

Chapter-13

Ministry of Youth and Sports

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Youth constitutes about the one-third of the population of the country. This large portion of the population is the valuable asset for the development of the country. They are the most creative and productive force for the country. Significant contribution to the development of the country is possible through their workflow. National development and advancement largely depends on the proper utilization of the youth. It is therefore important to involve them into national development process. Transformation of them into human resource through proper guidance and making them well organized and well disciplined is essential. With these objectives in view, the Ministry of Youth and Sports have been implementing different activities and programs.
- 1.2 'Sports' is one of the important yardsticks of the overall development in modern world. Along with social and economic development, sports play an important role in promoting international relationship. For this reason, sports have now become one of the important elements of development activities. Over the recent years, Bangladesh has also undertaken necessary programs for the development of the sports sector, which have been recognized internationally. Sports also play a significant role in creating gender balance. Planned sports activities assist in both physical and mental development of women. Women's participation in sports activities increases their knowledge, experience and skills that ultimately contribute to the development of leadership qualities among the women. This in turn leads to women's empowerment. The ministry has been working with the objective that all physically capable men and women in the country should participate in sports activities. The ministry makes considerable contribution to the women's advancement and their freedom by involving them in various sports.
- 1.3 Different policies including the National Youth Policy 2017, National Sports Policy 1998 and the Seventh Five Year Plan emphasized on effective utilization of youth in pursuit of socio-economic development. Apart from laying emphasis on the employment generation through skills development, equal importance has also been given on the overall mental and physical development through sports and other physical exercises. Participation of women in sports has been encouraged particularly in the Seventh Five Year Plan. As part of this plan more sports centers

will be constructed in divisional cities to promote woman's participation in sports. In order to ensure women's participation in all sorts of sports, talents are identified and provided with intensive training. Moreover, construction of one mini-stadium in every upzilla has already been started under the instruction of honorable Prime Minister.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ To turn the youth into skilled human resources and integrate them into mainstream development through implementation of training, development and welfare oriented activities;
- ❖ To create self-employment opportunities for the unemployed youth and encourage their voluntary participation in development activities. To reward successful youth entrepreneur and provide donation to youth organizations;
- ❖ Integration of the youth into nation building activities and empowerment;
- ❖ Identification of sports talent and develop skilled athletes;
- ❖ Organize sports events and participation at national and international level;
- ❖ Provide donations to different sports organizations and impoverished sports persons;
- ❖ Construction, development and maintenance of sports related infrastructure and facilities.

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry and impact on women development

- 3.1 **Skilled and productive youth society:** The scope of the income generation has been created for 5,74,000 young women by providing training to 53,296 young women on housekeeping, tailoring, rearing of livestock, nursery raising, boutique and printing, bamboo and cane crafts, poultry and embroidery. Through awareness programs, women will be made aware of their legal rights, health and other social issues. Their participation in the "National Service" program will be ensured. All these activities have direct impact on the women's advancement.
- 3.2 **Improvement of the standard of sports:** Women sporting talents are identified from the grass roots level and through age-group training they are groomed as skilled sports persons. This helps in increasing the women's participation in sports. In addition, 287 elderly and distressed sports women will be given allowance.

Further, distribution of grants/allowances and sports equipments will encourage women's participation in sports and open avenues to raise their income.

4.0 Role of the Ministry in Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1 The Ministry of Youth and Sports is playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the country by imparting training to the youth and enhancing their skills, creating opportunities for self-employment and involving them in the nation building activities. Simultaneously, it brings honor for the country both from the national and international level by expanding sports and transforming identified sporting talents as skilled sportspersons. Besides, it contributes significantly towards development and emancipation of women by empowering young women and involving them with games and sports in a conservative society.
- 4.2 The Government has undertaken a wide range of programs to take ahead youth in line with the national development and progress. To this end, it conducts training programs, make youth self-reliant by undertaking self-employment projects after training, runs credit program for youth in 489 Upazila of 64 districts of the country. The range of activities it undertakes also relates to poverty alleviation and technology transfer. Apart from these, it carries out social development activities that cover environment development, blood donation, prevention of eve teasing and HIV AIDS. It is to be mentioned that under the auspices of six completed development projects, young men and women were imparted technical training. Under six development projects, employment opportunity has been widened in and outside the country. 620 crore Taka has been allocated to "National Service program" to create temporary employment for 1,21,840 young men and women.
- 4.3 The Ministry has undertaken a number of activities such as micro credit, skill development training, talent hunting, and improvement of sports skills and recognition of noted sports personalities. All these activities are directly and indirectly benefiting women and contributing to their empowerment. These programs will transform the young women as skilled human resources leading to the gradual alleviation of their poverty. Young women will be made aware about their legal rights, health and other social issues leading to their empowerment. Provision of equal opportunity, in this case, for young men and women will have positive impact on women empowerment. Women sports complex will be constructed and renovated. The search for new sports talent will be carried out and necessary training will be provided to make them skilled sports women. A total

of 287 old and impoverished sportswomen will be given allowances with a view to increase their social security and status. This will contribute to the alleviation of poverty and promotion of social dignity. Among the 17830 youth organization 8215 are youth women organization. Youth women organizations get privilege to receive donation from youth welfare fund.

- 4.4 In addition to the regular activities the ministry also takes some other project with which development of women is closely related. Women empowerment, sex and reproductive health, demerits of child marriage, problems of over population, education, sanitation & self-employment issues are discussed in every training session.
- 4.5 Favorable environment must be ensured towards productive practical education, training and self-employment for the youth and bringing out all dormant potentialities including their leadership quality aiming at national progress. The main objective of the present national Youth Policy is to create disciplined and efficient work force having responsibility of good citizen and creative mentality with a view to involving the youth in the national development stream also having respect towards national heritage and culture through a planned process. The national youth policy has emphasized on the welfare and development of the youth. According to this policy all Bangladeshi citizens, irrespective of gender, aged between 18 to 35 will be considered as youth. The Ministry of Youth & Sports has taken initiatives to make the National Youth Policy as women friendly.
- 4.6 According to paragraph 8.3.21 of the National Youth Policy 2017, youth women entrepreneurs will get incentive. As per para 10.4.5 ensured security for youth women in every spheres of society and para 10.4.6 mentioned to reserve seat for youth women in public transport. Moreover, in para 2.3 and 2.10 of the National Sports Policy, 1998 importance has been given on the promotion of women sports. In paragraph 6 of the same policy it is mentioned that women's sports are particularly important for the overall development of sports of the country. Women's participation and leadership should be increased in all sports organizations. There should also be sufficient opportunities/facilities for women to take part in games and sports as well as training and practice. As a whole, there has to be social dignity for women sports in the society.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Sl. No.	Priority spending sector/programmers	Impact on women's development (Direct and Indirect)
1.	Training for unemployed youth, provision of loan and employment creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ One of the main objectives of National Youth Policy is to make arrangements for creation of employment and entrepreneurship skills for youth by providing appropriate education and income generating & skill development training. If credits can be made easily available to the trained youth, they will be able to establish themselves as self-employed worker. ❖ Women's advancement is indispensable for the attainment of SDGs goals. They should be able to generate income through professional skills and socioeconomic development. For this reason, they are provided training on rearing of live stock & poultry, hatchery and agriculture, block-boutique, and computer training. As a result, women are becoming income generator and self-reliant.
2.	National Service Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This program has been undertaken for the creation of 2 years' temporary employment for unemployed young men and women between 24-35 years old having educational qualification of HSC and above. After 3 months of basic training in 10 different training modules they will be employed temporarily for a 2 years term in nation building activities. ❖ Under this program, computer training, information technology and technical training are given to the women from the disadvantaged areas of the country. This will integrate them into mainstream economy. They will be trained and transformed into human resources. This will help to bring equality among men and women.
3.	Construction of physical infrastructure for youth and sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Youth training complex and women sports complex widen women's access to sports activities and contributed to their physical and mental development. These centers are helping to create skilled sportswomen. This is increasing women's participation in all spheres of the society.

Sl. No.	Priority spending sector/programmers	Impact on women's development (Direct and Indirect)
4.	Age-group training and allowance for impoverished sportswomen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Through identifying sports-talent from schools and colleges, training will be imparted to develop skilled sportsmen and women. If the future of the sportspersons is well protected and social security is emphasised, people will be more attracted to sports. ❖ Sportswomen will be encouraged to participate in sports like football, volleyball, cricket, gymnastics, swimming, kabadi and archery. Bangladesh's women cricket team has attained one day status in international cricket.
5.	Participate and organize competition at local, national and international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Participation of women's team in the national and international sports creates huge encouragement and enthusiasm among women. Besides football and cricket, women's team have participated in other events outside the country. This has a positive impact on women's freedom and empowerment. ❖ Women's participation in sports helps them established as sports person all over the country. Alongside, it used to encourage them for further participation in games & sports.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2017-18			Revised 2016-17			Budget 2016-17		
	Budget	Women Share Women percent		Revised	Women Share Women percent		Budget	Women Share Women percent	
Total Budget	400266	112019	27.99	317174	86586	27.3	340605	92781	27.24
Ministry Budget	1387	269	19.42	959	214	22.27	922	214	23.24
Development	327	145	44.34	269	134	49.78	288	143	49.9
Non-Development	1060	124	11.72	690	80	11.55	635	71	11.17

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) of the Ministry in relation to Women's Advancement in last three years

Indicator	Unit of measurement	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
		Actual	Actual	Actual
1. Women's participation in the National Service program	%	46.51	71	64

Indicator	Unit of measurement	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
		Actual	Actual	Actual
2. Women's participation in the physical education at the tertiary level	%	21	35	32

8.0 A life history of a self-employed woman

Name of the woman: Sultana Popy

Sultana Popy was born in a lower middle income family. She has grown up in a village. After completing her secondary school certificate she came to Dhaka and got admission in a college. During her study she worked in a NGO and thought how to provide assistance to destitute woman. After that, she left NGO and joined in Aarong as a sales worker. She became enthusiastic in various income generating sector while she worked at Aarong. To enrich herself she received training in Block and Boutique from Block and Boutique training center, Mirpur, under Department of Youth Development in 2005. Then she established a training center of block-boutique and catering for the life skill training of distress and widow women where she invested only 50,000 Taka. Her training center is running effectively. At present the amount of capital of her project is 15 lakh. Now 31 regular workforce are working in her project. Annual net income of her project is 13.68 lakh Taka.

At present she is a trainer of Department of Youth Development. A lot of youth women become self reliant after receiving her training from the youth training center.

She is also involve in a variety of social awarness program like education, plantation, anti-drug, AIDS, anti-dowry, violence against women and autism. Her future plan is to establish an old home.

She has got national youth award 2016 for creating employment opportunity and establishing herself as a successful self employed youth woman in the society.

9.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ To increase awareness programme on women education, health, birth control, dowry, abuse of drug, AIDS, terrorism and early marriage along with training and self employment programme of youth women;
- ❖ To ensure women's equal representation in the management of sports organizations;
- ❖ To undertake advertising and communicating initiatives at local level towards creating positive attitude for women's participation in sports and accord recognition to women's achievement;
- ❖ To encourage public and private investment in community based sports activities undertaken to promote women's participation;

- ❖ To encourage women to participate in sports by providing allowance and sports equipment free of cost.
- ❖ To increase allocation by 30% at upazilla level to increase women's participation in sports and cultural activities;
- ❖ To construct women friendly facilities (dressing room, washing room, day care etc.) in all sports complex;
- ❖ To ensure employment of Female Sports Instructor at all women sports complexes.