

**COMMITTEE ON THE  
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH CONCERNING  
THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/BGD/2) RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE  
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION  
OF THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF BANGLADESH (CRC/C/65/Add.22)**

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**CRC/C/RESP/41**

# **SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF BANGLADESH ON THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

## **UPDATE ON**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

#### **Socio-economic environment**

Bangladesh has a current GNP per capita US\$377 (BBS, 2001). There are approximately 20 million households in the country with an average household size of 5.6 persons. The total population stands at 129 million (BBS, 2001) with a growth rate of 1.5 percent. The population is predominantly young, with 13 percent under 5 years of age and 41 percent under 15. The rural population comprises 74.5 percent and the urban population is 25.5 percent of the total. Life expectancy at birth is 60.7 years for male and 60.5 years for female. Children below 18 years constitute nearly half of the population in Bangladesh with their number standing at about 55.7 million in 2001.

Bangladesh has made notable progress in the area of poverty reduction in the last two decades. According to the Human Development Report 2003, Bangladesh for the first time has been placed in the medium human development group. Poverty eradication gets priority in all of its development programmes and plans. Development of women and children is one of the overarching strategies to address the issue. A wide range of programmes and activities are being implemented for realizing the rights of children. In addition to the government's initiatives NGOs and the private sector have come forward with supplemental and alternative efforts in children development. However, Bangladesh still has approximately 60 million people living under the poverty line. The population density here is among the highest in the world. The double burden of poverty and the population pressure falls disproportionately on children and women.

#### **Situation of the Children**

Bangladesh has made significant progress in area of child rights promotion, protection and well being during last decade. This is evident in the fields of immunization, nutrition, primary health care, water supply and sanitation, education etc.

#### **Survival:**

Health services aim at improving the health of the poor, women and children. The government has taken various measures and development activities at local, district and national level to develop an effective and proper health care services. The past decade experienced a significant progress in health sector in Bangladesh. Both birth and death rates has come down, average life expectancy has gone up, and infant and maternal mortality rates have dropped substantially. The Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), control of diarrhoeal disease (CDD) programme, arsenic and dengue prevention programme, prevention of acute respiratory infection (ARI) and nutrition programme have made important contributions in reducing child mortality.

The recently completed Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) allocated 60% of their budget under the Essential Service Package (ESP) for improvement of health status of the rural poor, children and mothers. As a follow up of the HPSP a three year comprehensive programme on Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSPP) is due to start in December 2003. Various programmes such as the EPI programmes, eradication of polio, malaria, yellow fever, phylaria, T.B., contamination of arsenic, diarrhoea, hepatitis, tetanus and measles in remote areas, programme for controlling diarrhoea of school going children and dengue programmes are being implemented. Under the alternative medical care services, homeopathic treatment facilities have been extended to 15 hospitals at district levels in 2002. A programme has been undertaken to establish one Mother and Child Health Training Institute (MCHTI) hospital in all six divisions of the country with assistance from Japan. Steps have been taken to implement Local Level Planning (LLP) procedure in 460 upazilas of 64 districts as a part of decentralization programme to promote the quality and management of the health and family welfare service. The government has formulated a National AIDS policy to minimize the risk of HIV/AIDS.

In 2000, over 97 percent of household had access to drinking water through a variety of means. However hazardous level of arsenic contamination in tube well water has been found in at least 48 of the 64 districts, reducing the coverage of safe water to only 70 percent. About 20 million people are potentially at risk of arsenicosis. Less than half of the total population use sanitary means of excreta disposal. The use of sanitary latrines increased from 21 percent in 1990 to 43 percent in 2000, but it still remains far short of the goal. Although some cost effective means of excreta disposal are available, the adoption rate is lower due mostly to economic reasons. The government has fixed a target to attain 100 percent sanitation by 2010.

### **Development:**

The government has attached highest priority to primary and mass education. Primary education was made compulsory with the enactment of Primary Education (Compulsory) Act in 1990. A programme for compulsory primary education was launched all over the country since 1993. In order to universalise primary education, the "Primary and Mass Education Division" which was established in 1992, has been elevated to the level of a Ministry in January 2003 to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. A variety of development programmes at the primary and non-formal education sector have been undertaken to improve the quality of education as well as to extend education at the doorstep of every citizen.

Gross enrolment rate of children in the primary level has increased dramatically from 76 percent in 1991 to 97.49 percent in 2001 (BANBEIS 2002). Net enrolment has increased from 69.8 percent in 1993 to 81.5 percent in 2001. Literacy rate stands at 65 percent in 2002 (Table 1). Emphasis has been given on qualitative improvement of secondary education through improvement in science and technological education. Education in information and communication technology has been given priority. Currently, there are 16,166 secondary schools, 2,427 general colleges, 7,651 madrasahs, 20 polytechnic institutes, 51 vocational training institutes, 4 Bangladesh Institute of Technologies (BITs), 16 public universities, 22 private universities and a variety of post-primary schools in Bangladesh. School enrolment is 7.75 millions (female: 52.6%), college enrolment is 1.73 millions (female: 39.4%), and madrasah enrolment is 3.11 millions (female: 39.4%) (Economic Survey 2003).

**Protection:**

The issue of protection of children has been given greater emphasis recently in Bangladesh. The Government has undertaken the "Birth Registration" project in 2001. Two anti-trafficking projects have been contributing in awareness raising and preventive activities. The reduction of vulnerability of poor women and children are also being addressed under these projects. The "Early Childhood Development" project places emphasis on the life-cycle approach to development and making the interventions more complete.

According to Child Labour Survey conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) the number of child at work was 6.7 million in 1999-2000 in the age group of 10-14 years. The Government is determined to eliminate child labour and is working with all stakeholders including development partners, NGOs and civil society, parents, employers. As the first step hazardous and exploitative child labour will be eliminated by 2010.

**Resource mobilisation:**

As the development of human resources has strong poverty reducing effects, the Government has laid special emphasis on enhancing the basic capacity of the poor by way of strengthening the health, education and nutrition and social welfare programmes. To implement the strategy, the Government has allocated substantial resources for expansion of education, health, nutrition and social welfare sector. Bangladesh has been allocating more than 20% of the total government expenditure in social sectors since 1990, which is more than 3 percent of the GDP.

**Participation:**

Children are becoming more involved in policy formulation and decision making processes of the government. For example children's opinion were invited in the formulation of the National Child Labour Policy and National Plan of Action (NPA) against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children including trafficking. Children were included in the advisory committee for formulation of NPA. Participation of children is encouraged and ensured through different national programme of the government such as organising child rights week, child labour day, international children day.

**Commitment:**

Like most developing countries, poverty and resource constraints remain serious obstacles for Bangladesh in fulfilling the goals of child rights. However, the government remains fully committed, and with the active support from NGOs, the civil society and international organizations, it is determined to move forward with its agenda to provide children with better conditions and opportunities to grow in a safe and secure environment.

**Questionnaire:**

Response of the Government of Bangladesh to the questionnaire provided by the Committee on the Rights of the Child is appended.

## Part I

### A. Data and statistics

**1. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age groups, ethnic minority, urban or rural areas) covering the period between 2000 and 2002 on the number and proportion of children under 18 living in the State party.**

**Answer:** The number of child population under 18 years of age, in 2001, was 55.77 million out of total population of 129 million. Male children account for 23.83 percent of total population whereas female children constitute 21.13 percent. A total of 11.60 million children constituting 21 percent of the total, live in urban areas and the remaining 79 percent or 44.16 million live in rural areas (Table 2).

**2. In light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide additional disaggregated data (by region) for 2001-2003, budget allocations and trends (in percentages of the national and regional budgets or GDP) allocated to the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:**

- a) Education, including pre-school, primary, secondary and special;
- b) Health care, including primary, adolescent and other child related health services;
- c) Social welfare and support programmes for families;
- d) Protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions; and
- e) Juvenile justice.

**Answer:** Pursuant to Bangladesh's commitment to full and effective implementation of the Convention, the Government has increased its investment in education sector by allocating nearly 16 percent of the national budget, of which the primary and non-formal education sub-sector account for nearly 46%.

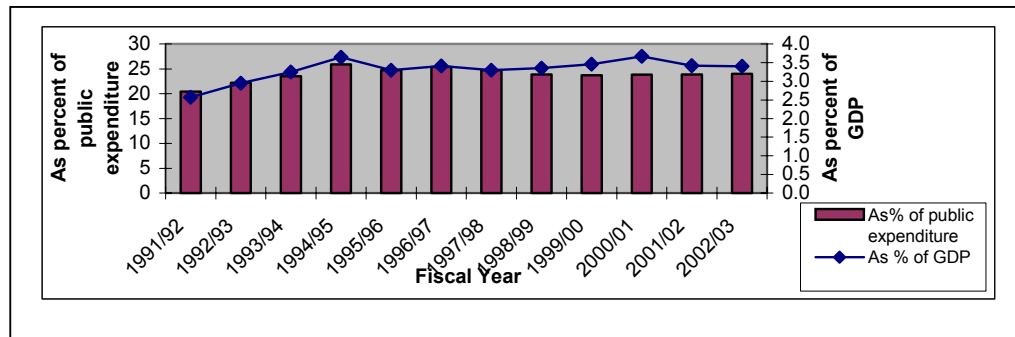
**Budget Allocation (Development + Revenue) Taka in million**  
(1 US\$=Taka 58.8)

Year	Total Budget	Primary and Mass Education	Education	Health
2000-2001	388,620	27,550 (7.1)	31,860 (8.20)	26,270 (6.75)
2001-2002	392,750	26,500 (6.75)	33,590(8.55)	26,430(6.72)
2002-2003	429,600	29,550 (6.88)	37,050 (8.62)	27,970 (6.51)

Source: Annual Budget for 2001-2002,2002-2003,2003-2004,  
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

The budget allocation in nominal terms as well as in terms of the total budget allocated for primary and mass education and the education sector shows an increase in the period 2002-2003 from the previous period 2001-2002. The allocation for the health sector for this period was Taka 27,970 million, which was 5.8 percent higher in nominal terms but slightly lower in terms of total budget allocation. The per capita public expenditure for health and family planning was Taka 143 in 1997, which was increased to Taka 180 in the year 2000 (BBS 2001).

Bangladesh has been allocating more than 20 percent of the total government expenditure in the social sector from 1990 onwards. Allocation for the period 2002-2003 in the social sector was 24 percent of the total, which represented 3.4 percent of the GDP (Table 3 and Table 4). The following chart shows the share of social sector allocation in total government allocation and GDP respectively:



The government has undertaken a number of support and welfare programmes. A total of Taka 750 million has been allocated for social programmes such as Old Age Allowances for Poor and Distressed Elderly People, Allowance for Widow or Husband Deserted Women, Taka 400 million for programmes related to institutional care which includes care, protection, education, training and rehabilitation activity as well as capitation grants to around 1930 registered child care institutions in the private sector.

An amount of Taka 13.2 million has been allocated for undertaking various activities for children with disabilities. This includes activities relating to care, protection, medical services, special education training and rehabilitation services, and to run 5 schools for visually impaired children, 7 schools for hearing impaired children, training and rehabilitation centre for the mentally retarded children, employment and rehabilitation of physically handicapped and integrated education for the blind (visually impaired).

An amount of Tk 7.23 million has been allocated for juvenile justice administration. Juvenile or young offenders, the number of which stands at 1350 are given care, treatment or motivation for correction, rehabilitation for reintegration in the society under both institutional and community based correctional programmes. There are 3 correctional institutions and 22 probation units run by the government at the district level, and another 42 such units through upazila (sub-district) social services offices.

**3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents, please provide disaggregated data (by age and gender) for the last three years on the number of children:**

- a) separated from their parents;
- b) placed in institutions;
- c) placed with families.

**Answer:** To date, a total of 10,850 children in the age group of 6-18 years, who were either abandoned or separated from their families were placed in institutions. Of this number, 6600 are male and the remaining 4250 are female. Around 100 children were placed with the families within Bangladesh.

**4. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age, urban or rural areas) covering the period 2000-2002 on the number of:**

- a) children with disabilities;
- b) children with disabilities living with their families;
- c) children with disabilities living in institutions;
- d) children with disabilities of school age that do not attend school.

**Answer:** The rate of disability is higher in boys than girls in Bangladesh. According to the Health and Demographic Survey 2000 conducted by the Bureau of Statistics, 7.38 male per 1000 population were found to have disabilities, compared to 4.66 per 1000 for female with disabilities. The average disability per thousand is around 6.04 persons. There appears to be no established data on the number of children with disabilities. However, it is estimated that 339,823 children in Bangladesh have some form of disability (Table 5).

A total of 613,460 persons suffered from various forms of disabilities in 2001 (Table 6). According to studies conducted, it has been found that the rate of disability is higher in the rural population. An estimated 490,620 persons with disabilities, accounting for 80 percent of the total population with disabilities, live in rural areas. Moreover, the rate of physical disability is higher in the rural areas, whereas mental retardation is higher in urban areas.

Out of a total of 613,460 persons with disabilities, 608,480 live with their families, 1,940 live in institutions and the remaining 3,040 live elsewhere. A total of 1,675 children with disabilities are living in institutions run by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

**5. With reference to child abuse, including sexual abuse, please provide disaggregated data for the last three years (by age, gender and types of violations reported), on the:**

- a) number of cases of child abuse reported to police or social or other services;
- b) average duration of the case from the time of reporting to a court decision, and please indicate the proportion of those cases in which the victim was removed from her/his family and where he or she was placed;
- c) number and proportion of victims that have received counselling and assistance in recovery.

**Answer:** There is no disaggregated data on child abuse. However, the Bangladesh Police has the following record of reported cases of violence against women, including girls below 18 years:

Cases	2000	2001	2002
Rape	3140	3189	4106
Acid burn	155	153	303
Serious Physical assault	297	351	525
Other	6943	9285	13521

There were 445 reported cases of child abuse (child under 14) in 2000, 380 in 2001 and 512 in 2002.

**6. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age, region) on adolescent health, including early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mental health, suicide, drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse as well as rates of infant and child mortality and of malnutrition covering the period between 2000 and 2002. Also, please provide numbers of health professionals working in the health care services for children.**

**Answer:** Adolescents are provided with health care services under the integrated national health care programme. No separate information and disaggregated data are available on adolescent health care programme.

There has been a steady decline in the infant mortality rate from 92 per thousand live births in 1991 to around 51 per thousand in 2001. Under-5 child mortality rate has declined from 151 in 1990 to 77 per thousand in 2001. Significantly, maternal mortality rate has also registered a gradual decline from 4.8 per 1000 childbirths in 1990 to 4 in 2001 (Human Development Report 2003).

There is no exact information available on the number of persons having Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). But a total of 109,836 females within the age group of 15 to 49 years have received treatment on STI in different centres in the period 2000 to 2002.

The Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) has been administered against six killer diseases. Fully immunized children stands close to 70 percent of the total. However, the target of total immunization is yet to be reached due to high drop out rate of children from the immunization schedule. Communicable diseases such as pneumonia, acute respiratory tract infection (ARI), diarrhoea and dysentery also continue to be major causes of child deaths.

Malnutrition remains a major threat to the survival, well-being and development potential of children. However, there has been considerable progress in child nutrition in recent years especially in addressing micronutrient deficiencies. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children below six suffering from moderate and severe forms of stunting decreased from 65.5 to 48.8 percent. Problem of underweight came down from 66.5 to 51.1 percent during the same period. Protection from iodine deficiency through the use of iodised salt has also registered significant improvement. Vitamin A supplementation rose from 41.4 percent in 1993 to 79.3 percent in 2000. The prevalence of night blindness in children in rural areas has come down from 1.78 percent in 1989 to 0.62 percent in 1997. However, over 50 percent children and women suffer from anaemia and 52 percent of women of reproductive age fall short of the required body mass.

The physician to patient ratio was 1:4218 in 2000 (Economic Survey 2003), compared to 4866 per physician in 1995 (Table 5). However no information is available on the number of health professionals engaged in child health care services.

**7. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age groups, region) for 2000-2002 on children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as information on programmes implemented to address the problems of these children.**

**Answer:** The geographical proximity to areas in the region with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS places Bangladesh in a vulnerable situation. However, the indices are still quite low. As of 2002, 248 HIV-positive cases were reported in Bangladesh. Of these, 20 have died. The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers Bangladesh as one of the fortunate 111 countries, where the affected rate has not reached 1 adult per thousand. According to



UNAIDS, UNICEF and WHO, the estimated numbers of adults living with HIV by the end of 2001, irrespective of whether or not they have developed manifestations of AIDS, were 13,000 adults.

There is no empirical national data on children with HIV/AIDS. The Human Development Report 2003 states that in 2001, there were 310 children within 0-14 year age group having HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh. However, the source of this data was not specified.

The threat of HIV/AIDS epidemic was taken seriously by Bangladesh, and accordingly, a national programme and plan was initiated in 1985. Since then national policies and implementation frameworks with respect to HIV/AIDS were further developed. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) acts as the coordinating and executive body, and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is the implementing agency for AIDS/STD activities through the National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP). Other ministries, NGOs and the private sector participate as implementing agencies for activities related to their respective areas.

The current Health and Population Sector Programme has established NASP under the DGHS. Each Ministry carries out AIDS prevention and control activities through its existing core administrative structure under the programme.

To prevent HIV and STD transmission and to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on the individual and community, the National Policy on HIV/AIDS and STD related Issues was approved in 1997. The specific guidelines elucidated in the National Policy, includes children and adolescents.

To ensure a nationally coordinated, comprehensive and timely response to HIV/AIDS, a National Integrated Work Plan for the period 2002-2006 was developed through an initiative by MOHFW-NASP and UNAIDS, in consultation with and strategic review by all concerned development partners. The major components of the work plan are:

- Interventions to address most vulnerable and high risk population
- Advocacy and behaviour change communication
- Blood safety and Bio Medical aspects
- Programme management including Surveillance and Research
- Care, support and greater involvement of people living with AIDS

In spite of efforts taken by the government, NGOs, and international organisation there is a low level of HIV/AIDS awareness in Bangladesh. A conservative social environment is generally seen as a reason behind this. However, the low level of awareness cannot be fully attributed to a conservative society. This same society had accepted and successfully implemented birth control measures. There has to be greater efforts made to raise awareness through more information campaign and health campaigns. Increased investment in this area, with support from global HIV/AIDS programmes would be essential for this.

A national level round table discussion meeting entitled "Breaking the Silences on HIV/AIDS" was organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) in February 2003. Ministers for MOWCA, MOHFW and Information were present in the discussion and expressed unequivocal support of the government to fight against HIV/AIDS. The meeting acknowledged the need to look beyond prohibitive health care, information and other support services to all young people regardless of their marital status and called for coordinated efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.

**8. Please provide disaggregated data (including by gender, age and urban/rural, including slums, and geographic areas, as well as for minority groups such as the Rohingya population) covering the period between 2000 and 2002 on:**

**a) the enrolment and completion rates in percentages of the relevant group in primary and secondary schools:**

**Answer:** The Rohingya population is not a minority group in Bangladesh. The Rohingyas are refugees from Myanmar, awaiting repatriation to their homeland. The following information is for Bangladeshi nationals.

The Government has undertaken diverse strategies to expand access, equity, bring equality and improve the quality of education. Access to primary education has increased steadily over the last two decades. There are 78,126 primary level institutions, 3,20,000 teachers in primary schools and 17.7 million students enrolled. The gross enrolment rate has increased from 73 percent in 1990 to 96.6 percent in 2000, and 97.5 percent in 2002.

The current net enrolment is estimated about 81.5 percent. Gender gap in enrolment has also narrowed to a ratio of 51:49 between boys and girls (Table 8). Completion rate of the cycle of five years education increased to 67 percent in 2001 from 40.7 percent 1991. Provisions for equal opportunity, increase in enrolment, improvement of quality of education and management at primary level have been ensured through implementation of various development programmes during the decade from 1991-92 financial years to financial years 2000-01. A study conducted for the Education For All -2000 Assessment for the Bangladesh Country Report, found that 50 percent girls and 53 percent boys achieved a minimum level of the expected primary school competencies.

The gross and net enrolment ratio in the secondary level were 39.70 and 32.2 respectively in 2001 (Table 9). The gross and net enrolment for female students is higher than male students in junior secondary level (grade 6-8) and secondary level (9-10). However, female enrolment reduces substantially in the higher secondary level (grade 11-12). To provide support and assistance to the eligible female students of secondary level (grades 6-10), education was made free for girls up to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade in 1994. In July 2002, the Government decided to make education for girls free up to the grade 12. The rate of completion in the secondary school is around 61.86 percent and in case of females it is around 62.16 percent (Table 10)

**b) number and percentages of dropouts and repetitions:**

**Answer:** The dropout rate has gone down for the primary level (grade 1-5) from 35 percent in 2000 to 33 percent in 2001 (Table 10). Though the average dropout rate in the secondary level (grade 6-12) is 38 percent but the rate is higher in the secondary level (grade 9-10) compare to junior secondary (grade 6-8) and higher secondary (grade 11-12). Dropout rates for male students were higher in junior and higher secondary level while withdrawal of female students were higher in secondary level (Table 10).

**c) Ratio teacher per children:**

**Answer:** The student/teacher in the primary level is 63:1. The ratio of female/male teachers is also increasing due to implementation of teachers recruitment rule of making it mandatory to appoint 60 percent female teachers in Government primary schools. The percentage of female teachers was 21.09 in 1991, which increased to 39.47 in 2001. At the secondary level the ratio of student to teacher is around 40:1 (BENBEIS 2002).

**9. Please provide statistical data (including, where relevant, by gender, age, type of crime) covering the period between 2000 to 2002 on the:**

**a) number of juveniles who allegedly committed crimes and reported to the police:**

**Answer:** A total of 88 children in 2000, 62 in 2001 and 168 in 2002 (January to October 2002) were accused under different cases reported to the police. The nature of crimes ranged from drug abuse, violence, possession of arms and explosives, robbery, homicide, snatching/mugging, theft, pick-pocketing, etc.

**b) number of juveniles subject to criminal procedures who were sentenced by Courts to sanctions, and the nature of sanctions (community service; detention; other types of sanctions):**

**Answers:** 88 juvenile offenders out of a total of 154 arrested in 2002 were charge-sheeted. In 2001 and 2000, 60 and 78 were charge-sheeted out of 56 and 84 arrested offenders respectively. In 2000, 11 of them were sent to correction centres and 69 to the court. A total of 43 accused were sent to correction centres whereas 89 were sent to court in 2000.

**c) number of juveniles detained and imprisoned, the location of their detention or imprisonment (e.g. police station, jail or other):**

**Answer:** A total of 1041 of juveniles are reported to be in different prisons as of August 2003. Of them, 959 were male and 82 were female. Juvenile inmates are kept in separate cells from other (adult) prisoners. They are provided with food, healthcare and education facilities.

**10. With reference to special protection measures please provide, and evaluate, statistical data (including by gender, age, region and municipality, per year) between 2000 and 2002 on:**

**a) Number of children involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking, and the number of children provided with access to rehabilitation and other assistance:**

**Answer:** Exploitation and abuse of children exist despite strict domestic legislations in place against such abuse. No empirical data however, is available on the extent of exploitation and other forms of abuse committed against children, except for trafficking, which has been identified as a serious problem. In the period 2000-2002, a total of 133 cases involving 159 children were reported on trafficking. Out of them, 125 children were rescued (Table 11). In 2002, 59 children were trafficked and 41 of them were rescued.

**b) Number of children involved in child labour (formal and informal sector):**

**Answer:** The estimated number of child labour in Bangladesh is 6.7 million of which male constitutes 59.5 percent and female 40.5 percent. The share of the informal sector in child labour account for 90.1 percent of total child employment, while the formal sector account for the remaining 9.9 percent. Child labour is still a predominantly rural phenomenon as 76 percent are engaged in the countryside, mostly in the agriculture sector.

The government is providing policy and legislative support for the reduction and eventual elimination of child labour. Support was extended to the private sector and NGOs

for elimination of child labour from garments industries in phases by creating opportunities for children. The government in partnership with ILO-IPEC and NGOs has also been implementing projects for child labour elimination. A project is also being implemented with support from US Department of Labour and ILO to eliminate and rehabilitate 30,000 child labour engaged in the formal and informal sector of different hazardous-industrial works in selected districts by August 2003. Non-formal education, skill development training and micro credit facilities are given under the rehabilitation programme for those children taken out from work.

## **B. General Measures of Implementation**

**1. The Committee would appreciate receiving information on concrete activities related to recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15.Add.74) which have not yet been implemented, in particular those related to the withdrawal of the reservations to the Convention, minimum ages in domestic legislation (such as minimum ages for criminal responsibility and admission to work), child labour, discriminatory practises against girls, harmful traditional practises and the administration of juvenile justice. Please explain the obstacles to implementation and how the State party envisages overcoming them.**

### **a) Reservations to the Convention:**

**Answer:** The issue of withdrawal of reservations on Article 21 of the Convention regarding adoption of children and on Article 14(1) relating to children's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religious practice is under active consideration of the government.

### **b) Minimum ages in domestic legislation:**

**Answer:** A total of thirty-six laws are in place in Bangladesh relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of children. These are in conformity with Constitutional obligations, Bangladesh's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments, as well as in response to particular socio-economic imperatives.

Most legislation defines children in the age range of 12 to 18 years. A variation from 18 occurs where the context of application of the law justifies the age of attainment of adulthood. However, a high-powered committee of the Government has identified five laws and is actively considering revision of the age to 18 years. The laws currently under review are: (i) Court of Wards Act, 1879; (ii) Juvenile Smoking Act, 1919; (iii) Mines Act, 1923; (iv) Vagrancy Act, 1943 and (v) The Children Act, 1974.

### **c) Minimum age for criminal responsibility:**

**Answer:** The minimum age of criminal responsibility is determined under the Penal Code, 1860. According to section 82 of this code, nothing is an offence, which is done by a child under seven years of age. The purported intention of the legislation is that a child under seven years of age cannot distinguish right from wrong. Under section 83 of the Penal Code, a child between seven and twelve years of age is subject to limited criminal responsibility. Therefore, according to the existing law full criminal responsibility commences after a person attains the age of twelve years.

A high-powered committee is actively considering how the conventional and existing law can be implemented in the light of CRC.

**d) Admission to work:**

**Answer:** Presently the age to admission to work varies from 12 to 18 years of age depending on the nature of the work. Hence, the present Government has formulated a draft on Child Labour Policy consistent with the relevant international labour conventions. The Government has also initiated a process to amend existing laws to conform to different age limits in line with relevant ILO conventions.

**e) Child labour:**

**Answer:** The government is in the process of formulating a draft National Policy on Child Labour under the ILO-IPEC programme. The minimum age of admission to employment, simplification and consolidation of all legal provisions and the progressive elimination of all forms of child labour, including its worse forms are the issues under review under the policy. A draft Labour Code is also under examination of a high-level review committee. A uniform minimum age of 14 years for admission to employment or work has been recommended. The government has also initiated the preparation of a National Plan of Action on Child Labour.

**f) Discrimination against girls**

**Answer:** The Constitution of Bangladesh prohibits any form of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and guarantees equal rights for women and men in national and public life. In conformity with Constitutional provisions, special and affirmative measures are in place to ensure these rights, particularly for children and women. In line with Constitutional principles, the National Children Policy has been formulated, which states that “all children of Bangladesh irrespective of caste, creed, colour, sex, language, religion or opinion, social status, wealth or birth shall enjoy rights and opportunities”.

Gender equality and reduction of gender disparity is one of the overarching strategies of the National Plan of Action for Children. The NPA states that affirmative actions in favour of girls and women will be one of its guiding principles and all activities concerning children and women will have this focus until equity is achieved. Moreover, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All of Discrimination against Women has been followed as a guiding framework for actions in relation to girls and women, who are placed at the centre of development.

**g) Administration of Juvenile Justice:**

**Answer:** Administration of juvenile justice is governed by the Children Act, 1974 (Act XIX of 1974) and Probation of Offenders (Bangladesh Amendment) Act 1964. A juvenile court established under the said Act, deals with juvenile offenders (below the age of sixteen years). The powers conferred on juvenile courts is exercisable by the: i) high court division ii) a court of session iii) a court of additional session judge/assistant session judge and iv) magistrate having first class power. The Act lays down both procedural and substantive objectives of the juvenile justice system in Bangladesh. The Act relates to the custody, protection and treatment of children and trial and punishment of youthful offenders.

In addition to juvenile courts there are three specialised juvenile courts of which one is for female, established under the Children Act. NGOs working with the juvenile justice have made recommendations for the improvement of post trial system, coordination between the administration of justice and law enforcement agencies (jail authority, judicial

officers, public prosecutors, lawyers and the probation officers) and for a community based correctional system. To overcome the above mentioned obstacle the government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee on Children in Confinement and Prison at the beginning of 2002.

A handbook for police, magistrates and judges dealing with juvenile offenders and children has been prepared with a view to sensitising those involved on the issue of dispensation of juvenile justice and a better understanding of the welfare and rights of children's rights.

**h) Harmful traditional practices:**

**Answer:** There is no significant prevalence of harmful traditional practices in Bangladeshi society and custom. However there are legislations in place to address some practices, such as early marriage and dowry demands, which are construed as harmful to the well-being of children, in particular the girl child. Some of the priority areas are described below:

- The 1983 Child Marriage Restraint to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance makes it an offence to marry or abet in the marriage of child, defined as a female below 18 years of age. The minimum age of marriage for male is 21. However, there is a lack of awareness of the existence of this law, which accounts for the prevalence of early marriage. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent with the rural poor. With the rise in literacy and greater awareness, the median age of marriage, for both male and female is going up.
- Anti-dowry legislations have been promulgated and with special courts for their implementation have been set up to protect women and children from dowry-related crimes and violence, dowry related divorces, etc.

**2. Please indicate new measures undertaken since the review of the initial report to ensure that domestic legislation is fully in line with the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including in the field of child labour. Please also specify whether the Convention has been directly invoked in court, and if so, provide some examples.**

**Answer:** The Ministry of Law has recently initiated a comprehensive review of all the Bangladeshi laws from children's rights perspective. Abolition of death penalty for children between 14 and 18 years, prohibitions of the practice of "safe custody" and consistency on the age of attaining adulthood are some of the critical issues under review.

Bangladesh has ratified the following international and regional conventions:

- ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour
- SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002
- SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child welfare in South Asia

The SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking aims at promoting cooperation amongst member states so that they may effectively deal with the various aspects of prevention, interdiction and suppression of trafficking in women and children, the repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and prevent the use of women and

children in international prostitution networks particularly where the countries of SAARC region are the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Bangladesh is also a signatory to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child relating to (i) sale of Children, Child prostitution and child pornography (ii) involvement of children in armed conflict.

Initiatives have been taken in recent years to eliminate child labour from hazardous sector for immediate reduction and gradual elimination of child labour from both the formal as well as informal sectors.

Bangladesh has signed a number of international and regional instruments, which include, ILO Conventions 29, 87, 98, 100,106,111 and 182 and the Rawalpindi Declaration of SAARC calling for the eradication of child labour by 2010. The Ministry of Labour and Employment is formulating the National Policy on Child Labour under the ILO-IPEC programme. This policy is expected to result in determining a uniform minimum age of employment, simplification and consolidation of all legal provisions and the progressive elimination of all forms of child labour including its worse forms. A draft Labour Code is under examination by a high-level review committee, prescribing a uniform minimum age of 14 years for admission to employment or work.

**3. Please indicate how religious customs and laws are made compatible with the provisions and principles of the Convention.**

**Answer:** The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees freedom of religion and the protection from discrimination on the grounds of religion through Articles of 41 and 28 respectively. There are no apparent contradictions with the religious laws with the convention.

**4. Please provide additional information on the follow-up to the National Plan of Action for Children of 1997-2002, as well as information on the content of and planned measures of implementation if there is a new plan being drafted and how it relates to the outcome document adopted at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (2002).**

**Answer:** As a follow-up to the second National Plan of Action for Children (1997-2002), the government is in the process of formulating the third National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2007). The consultative process started in 2002. The third NPA will take into account the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the principles, strategies and targets of "A World Fit for Children", the outcome document of the UNGA Special Session, National Children Policy 1994 and the principles enshrined in the CRC, premised on rights perspective and incorporating the principles of non- discrimination, and universality and indivisibility of children's rights. The contents of "A World Fit for Children" is expected to provide a framework on how best to incorporate recent developments on child rights issues into a viable national policy and programme framework.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) is the lead Ministry for formulating and monitoring the implementation of the NPA. However, other line Ministries, government divisions, NGOs, and international organizations such as the UNICEF and ILO are also actively engaged in the preparatory as well as consultative processes involving the NPA. They will also be associated in the implementation phase of the plan.

The structural framework being considered for formulation of the NPA include:

1. A National Forum - a high level body consisting of the Government, NGOs, civil society, private sector and children.
2. Five multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary Advisory Panels, taking into consideration the MDGs and the Plan of Action of the WFFC agenda having relevance to children and women.
3. A Secretariat, to ensure required support to the Forum and the Advisory Panels.

**5. Please provide information on the plan to establish a directorate of children's affairs. Has it been established? If so, what is its mandate, more particularly in the area of coordinating the implementation of the Convention and in relation to other bodies, such as the Inter-Ministerial Committee. What have been its achievements so far?**

**Answer:** The process for establishment of the proposed Department of Children Affairs is awaiting approval of the government.

**6. Are the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman established? If so, please inform the Committee on their respective mandates as well as human and other resources. Do both bodies have the mandate to receive and investigate complaints on violations of children's rights?**

**Answer:** Highest priority has been placed by the government for creating the necessary institutional framework and institutional capacity building for the promotion and protection of human rights, rule of law and democracy. Towards this end, the government is committed to the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and Office of the Ombudsman. A Cabinet Committee has finalized the draft Human Right Bill, which is now awaiting final consideration of the Cabinet. The draft bill on the National Human Rights Commission would have the mandate to receive and investigate complaints on violation of children's human rights.

The Ombudsman Act, 1980 was made effective through a gazette notification on 6 January 2002. A Cabinet Committee has been formed to scrutinize and update the law.

**7. Please provide additional information on how governmental institutions cooperate with non-governmental organisations, especially with reference to the participation of representatives of civil society in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for children.**

**Answer:** NGOs and members of the civil society are closely involved in the implementation of the government's socio-economic development programmes. In fact, they have been very active and constructive partners of the government in national development activities. NGOs and other civil society groups were closely involved in the preparatory stages of the UN Special Session on Children at the national, regional and international levels and the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. An important development has been their involvement in the national policy making processes, viz. through the NPA consultations.

The government has also provided NGOs with funds to establish and run primary schools in remote areas. In some cases, the management of primary schools with poor or low level of performance have been handed over to reputed NGOs for effective functioning.



Non-formal education programmes of the government are also being implemented by NGOs under the supervision of the government.

The government observes “child rights week” with the active participation of NGOs and their networks, which has been immensely successful in raising mass awareness on child rights issues.

The government is also collaborating with NGOs and the civil society in implementing various programmes and projects relating to elimination of child labour. In following up relevant ILO Conventions, on issues related to child labour, the government closely consults with all concerned stakeholders, including employers and workers group.

**8. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.**

**Answer:** In the implementation of the rights as enshrined in the Convention, Bangladesh has prioritised on the following areas for the well-being and development of children and promotion and protection of their rights:

- Basic and quality education
- Essential healthcare
- Abuse and exploitation free home and workplace
- Violence free home, workplace, school and street
- Enforcement of laws relating to the child rights
- Awareness about Children’s right

**Part II**

Please provide copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the official languages of the State party as well as in other languages or dialects, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

**Answer:** Bengali translation of the Convention on the Rights and Child friendly version of CRC are enclosed.

**Part III**

Under this section, the State party is to briefly update the information provided in its report with regard to:

**New bills or enacted legislation**

**Answer:** The following legal instruments have been enacted or are in place for the promotion and protection of the rights of children:

- The “Prevention of Women and Children Repression (Amendment) Act, 2003” was enacted to combat violence against women and children. The law provides for stringent measures including the death penalty, and life imprisonment for the crimes

of rape, abduction, dowry and trafficking related offences. The age of children has been revised to 16 years from 14 years under this law.

- The “Disabled Welfare Act 2001” came into on 1 August 2001. This law is aimed at ensuring equality of opportunities, and other benefits and privileges to persons with disabilities.
- To address the growing menace of acid related crimes, which in particular effect women and children most, the “Acid Control Act 2002” was enacted to control production and sale of deadly chemicals.
- The “Acid Crimes Prevention Act 2002” was enacted to address acid related crimes more effectively. The law provides for highest punitive measures, including the death penalty against offenders responsible for acid related violence.
- For quicker dispensation of cases relating to crimes committed against women and children, the “Speedy Trial Act, 2002” was enacted recently. Following the promulgation of the Act, a large number of cases concerning child rights violation have been dealt with in a short span of time.
- Additionally, thirty-eight “special tribunals” have been set up to dispose of cases concerning violations of the rights of children and women.
- The “Birth and Death Registration Act 2002” is currently awaiting approval of the Cabinet. This Act is expected to contribute further to institutionalising, promoting and protecting the rights of children.

### **New Institutions**

- To facilitate the administration of juvenile justice, the “National Legal Aid Organization” (NLAO) has included in its charter juvenile justice administration. The NLAO will also be providing legal aid services to children in prisons and in certified institutions (correctional centres).
- The “National Foundation for Development of the Disabled” has been established with support from the government. This institution is expected to provide specialized care and services to persons, including children with disabilities.
- A “Teachers Education Training Authority” has been established to impart proper training to teachers, with special emphasis on child rights issues.
- A separate “curriculum development board” has been established with the objective of developing national curricula more responsive to the needs and proper development of children.

### **Newly implemented policies and plans**

The following draft policies/plans having a bearing on child rights issues, are awaiting approval of the government:

- Draft Arsenic Policy
- Draft Child Labour Policy

- Draft Social Policy for Children on Alternative Care and Protection for Children in Contact with Law

The government has adopted a National Plan of Action Against the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children including Trafficking for the period 2002-2007 to address child sexual exploitation and trafficking.

A draft National Plan of Action for Education for All (EFA) for the period 2003-2015 has been prepared in line with the Dakar Framework for Action. The Primary Education for Development Programme-II (2003-2008) has been prepared on a programme-based approach, and within the framework of the EFA and Poverty Reduction Agenda, to serve as a basis for quality improvement in primary education for all children, including interventions that will impact all children. The programme also includes special activities for children from the tribal groups. Under the PEDP-II specific programmes will be developed to provide disadvantaged children with access to education.

### **Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope**

- **Setting up of new types of schools and learning centres:** Community schools, satellite schools, kindergarten and NGO schools and learning centres have been established to accommodate more children. In satellite schools all teachers are females and in other schools majority of the teacher are females.
- **IDEAL (Intensive District Approach to Education for All) Project:** The project covers fifty percent of the formal school in the country, and aims at improving quality education in primary education, with particular focus on girls. Teachers' training on child-centred active learning methods and promotion of community participation in school management are the main thrust of the project.
- **Facilities for girls:** In many schools the government has made provision for separate sanitation facilities for girls. In 1999-2000 government instructed all schools to make provision for separate toilet/restroom for girl students and female teachers and for boys and male teachers.
- **Stipend Programme:** The government financed Stipend Programme for Primary Education was introduced in April 2000 with a view to increase enrolment, improve attendance, reduce dropouts and discourage child labour. Forty percent of the children of the poor families in each school are entitled to receive stipend if the child maintains 85 percent attendance each month, and (for grades III-V students) obtain 40 percent marks in the annual examination. Parents of poor children, particularly mothers, receive Taka 100 for sending one child and Taka 125 for sending more than one child to school. School Management Committees select the children of poor families who could qualify to receive the stipends. A total of 5.5 million children have benefited under this programme. The programme has immensely contributed in addressing drop-out and improving enrolment rate in primary schools.
- **Non-formal Education (NFE):** This programme covers higher proportion of girls than boys and have lower dropout rates. For example, BRAC schools providing basic education for children in the 11-14 year old age group maintain a ratio of 65-70 girls to 30-35 boys and have an average dropout rate of only 15 per cent.

- **Shishu Kallayan (Child Welfare) Primary Schools:** These schools have been established in the urban areas for imparting skill-development training. This is aimed at gradual reduction and eventual elimination of children at work.
- **Secondary stipend programme for girls:** This stipend programme was introduced in 1994 to support all eligible girl students of secondary level (grades 6-10) studying in recognized institutions situated outside metropolitan areas. The stipend covers the cost of school fees, text books, stationary, uniforms, shoes and transport. The school receive the tuition fees directly based on the number of girls enrolled in secondary education. Continuation of stipend depends on girls' parents agreeing to their daughters to: (a) attend school for at least 75 percent of the school days; and (b) obtain second division marks (45 percent).
- **Tuition waiver for girls:** The tuition fee-waiver for all rural girls studying between grade six to twelve has gone a long way to reduce the gender gap in enrolment.
- **Early Childhood Development (ECD) Project:** In collaboration with UNICEF, the government has started the Early Childhood Development Project (2001-2005). The overall objective of the project is to empower caregivers, to create a safe, secure, stimulating and enabling environment, which promotes the cognitive, emotional and social development of the child. It includes a special focus on creating equal learning opportunities for both girls and boys. In addition to the importance of this project, which can be ascribed to the stimulation of early learning that provides a child with a head start in life as well as school readiness, this also contributes to proper socialization and gender sensitisation in children from an early age.
- **School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE) Project:** The primary objectives of the project are to: (a) fulfil children's rights to have access to water and sanitation facilities and safe learning environment at schools; (b) ensure health and nutrition benefits to children through behavioral development regarding sanitation, hygiene and safe water use; and (c) strengthen the capacity of primary schools to operate as resource centres to develop hygiene behaviours among children.
- **Trafficking Prevention Project:** A three-year integrated project aimed at elimination of trafficking in children (with emphasis on cross-border trafficking) has been taken up. The project tackles the problem by: i) raising awareness in society on child trafficking; ii) improving implementation of the relevant laws by the police and the courts; and iii) developing child-friendly procedures in the rescue and repatriation of victims, together with programmes for their rehabilitation and integration. It is a collaborative effort between the government, the government of Norway and NGOs. Over the last few years, public information campaigns carried out by the government, NGO's and international organizations - supported by the media – have significantly enhanced awareness of the problem of trafficking.
- **Multi-sectoral programme on violence against women:** Inter-agency collaboration is also a feature of the government's multi-sectoral programme on violence against women, which started in 2000. In addition to setting up a management structure for dealing with violence against women, the programme, has established **one-stop crisis centres** and improve burn treatment facilities in Dhaka and Rajshahi Medical College Hospitals. The crisis centres are comprised of a team of doctors, paramedics, police officers and a social worker.
- **Shelter homes:** Both the government and NGOs run shelter homes for female victims of violence, trafficking and other kind of abuse. Children are often allowed to

stay with their mothers. These homes generally provide food, accommodation and vocational training. Some also offer legal and psychological counselling and medical treatment.

- **Special funds for distressed women and children:** The Government has created two **funds** amounting to Taka 500 million and Taka 200 million to help distressed and oppressed women and children, especially victims of acid crimes.
- **Assistance for acid crimes victims:** In 1999, an **Acid Survivors' Foundation** was formed by a coalition of NGOs, international donors and acid survivors to counter acid violence. The Foundation's aim is to provide comprehensive assistance in the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration in society of acid violence victims by identifying and improving existing services. It also works to prevent further attacks. A systematic mechanism for reporting acid attacks through health facilities at the local (districts and sub-districts) and national levels is under development.
- **Women Investigation Cells:** The Ministry of Home plans to set up Women Investigation Cells, staffed by women police officers, in 16 districts in order to promote non-discriminatory handling of violence cases. Free legal assistance and counselling is available to disadvantaged women and victims of violence in all the six divisions from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' (MOWCA) Violence against Women Prevention Cell.
- **Protection project:** A project has been taken to improve the protection of children's rights within the justice system of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. It highlights the main issues in juvenile justice, which are well recognized as impediments towards an efficient, humane and fair system for dealing with youthful offenders and destitute children.
- **Elimination of worst forms of child labour:** The government has undertaken a "Time-Bound Programme" (TBP) in association with ILO, UNICEF, ADB and other stakeholders to accelerate the process for complete eradication of the worst forms of child labour within 2010.
- **Empowerment and Protection of Children:** This project aims at reducing sexual exploitation, abuse and discrimination especially towards girls and women including minority groups. It mainly deals with: i) sexual exploitation, abuse and discrimination against children and women; ii) promotion of child rights and gender equality; and iii) empowerment of adolescent girls.
- **Rehabilitation of Street Children:** The "Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment" project represents an important initiative to realize the rights of 30,000 of the most vulnerable children who are living in the streets of the six divisional cities of the country. The project will build the capacity of selected NGOs and government agencies working with street children to provide vocational training and education, access to safe shelters, health services and counselling.
- **Capacity building, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood of socially disadvantaged women and their children:** This project is aimed at empowering the sex workers and their children to ensure their social rights and privileges like other citizens of the country. The primary objective of the project is to provide them opportunities for alternative livelihoods through appropriate vocational trainings, education, credit support etc.

- **Birth Registration:** The Local Government Division of the Government, with support from UNICEF and Plan International (an NGO) has implemented birth registration campaigns in 14 Districts, and 4 city corporations registering over 4.5 million children. The government intends to cover all 64 districts by 2005. The birth of 5,657,043 children has been registered up to December 2002 covering 17 districts, 3 Municipalities and 4 City Corporation areas. Registration of birth is expected to help in the elimination of child and forced labour, discourage early marriage and enactment of compulsory primary education.
- **Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) is implementing a project entitled, "Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour" in Bangladesh to raise awareness about the negative consequence of hazardous child labour, particularly in making parents and employers aware; develop a program to withdraw children from hazardous work; build the institutional capacity of the MOLE to catalyze, coordinate and monitor programs; and build partnerships with key private sector organizations, international agencies and NGOs to support the elimination of child labour. This project will cover about 10,000 working children in Dhaka and Chittagong Metropolitan areas.
- **Cub-scouts and Yellow Birds (Holdey Pakhi)** programme are being implemented in the primary schools for developing discipline, honesty and inculcate moral values. Under the "Expansion of cub-scouting in primary schools" project 24,500 cub groups have been formed by January 2003. 73,000 books relating to cub-scouting have been distributed among the cub-scouts. 19,000 primary school teachers received cub-scout leader training to run the cub-unit smoothly. At present there are 625,000 cub-scouts in the country.
- **Textbooks distribution:** Textbooks are distributed free of cost by the government to all primary school students. The curricula have been revised to include a new series of textbooks and teachers' guidebook. Additionally, "School Kits" and "Teachers Kits" have been distributed to the students and teachers.
- **Training of primary school teachers:** Special emphasis has been given on training of the primary school teachers for improving the quality of education. Student-centered teaching system such as "multiple ways of teaching and learning" and local level planning and management have been introduced. Upazila Resource Centres are being established in the campus of upazila model schools to provide academic support and to improve management of primary schools. Inspection, monitoring and supervision of primary schools and field offices are being strengthened.
- **Programme for economically disadvantaged children:** Education of the economically disadvantaged children has been addressed through special school planning. Massive social mobilization programmes have been undertaken to reduce illiteracy and to encourage girls' education. In many cases the community has been mobilized to provide school uniforms to the poor children who are unable to afford uniforms.
- A school catchment area map has been prepared. This map is playing a major role in reduction of disparity particularly due to geographical locations.
- **Programmes for adolescents and urban children:** Family life education for adolescents and adults have been introduced through the existing NFE programme and it has been incorporated into the regular curriculum of NFE. The "Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Children" project is being implemented through

NGOs and managed by the Ministry and Directorate of NFE with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF. The project is based on “earn and learn” strategy to reach 351,000 urban working children, in the age group of 8-14 years in the six divisional headquarters by June 2004. Under this project targeted working children will be graduated within stipulated time. Under NFE programmes 19 million persons have been made literate of which at around 60 percent is women.

- **Health and nutrition programme:** Planned programmes have been undertaken for reducing the malnutrition of the population of Bangladesh, especially for the women and children. 13,395 community nutrition centres are now working in 59 upazilas under the integrated nutrition programme. A National Nutrition Project (NNP) (July 2000 to June 2004) has been undertaken at a cost of Taka 640.97 crore to combat/eradicate the problem of malnutrition in Bangladesh. With assistance from the government of Japan, a programme has been undertaken to establish a Maternal and Child Health Training Institute (**MCHTI**) hospital in each of the divisions.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently completed a **Five-year Health and Population Sector Programme** for 1998-2003. The primary objective of the programme was to bring in structural reforms in health and family welfare sectors with a view to providing quality services to the people. This programme with a cost of Taka 15,314 cores is scheduled to be completed by June 2003. As a follow up to this programme, an expanded **Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSP)** for three years has been undertaken.

**Table 1:**  
**Recent Trend in Literacy (15 years and above)**

Year	Percent
1995	47.3
1997	51.01
1998	56.00
1999	58.00
2000	64.00
2001	65.00
2002	65.00

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

**Table 2:**  
**Population under 18 years by age groups, 2001**

Age Groups	Both Sex	Male	Female
00-04 yrs	16.09	8.36	7.72
05-09 yrs	16.78	8.82	7.96
10-14 yrs	15.85	8.42	7.43
< 18 yrs	7.05	3.95	3.1
Total	55.77 (100)	29.55 (52.99)	26.21 (47)

Source: BBS Statement

**Table 3:**  
**Allocation in Social Sectors under Annual Development Programme (ADP)**  
(In crore Taka)

Sector	1996/ 1997	1997/ 1998	1998/ 1999	1999/ 2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
1. Education and Religions Affairs	1584	1494	1776	2014	2285	2171	2552
2. Health and Family Welfare	1079	1166	1256	1469	1636	1443	1543
3. Social Welfare, Women Affairs & Youth Development	187	156	169	180	188	173	227
4. Sports and Culture	60	66	52	85	112	79	94
5. Labour and Manpower	9	10	9	14	18	18	27
6. Sub-total	2919	2893	3263	3761	4239	3884	4442
7. As percent of ADP expenditure	24.9	23.7	23.3	22.8	23.3	24.3	26.0
8. Total ADP allocation	11700	12200	14000	16500	18200	16000	17100

Source: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission,



**Table 4:****Allocation under Revenue Budget for Social Sectors**

(In crore Taka)

Sector	996/97	997/98	998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
9. Education and Religions Affairs	2321	2706	2988	3279	3614	3769	4005
10. Health and Family Welfare	769	813	887	972	1099	1286	1326
11. Youth, Sports & Culture	41	64	55	73	67	71	84.00
12. Labour and Manpower	22	27	28	31	35	25	13
13. Social Welfare & Women Affair	89	99	141	177	203	229	281
14. Sub-total	3242	3709	4099	4532	5018	5380	5709
15. As percent of total revenue expenditure	25.9	25.6	24.4	24.6	24.3	23.7	22.6
16. Total (Dev+Rev)	6161	6602	7362	8293	9257	9264	10151
17. As percent of total public expenditure	25.4	24.7	23.9	23.7	23.8	23.9	24.0
18. As % of GDP	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.4
19. Total revenue allocation	12535	14500	16765	18444	20662	22692	25284
20. GDP at market price	180701	200177	219695	237085	253546	273201	300485

Source: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance. Figures are from revised budget.

**Table 5:****Estimation of Disabled Children**

	Total	Male	Female
Prevalence of Disability per 1000 population in 2001	6.04	7.38	4.66
% of children under 18 to total Population	45.03	23.83	21.07
Estimated number of disabled children below 18	339823	218073	121750

Data Source: BBS

**Table 6:**  
**Number of Disabled persons by selected types of Disability –2001**

Locality & Type	Total	Blind	Deaf & Dumb	Crippled	Mentally Retarded
Total	613460	120820	137400	197020	158200
Dwelling	608480	119500	136580	195440	156960
Institutional	1940	800	240	620	280
Others	3040	520	580	960	980
Rural					
Total	490620	98620	110780	160760	120460
Dwelling	488040	98080	110380	159820	119760
Institutional	960	300	120	420	120
Others	1620	240	280	520	580
Urban					
Total	122840	22200	26620	36260	37760
Dwelling	120440	21420	26200	35620	37200
Institutional	980	500	120	200	160
Others	1420	280	300	440	400

Source : BBS statement

**Table 7:**  
**Recent Trends in Health Indices**

Indices	Status	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Crude birth rate (per 000)	National	26.5	25.6	21.0	19.9	19.2	19.0
	Urban	19.4	19.0	16.2	14.0	13.8	13.7
	Rural	28.5	27.8	24.5	21.0	20.9	20.8
Crude death rate (per 000)	National	8.4	8.1	5.5	4.8	5.1	4.9
	Urban	6.7	6.5	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.5
	Rural	9.0	8.8	6.5	5.4	5.4	5.3
Mean age at marriage	Male	27.5	27.6	27.6	27.6	27.7	27.7
	Female	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.2	20.3	20.4
<b>Persons per physician</b>		<b>4866</b>	<b>4955</b>	<b>4915</b>	<b>4671</b>	<b>4439</b>	<b>4218</b>
Average life expectancy	National	58.7	58.9	60.1	60.6	67.6	68.2
	Urban	60.9	61.2	62.3	62.5	70.5	72.6
	Rural	57.5	58.2	59.4	59.9	66.7	66.6
Infant Mortality rate per thousand live birth	National	71	67	60	57	59	58
	Urban	53	50	49	47	46	44
	Rural	78	76	69	66	63	62
Child Mortality rate	National	12.0	11.8	8.2	6.3	5.7	4.2
Maternal Mortality rate	National	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.0	3.2	3.2
	Urban	3.8	3.8	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6
	Rural	4.5	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3
Contraceptive prevalence rate		48.7	--	50.9	51.5	53.6	53.6
Fertility rate (per women)		3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.6

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic

**Table 8:****Student Enrolment at Primary Level (1990-2001)**

(In lakh taka)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
1990	120.5	66.6 (55.3)	53.9 (44.7)
1991	126.4	69.1 (54.7)	57.3 (45.3)
1992	130.2	70.5 (54.1)	59.7 (45.9)
1993	140.7	75.3 (53.5)	65.4 (46.5)
1994	151.8	80.5 (53.0)	71.3 (47.0)
1995	172.8	90.9 (52.6)	81.9 (47.4)
1996	175.8	92.2 (52.4)	83.6 (47.6)
1997	180.3	93.6 (51.9)	86.7 (48.1)
1998	183.6	95.7 (52.1)	87.8 (47.8)
1999	176.2	90.6 (51.4)	85.6 (48.6)
2000	176.7	90.6 (51.3)	86.1 (48.7)
2001	176.6	89.9 (50.9)	86.7 (49.1)
2002	176.8	89.3 (50.5)	87.5 (49.5)

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

**Table 9:****Gross and Net Enrolment Ratio in Secondary level, 2001**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>School Age Population</b>	<b>Gross Enrolment</b>	<b>Enrolment in School age Group</b>	<b>Gross Enrolment Ratio</b>	<b>Net Enrolment Ratio</b>
Junior Secondary (Grade 6-8)	Both sex	11109859	6393122	5580410	<b>57.54</b>	<b>50.23</b>
	Female	5509387	3427020	2990804	62.20	54.28
Secondary (Grade 9-10)	Both sex	7207888	3139875	2330236	<b>43.56</b>	<b>32.33</b>
	Female	3566568	1581284	1172665	44.34	32.88
Higher Secondary (Grade 11-12)	Both sex	6812746	1177914	956572	<b>17.32</b>	<b>14.04</b>
	Female	3356289	443466	360251	13.21	10.73

Source: Statistical profile on Education in Bangladesh, BENBEIS 2002

**Table 10:**  
**Dropout Rate and Completion Rate**

Grade /Cycle	Dropout Rate		Completion rate	
	Total	Female	Total	Female
Primary Grade				
Primary	33.0	-	67	
Junior Secondary Grade (6-8)	19.8	17.2	81.2	82.8
Secondary Grade (9-10)	52.9	54.8	47.1	45.2
Higher Secondary Grade (11-12)	42.7	41.5	57.3	58.8

Source: Primary Education Statistics, 2002, BENBEIS

**Table 11:**  
**Statement of Child Trafficking case of Bangladesh from 2000 to 2002.**

Time	No of cases of child trafficking			Case	
	Case	Child	Recovery	Total No of accused	Total No of arrest
2000	58	67	59	210	81
2001	30	33	25	86	40
2002	45	59	41	119	47
Total	133	159	125	415	168

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