation, 06 government shelters for rehabilitation of nomads and homeless persons with appropriate training and 'safe home' operations for nurturing, training, treatment, recreation and rehabilitation of women and children detained in the police station/jail are being conducted in *Barisal, Sylhet, Rajshahi,*

Chattogram, Bagerhat and Faridpur districts. In addition, probation and after care service are being conducted with the aim of providing casework, correction, socialisation and other legal support under the supervision of probation officers, without convictions for first-time offenders and minor offenders, or for incarcerated offenders through 70 units. The Social security services are being provided to the street children through 'Drop in center' under project of Child Sensitive Social Protection in Bangladesh. In addition, *Sheikh Russel* Child Training and Rehabilitation Centers are working across the country to protect all disadvantaged and endangered children.

The government is conducting various programmes for the welfare, development and protection of the rights of persons with special needs and for their rehabilitation. Such as integrated visionary education programme, schools for the visually impaired, institution for children with mental disabilities, vocational training, employment and rehabilitation centre for physically handicapped and so on. A total of 103 'Disability Services and Help Centres' have been set up in 64 districts and 39 *upazilas* of the country to provide therapeutic services to the challenged people in remote areas of the country. All these centres provide free therapeutic, counseling and referral services and assistive devices to people with autism and other disabilities in remote areas of the country. The project 'Construction of Sports Complex for Persons with Special Needs' has been undertaken by the National Disability Foundation under the Ministry of Social Welfare for the socio-economic development of persons with disabilities in the country and to ensure their facilities in sports. The Department of Social Services is implementing 05 poverty reduction programmes for the purpose of socio-economic development through providing micro credit to the poor, helpless, neglected, backward and backward people living in rural/urban areas of

the country. These are rural social services, rural mothers centre, urban community programme, rehabilitation programme for the burnt and people with disabilities and loan programme in *ashrayan* project.

Since March 26, 2020 to till now 197 people from homeless and destitute people living on the streets were transferred to government shelter homes to reduce the risk of COVID-19. In addition to regular medical assistance, nutritious food, masks and hand sanitizers were distributed to 2.65 lakh helpless patients through the hospital social service activities. So far, emergency food and financial assistance of Tk. 9.31 crore has been provided to 2.80 lakh destitute people in 64 districts. Tk. 8.50 lakh has been allocated for the purchase of infrared thermometer and pulse oximeter in 85 *Sarkari Shishu Paribar*. Measures have been taken to ensure that residents of all institutions under the Ministry of Social Welfare are vaccinated against COVID-19.

Freedom Fighter Welfare

The contribution of the freedom fighters, the finest child of the nation is everlasting in the service of motherland. The government has undertaken various activities to honor them and expand the spirit of *Bangabandhu* and Liberation War to the grassroots level by providing overall welfare to the families of war wounded heroic freedom fighters, dead war wounded heroic freedom fighters, titular heroic freedom fighters, dead heroic freedom fighter families and families of martyred heroic freedom fighters. On February 15, 2021, the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the system of providing honorarium and other allowances for all the valiant freedom fighters through the G2P system directly from Bangladesh Bank to the beneficiary banks by creating the Management Information System containing a complete database for freedom fighters. In addition, work has started for building 30,000 '*Bir Nibas*' for the freedom fighters at a cost of Tk. 4,122 crore to ensure their safe

accommodation. To improve the socio-economic condition of the valiant freedom fighters, construction of *Muktijoddha* Complex in every district and *upazila* of the country is at the final stage.

Youth Development

The government is implementing training programmes and development projects through the Department of Youth Development to engage the youth in national development by providing them with the right direction, practical technical knowledge and skill-enhancing training. Considering the all-out welfare of the youth, training, self-employment, micro credit, poverty alleviation and other motivational activities are continuing at all *upazilas* and districts of the country.

The Department of Youth Development has imparted skill enhancement training to a total of 65.95 lakh youth in various trades till February 2022 for the purpose of employment and self-employment of youth and young women. Among the trained youths, 23.08 lakh have been engaged in self-employment. Under the credit scheme, and amount of Tk. 2,183.79 crore was disbursed (including the revolving fund) to 17.68 lakh beneficiaries since inception till January 2022 to establish and expansion of self-employment enterprises. The government is implementing the National Service Programme through the Department of Youth Development with the aim of creating employment for the educated unemployed youth of the country. To date, 138 *upazilas* in 47 districts of the country have been brought under the National Service Programme.

Sports Development

The government has been formulating and implementing policies and strategies to improve the quality of sports in the national and international arenas. Construction and development activities of modern stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pools and sports

infrastructure are being carried out across the country with a view to increase sports opportunities. The government continues to play a significant role in motivating children and adolescents to participate in sports at the grassroots level, producing national and international standard players, expanding social security in sports, preventing drug abuse, raising health and environmental awareness, empowering women, and enhancing athletes' social status. Free sports equipment is being provided for organising and conducting sports in educational institutions and sports clubs. Bachelor of Physical Education (BPED) education is being imparted to young men and women with bachelor's degree through 06 Government Physical Education Colleges and Masters of Physical Education (MPED) is being imparted through Dhaka Government Physical Education College. The '*Bangabandhu Krirashebi Kalyan Foundation*' was established by enacting the '*Bangabandhu Krirashebi Kalyan Foundation Act 2011*' to realise the cherished dream of Father of the Nation *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman* with the aim of providing financial assistance to indigent, injured and disabled sportsmen and sports organisers. In FY 2021-22, steps have been taken to provide grants to a total of 1,300 indigents, injured and disabled athletes and sports organisers through the said foundation.

Cultural Affairs

The government has been providing necessary patronage for the betterment of all branches of art and culture including Bengali language and literature, music, art, drama, film and creative publishing. Various activities are being carried out for the development, preservation and expansion of culture of Bangladesh through 17 departments/agencies under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The Department of Archeology is carrying out developmental activities including survey, excavation, renovation and preservation

of important archeological sites and monuments for the purpose of proper preservation and presentation of archeological resources and monuments of the country.

In order to achieve cultural excellence, the *Bangla Academy* conducts various notable activities related to Bangla language and literature, compilation of dictionaries, various researches and publications as well as arranges book fair in the month of February and celebrates different significant days every year. Besides, Bangladesh *Shilpakala Academy* is working to develop, preserve, spread and encourage national culture through fine arts, drama, music etc. 07 organisations are working under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to preserve and develop the traditional and colorful cultures of 12 small ethnic groups living in the greater Chattogram Hill Tracts region and to integrate those small ethnic cultures into the mainstream of national culture. Initiatives have been taken to implement development projects on preservation of Rose Garden, various regional archeological monuments.

Bangladesh National Museum is devoted to archaeological, classical, decorative and contemporary art, history, natural history, ethnography and world civilisation. It has continued to collect different kinds of important archaeological artifacts from the remote areas of the country for the purpose of exhibiting hundreds of thousands of visitors to the museum. A project titled '1971: Construction of Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum Building' is being implemented running at an estimated cost of Tk. 2,783.28 lakhs. The copyright registration process has been automated. A legal aid centre has been set up to provide free copyright related legal advice. Different initiatives have been taken to implement special programme activities related to identification, collection, evaluation and preservation of folk cultural expressions. The project titled 'Nationwide Mobile Library' is

being implemented by the Department of Public Libraries with the aim of sustaining the activities of the mobile library. 76 mobile libraries are providing mobile library services at the doorsteps of readers across the country. The project titled 'Establishment of *Bangabandhu* and Liberation War Corner' in the libraries of the country, 'Expansion of online service activities of government public libraries' is underway.

Religious Affairs

Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia was halted in 2020 and 2021 due to the global COVID-19. However, sending pilgrims from Bangladesh is being resumed in 2022. In order to carry out all the functions of Hajj smoothly in the coming years, maximum application of information technology in Hajj management is being ensured including introduction of e-Hajj system. Upgradation of the Hajj Camp building and renovation of the internal infrastructure of the Hajj Camp are in progress. Under the *Imam* and *Muazzin* Welfare Trust, interest-free loans have been provided to 1,000 imams and financial assistance to 4,000 distressed imams in FY 2020-21. Welfare activities are being carried out in a coordinated manner through Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Welfare Trusts for the people of respective religions to ensure communal harmony and peaceful social order. After the establishment of the trust, grants have been given to various churches/churches/cemeteries/places of worship/religious institutions from the profits of the endowment fund. Establishment of *Gopalganj* District Islamic Foundation Complex, establishment of a total of 560 model mosques and Islamic Cultural Centres in each district and *upazila* (1st Amendment), Imam-inspired activities to improve the quality of life and conservation of biodiversity of the people of *Haor* area, modernisation project by adding new equipment to the existing printing house of Islamic Foundation, raising religious harmony and awareness, development and renovation of

traditional temples and religious institutions across the country, the skills enhancement Project (Phase II) etc. are in progress.

Development of *Chattogram Hill Tracts*

The *Chattogram Hill Tracts* is an integral part of our culture and heritage. The government is working tirelessly for the development of marginalised communities in the hilly areas. The government is implementing various development projects and technical projects for the development of the hill people and for preserving their glorious culture. In FY 2020-21, under the *Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Assistance*, the *Rangamati* District Council has constructed 1,200 sq. m. of buildings for the development of *Rangamati* education system, repaired 400 sq. m. of buildings, provided furniture to 20 educational institutions and provided food to students in 4 residential schools. Apart from these, construction of roads, bridges, culverts for improvement of communication system, repair of roads, construction of irrigation drains for development of agricultural system, construction of dams, construction of 2,000 sq. m. building for development of religious and social institutions, medical supplies for the development and improvement of the health system also provided.

Broadcast

Information on the overall activities of the government including development activities is transmitted from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in various print and electronic media including the top level of the government. The government is taking various projects/activities for the modernisation and development of the media. The government is currently implementing various projects aimed at modernising Bangladesh Television and Radio Centre and developing digital broadcasting system. The number of ongoing projects of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in FY 2021-22 is 16. All of these projects/activities are

designed to propel Bangladesh forward in the unparalleled development of communication networking with global media, in keeping with technological advancement and excellence in the context of globalisation and that Bangladesh is going ahead in this development. Through the implementation of the project titled 'Preservation of Film Archives through the Application of Information Technology and Restoration of Bangladesh Film Archive Activities', digital preservation and management of films has been introduced in place of traditional methods. *Sangsad* Bangladesh Television started broadcasting on March 29, 2020 under the headline '*Amar ghore amar school*' and '*Amar ghore amar madrasa*' with the aim of continuing the educational activities of secondary level students in COVID-19 situation. In addition, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting broadcasts various awareness TVC/advertisements in various media on the COVID-19 situation.

Reform and Good Governance

Aside from achieving high growth, various reform measures are being taken and implemented to ensure sustainable and inclusive balanced development, such as improve service, and good governance, the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the formulation and amendment of employment-related rules, financial sector reform, and anti-corruption and prevention activities, etc. In order to strengthen good governance and accountability, the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the ministry/department/agency has incorporated National Integrity Strategy (NIS), Grievance Redress System, E-governance and Innovation, Right to Information and citizen charter action plan.

Apart from nominating suitable candidates for the service of the Republic through the Bangladesh Public Service Commission, recommendations are also given on formulation-amendment and disciplinary matters relating to promotion and appointment. From 2009 to 2021, the Commission has recommended 39,605 candidates for recruitment in different cadres through 13 consecutive B.C.S. examinations.

The Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was established to curb and prevent corruption and corrupt practices in the country. The Commission is implementing multifaceted programmes such as conducting enquiry and investigation against allegations of corruption as well as building honesty and integrity in the society by raising public awareness against corruption. With the launch of Toll Free Hotline (106), the daily complaints of public corruption can be easily presented directly to the ACC. Besides, ISD number 8809612106106 has been launched for receiving complaints. The Enforcement Unit of ACC is constantly conducting immediate operations in various departments on the basis of specific allegations. As of December 2021, a total of 1,889 instant operations were conducted. In order to further strengthen the Commission, initiatives have been taken to fully automate the overall activities of the Commission and to develop web-based software for proper monitoring of investigative and case management work. ACC's own Digital Forensic Lab has already been established. The government will continue a technical assistance project with the support of ADB and the Republic of Korea and a three-year project titled 'Strengthening Anti-Corruption Commission' is underway to enhance the institutional capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission.