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HUMAN FLOURISHING FOR WELLBEING
IN SOCIETY, COMMUNITIES
AND ORGANIZATIONS

edited by

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5. HUMAN FLOURISHING FOR WELLBEING IN SOCIETY, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS: A CASE STUDY IN BANGLADESH

di Kamrunnahr Koli*

Abstract: Human flourishing refers to the holistic growth of individuals in terms of physical and mental well-being, influenced by globalization and technological advancements. It involves adapting to diverse demands, marketplaces, and environmental fluctuations. The study analyzes the relationship between engagement in arts and humanities and human well-being in Bangladesh, focusing on enhancing it for society, community, and organization. Quantitative analysis is used to analyze key aspects of human well-being across various sectors.

Keywords: human flourishing, organization, globalization, well-being, development, communities.

Introduction

Human flourishing, defined as the optimal functioning and well-being in all facets of an individual's existence, has been a subject of philosophical and religious discourse for millennia (Logan, Berman & Prescott, 2023). The term 'flourishing' has temporal connotations, as does the notion of self-development (Thomson, Gill

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& Goodson, 2020). Human flourishing, often known as well-being, refers to the cultivation and application of specific human capacities. The process of human thriving commences with the ability to make independent choices and take action, supported by robust interpersonal connections. In order for humans to thrive, there must be a comprehensive and beneficial approach to achieving physical and mental well-being, both at the individual and community levels. Optimal physical well-being and a long lifespan are ultimately indicative of the overall success and prosperity of an individual. The average lifespan has risen in the majority of nations. The improvement of life conditions is evident, and the increase in overall satisfaction levels across countries serves as a clear measure of this progress. The Global Flourishing study encompasses a wide range of social, demographic, economic, political, and psychological indicators (The Human Flourishing Program, n.d.).

At the midpoint of the year, the estimated population of Bangladesh in 2024 is 173,562,364, which is equivalent to 2.13% of the global population. Bangladesh is eighth in the list of nations (and dependencies) by population. Bangladesh has a population density of 1333 individuals per square kilometer (*Bangladesh Population (2024) - Worldometer*, n.d.). The nominal GDP of Bangladesh is currently ranked 35th on a global scale. Bangladesh's Human Development Index (HDI), a measure used by the United Nations to assess a country's growth, stood at 0.661 points in 2021. This places Bangladesh in the 129th position out of 191 countries listed in the published table (Bangladesh, 2024, n.d.). The Asia-Pacific region has experienced the most rapid advancement in the Human Development Index (HDI) globally, with Bangladesh being one of the top achievers. Bangladesh has made significant progress, improving its HDI from 0.397 in 1990, which was the fourth lowest in the area, to 0.661 in 2021 (Liller, 2023). China was the only country that achieved substantial advancements in the region

during this time. Regarding other social and economic measures in Bangladesh, between 1990 and 2021, the life expectancy at birth increased from 56 to 72 years. The expected years of schooling more than doubled, going from 5.8 to 12.4 years. The Gross National Income (GNI) per capita increased more than thrice, ascending from \$1,554 to \$5,472. Additionally, maternal mortality decreased by 70 percent, dropping from 595 to 173 per 100,000 live births (Liller, 2023).

Bangladesh has made substantial advancements in the social sector, alongside its economic prosperity. Being a part of the world's economy, Bangladesh has experienced worldwide economic difficulties that have made the life of underprivileged people more unstable and susceptible. Bangladesh has embraced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and developed several plans to handle these problems (Hossain and Mathbor, 2014).

The government has introduced 'Vision 2041' and developed the 'Second Perspective Plan (2021-2041)' as its strategic plan, following the implementation of 'Vision 2021'. To achieve the Second Perspective Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), It is imperative to labour diligently to achieve upper-middle-income status by 2031 and to evolve into a developed, knowledge-based, prosperous, and content nation by 2041. In 2010, urban population increased to 31.4% from 24.3% in 2000. In 2015, this rose to 35.4%. Both migration and natural growth contributed to this growth, just as in previous decades. But the most important contributory factor for recent times is the development of industrial sectors and changes in sociopolitical conditions. In 2020, 39.4% of the population will live in urban areas. That means about 40% of people now live in cities, whereas only 10% lived in cities after independence in 1975 (Lipi and Hasan, 2021).

Bangladesh possesses a robust history of growth and prosperity, especially with heightened global instability. Significant

demographic advantages, substantial ready-made garment (RMG) exports, consistent remittance inflows, and stable macroeconomic circumstances have facilitated significant economic expansion over the last twenty years. Bangladesh exemplifies a notable narrative of poverty alleviation and advancement. Having emerged as one of the most impoverished nations upon its inception in 1971, Bangladesh attained lower-middle income classification in 2015. It is poised to depart from the United Nations' Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2026. Poverty decreased from 11.8 percent in 2010 to 5.0 percent in 2022, according to the worldwide poverty threshold of \$2.15 per day (utilizing 2017 Purchasing Power Parity and a corresponding welfare series). Moderate poverty decreased from 49.6 percent in 2010 to 30.0 percent in 2022, based on the international poverty level of \$3.65 per day (utilizing 2017 PPP). Moreover, human development results enhanced across several dimensions, including a decline in new-born mortality and stunting, a rise in literacy rates, and greater access to electricity. Notwithstanding these advancements, inequality has marginally decreased in rural regions while expanding in metropolitan places (Overview, n.d.). Bangladesh has made significant strides in enhancing the lives of women and girls during the past two decades. The maternal mortality rate has experienced a reduction of almost 66% since 2000 and is still decreasing, while the fertility rate is also reducing. Bangladesh's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is estimated to be 156 per 100,000 live births in the 2022 Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics report. The new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 has established ambitious objectives, necessitating that Bangladesh reduce MMR to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and neonatal fatalities to fewer than 12 per 1,000 live births by 2030 (BBS, 2023).

Within the context of Bangladesh, a society characterized by male dominance and a patriarchal structure, men exert control over women and establish the conditions of relationships through the

institutions of family, marriage, and inheritance. Since the 1990s, the involvement of urban middle-class Bangladeshi women in the public sphere as active economic agents has altered power dynamics within spouses and families, particularly since professional women now want familial support structures to compensate for their household responsibilities (Hussein, 2017). However, research on Bangladeshi families mostly focuses on women's subjugation within familial structures concerning patriarchy (Chowdhury 2009), domestic violence (Schuler, Hashemi, and Akhter 1996), and women's reproductive roles (Schuler, Hashemi, and Riley 1997). Women are denied equal status with males due to this traditional role. Although many measures, such as life expectancy at birth and predicted years of education, show more favorable outcomes for women compared to men, there is still a significant lack of economic empowerment for women. Nevertheless, women are on the verge of attaining complete independence and parity in the foreseeable future, given their notable representation in several industries.

The government is implementing several development projects, programmes, and initiatives, with requisite legislation and regulations, to guarantee women equal rights in all aspects of public life and to eradicate all forms of discrimination against them. In the past two decades, the quality of life for the population of Bangladesh has markedly improved due to many programmes aimed at boosting their wellbeing.

1. Research Objectives

- To investigate the most recent economic developments in various sectors of Bangladesh.
- To investigate the extent of social and organizational development in Bangladesh.

- To determine the extent to which Bangladeshi women are empowered by their involvement in various sectors.

2. Methodology

The main goal of this research is to examine the degree of human development in several sectors in Bangladesh, with a particular emphasis on women. The quantitative approach was used to assess the gathered data in accordance with the study goals. This study relies on secondary data sources. Secondary data was gathered from a variety of published sources, including publications from the United Nations, World Bank, Worldometer, Countrymeters, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), websites from several ministries in Bangladesh, and pertinent works by certain researchers. Data from 1990 to 2022 were evaluated to estimate Bangladesh's development patterns. The acquired data was processed and presented to make the study more interesting, analytical, and beneficial to both readers and academics. Graphs, charts, and bar diagrams were used to graphically portray the study's findings and draw conclusions.

3. Findings and Discussion

Bangladesh has had significant advancements in both economic and human development over the years. Since 1991, the nation has maintained an annual GDP growth rate of about six percent, resulting in an economy valued at USD 330 billion in 2019, a substantial rise from its valuation of USD 35 billion in the mid-1990s. In the same period, the average income per capita has increased from USD 300 to almost USD 2,064, indicating a seven-

fold gain. The incidence of poverty, measured by the headcount ratio against a national poverty criterion, has declined from 58 percent in 1990 to around 21 percent in 2019. Consequently, the nation effectively lifted more than 24 million persons out of poverty.

Currently, Bangladesh is classified as a country with medium human development. The country is progressing towards its official graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDC) by 2024 and has set its sights on attaining the title of a “developed country” by 2041. An analysis of the development that has been accomplished in various industries is offered in this part. The analysis is supported by pertinent data that is shown in tables and figures. Over the course of the past several decades, Bangladesh has brought about amazing advancements in terms of economic growth. Several prominent markers demonstrate its advancement:

3.1 Development in Economic Sector

A narrative of notable accomplishments in poverty alleviation and progress is the story of Bangladesh. Bangladesh achieved lower-middle-income status by 2015, despite its beginnings as one of the most economically disadvantaged countries in 1971. It is anticipated that it will effectively graduate from the United Nations’ Least Developed Countries (LDC) list by 2026. According to the global poverty threshold of \$2.15 per day (adjusted for 2017 Purchasing Power Parity and a comparable welfare series), the poverty rate decreased from 11.8 percent in 2010 to 5.0 percent in 2022. Similarly, the international poverty threshold of \$3.65 per day (adjusted for purchasing power parity in 2017) demonstrated a decline in the rate of moderate poverty from 49.6 percent in 2010 to 30.0 percent in 2022. Bangladesh has achieved significant advancements in all growth sectors over time, as seen by the

aforementioned table. Every characteristic of the development indicators surpasses its potential for understanding after just twenty years. In 2000, the nation's GDP amounted to 53.37 billion USD. Nonetheless, it has since risen to 460.2 billion USD, representing an almost ninefold escalation within a few two decades. This positive development scenario is demonstrated in nearly all of the development sectors enumerated in Table 1, where population growth results in a decrease in the poverty ratio, a sign of progress.

Table 1: Development indicators and its progress from 2000 to 2022

Development indicators	List of indicators	Year				
		2000	2005	2010	2016	2022
Economic	GDP (current US\$) (in Billion)	53.37	69.44	115.2	265.2	460.2
	GDP per capita (current US\$)	413.1	492.8	776.9	1660	2,688.3
	GDP growth (annual %)	5.3	6.5	5.6	7.1	7.1
	Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate)	3.3	3.4	4.3	4.3	4.2
	Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	2.2	7	8.1	5.5	7.7
	Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)	3..7	6.2	9.4	5.1	4.7
Social	Poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 a day (2017 PPP) (% of population)	33.3	24	18.2	13.5	5

	Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	66	67	69	71	74
	Population, total (in Million)	12+	14+	14+	15+	17+
	Population growth (annual %)	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.1
Institutions	Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)	0.5	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.4
	Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	0	0	4	18	39
	Statistical performance indicators (SPI): Overall score (scale 0-100)	-	-	-	56.8	69.7
	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	9	15	19	20	21

Source: World bank Datasheet

This dataset encompasses many development indicators across diverse categories (Economic, Social, and Institutional) from 2000 to 2022. This is an examination of significant trends and insights derived from the given information:

Economic Indicators:

1. GDP Growth:

- The GDP has experienced a substantial increase from \$53.37 billion in 2000 to \$460.2 billion in 2022, suggesting

robust economic development.

- The GDP growth rate is slightly fluctuating but remains robust, particularly at 7.1% in 2016 and 2022.
2. GDP per Capita:
 - Rising from \$413.1 in 2000 to \$2,688.30 in 2022, which reflects significant improvement in living standards.
 3. Unemployment Rate:
 - Unemployment remains relatively low and stable, with a slight increase to a peak of 4.3% in 2010 and a slight decline afterward.
 4. Inflation Rate:
 - Inflation has fluctuated, peaking at 8.1% in 2010 and decreasing to 5.5% in 2016 but rising again to 7.7% in 2022. This could be a concern for economic stability.
 5. Personal Remittances:
 - A peak at 9.4% of GDP in 2010, followed by a decline, indicating a potential decrease in reliance on remittances or changes in migration patterns.

Social Indicators:

1. Poverty Reduction:
 - The poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 a day has decreased significantly from 33.3% in 2000 to 5% in 2022, indicating successful poverty alleviation efforts.
2. Life Expectancy:
 - Life expectancy has improved steadily from 66 years in 2000 to 74 years in 2022, suggesting better healthcare and living conditions.
3. Population Trends:
 - Population growth is slowing, which might reflect declining birth rates or emigration.

Institutional Indicators:

1. Foreign Direct Investment:
 - FDI inflows have fluctuated, with a peak in 2005 (1.2% of GDP) and a decline thereafter, indicating potential concerns about investment climate stability.
2. Internet Usage:
 - Internet access has expanded significantly, from 0% in 2000 to 39% in 2022, reflecting advances in technology and connectivity.
3. Women in Parliament:
 - The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has gradually increased, suggesting progress in gender representation.

3.2 GDP Growth

Annual GDP growth rates in Bangladesh have been healthy in recent years, averaging around 6-7%. The garment industry, remittances from foreign workers, and the rise of the service and manufacturing industries are the main drivers of this boom. After suffering setbacks due to the worldwide coronavirus epidemic, the Bangladeshi economy has shown signs of steady improvement. In the fiscal year 2019–20, the GDP growth rate dropped precipitously from 7.88 percent in the year before the pandemic to just 3.45 percent. The expansion of the gross domestic product, on the other hand, saw a rebound, reaching 6.94% in the fiscal year 2020-21 and 7.10% in the fiscal year 2021-22. Nevertheless, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has hampered economic development in the fiscal year 2022–23 by a significant amount (Table 2).

Table 2: GDP, GNI, Per Capita GDP, and GNI of Bangladesh (according to current Market Values)

<i>Item</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	<i>2021-22</i>	<i>2022-23*</i>
GDP (In Crore Tk.)	2075821	2639248	3170469	3971716	4439273
GNI (In Crore Tk.)	2173075	2744791	3301701	4129062	4618529
Population (In crore)	15.99	16.37	16.74	17.13	17.07
Per Capita GDP (In Tk.)	129828	161274	189361	231861	259919
Per Capita GNI (In Tk.)	135911	167723	197199	241047	270414
Per Capita GDP (In US\$)	1659	1964	2234	2687	2657
Per Capita GNI (In US\$)	1737	2043	2326	2793	2765

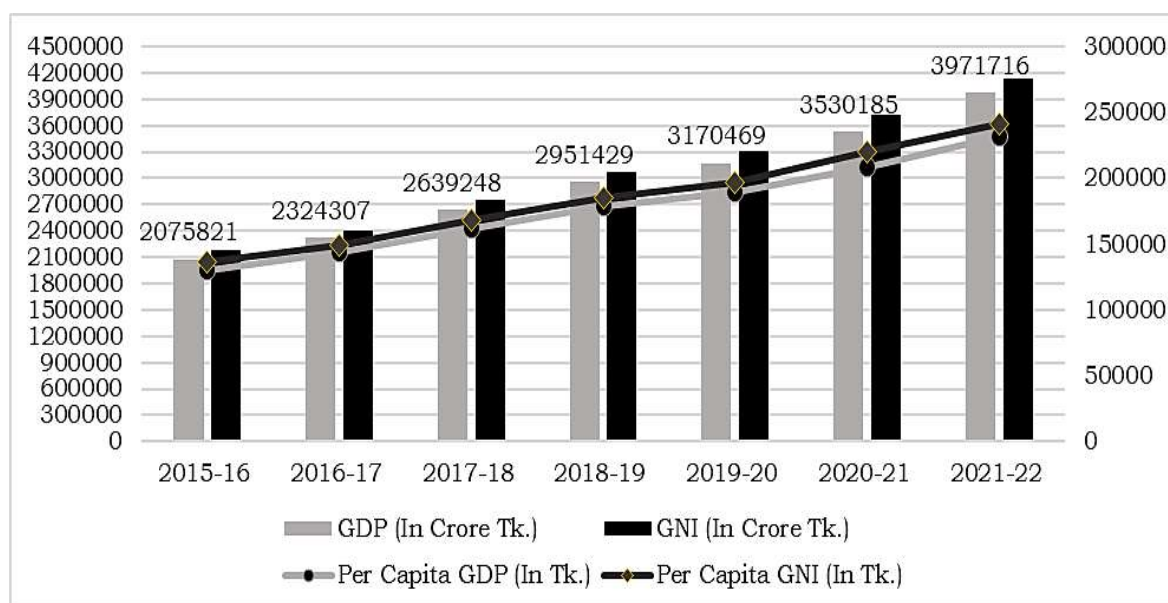
*Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) (*Provisional)*

The data indicates strong economic growth, with both GDP and GNI demonstrating substantial increases over time. The economy has expanded, as evidenced by the substantial growth of both GDP and GNI. The sustained growth trajectory of Bangladesh, which has been fueled by factors such as industrialization, exports, and remittances, is evidenced by the doubling of the GDP in Taka terms over a seven-year period. The substantial increases in GDP, GNI, and per capita measures between 2021-22 and 2022-23 indicate a robust recovery from the global economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The development rates during this period are notably noteworthy, indicating that Bangladesh successfully recovered. The steady increase in individual prosperity is indicated by per capita GDP and GNI. However, the minor decline in 2022-23 suggests that there may be economic challenges, potentially associated with global conditions or exchange rate fluctuations. The sustained

improvement in per capita measures is facilitated by the constant but not rapid development of the population. The data indicates that Bangladesh experienced a period of accelerated economic expansion, which resulted in an improvement in living standards as a result of an increase in per capita income and GDP. The modest decline in US dollar terms during 2022-23 is likely a reflection of global economic conditions, but it does not suggest any structural issues within the economy. Bangladesh is on a firm trajectory for future development, as evidenced by its robust performance in local currency terms (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Annual GDP, GNI, Per Capita GDP and Per Capita GNI of Bangladesh

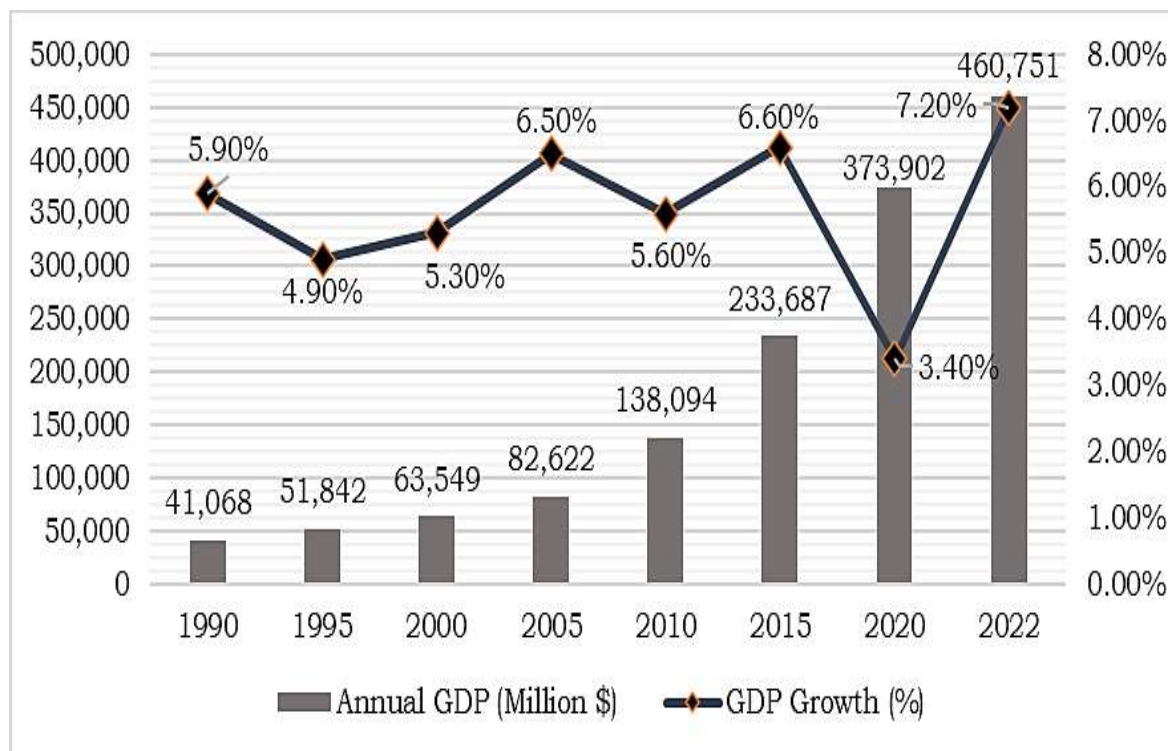


Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

The GDP in local currency at constant prices is anticipated to attain Tk 21,893 billion (\$594 billion) by 2030 and Tk 29,995 billion (\$855 billion) by 2035. By 2025, Bangladesh's GDP is anticipated to attain \$488 billion, subsequently rising to \$760 billion in 2030, and further escalating to \$1.2 trillion by 2035. The

Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) in the UK has projected that Bangladesh's GDP would be the 28th biggest in 2030 and the 25th largest in 2035 (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Annual GDP Growth rate of Bangladesh



Sources: Bangladesh 2024. (n.d.). countryeconomy.com

The aforementioned figure summarizes GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth throughout many years, illustrating both total economic production and the yearly growth rate expressed as a percentage. The nation's GDP has increased markedly from \$41,068 million in 1990 to \$460,751 million in 2022, indicating sustained economic growth. Although GDP exhibited consistent increase, the growth rate varied, with notable peaks in 2005 (6.5%), 2015 (6.6%), and 2022 (7.2%), contrasted by slower growth in 1995 (4.9%) and 2020 (3.4%). These fluctuations may result from a

confluence of global economic situations, internal policies, technology breakthroughs, and foreign shock, such as the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The prevailing tendency indicates a robust and expanding economy.

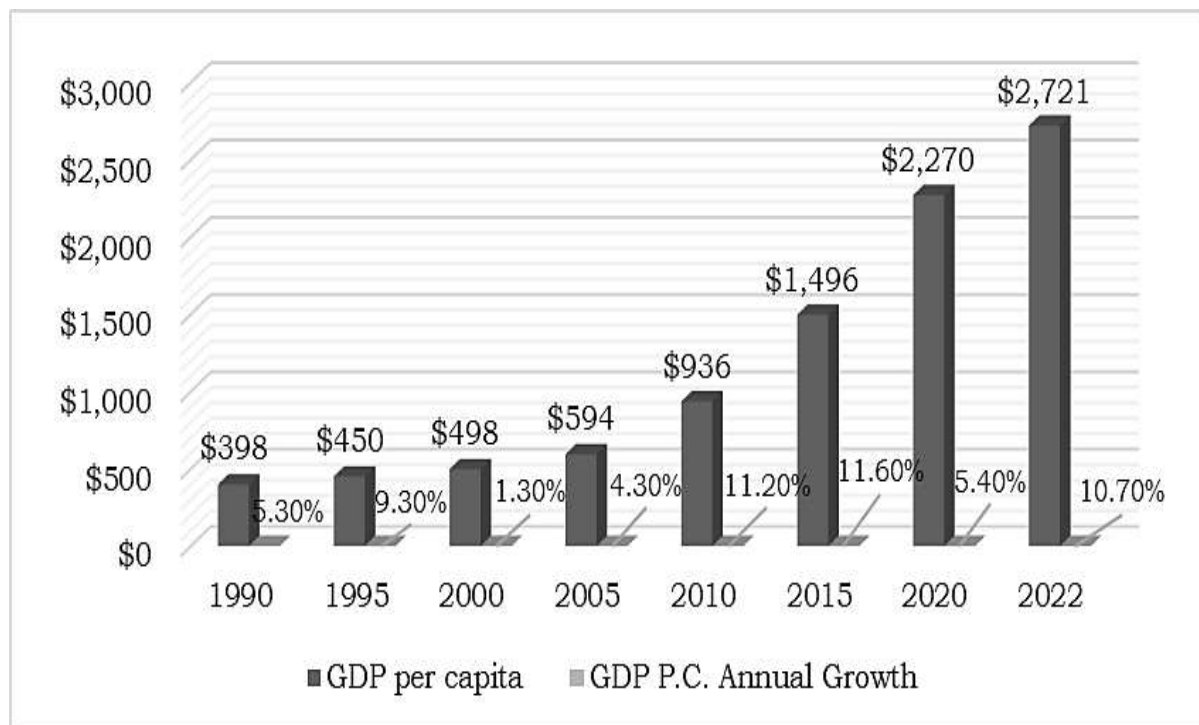
3.3 GDP Per Capita

Bangladesh's per capita income has increased by \$35 to \$2,784 in a year, according to a preliminary estimate by the national statistics agency. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released figures on Tuesday that indicated the per capita income at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year was \$2,749 or Tk 273,360. It has since increased to Tk 306,144 (Figure 3).

The data shows that Bangladesh has experienced significant economic growth, particularly over the past ten years. Bangladesh's GDP per capita has gone up from \$398 in 1990 to \$2,721 in 2022. The biggest increases happened from 2010 to 2015 and then again from 2015 to 2022, with GDP per capita rising quickly during those times. The annual growth rate changed over time, with some periods experiencing quick increases and others showing more moderate or slower growth. The highest growth rates were seen in 2010 at 11.20% and in 2015 at 11.60%, showing a time of notable economic progress.

In 2020, growth decreased to 5.40%, probably because of outside influences like the global economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy bounced back really fast by 2022, showing a growth of 10.70%, which suggests a solid recovery after the pandemic.

Figure 3: GDP per capita Bangladesh



Sources: Bangladesh 2024. (n.d.). countryeconomy.com

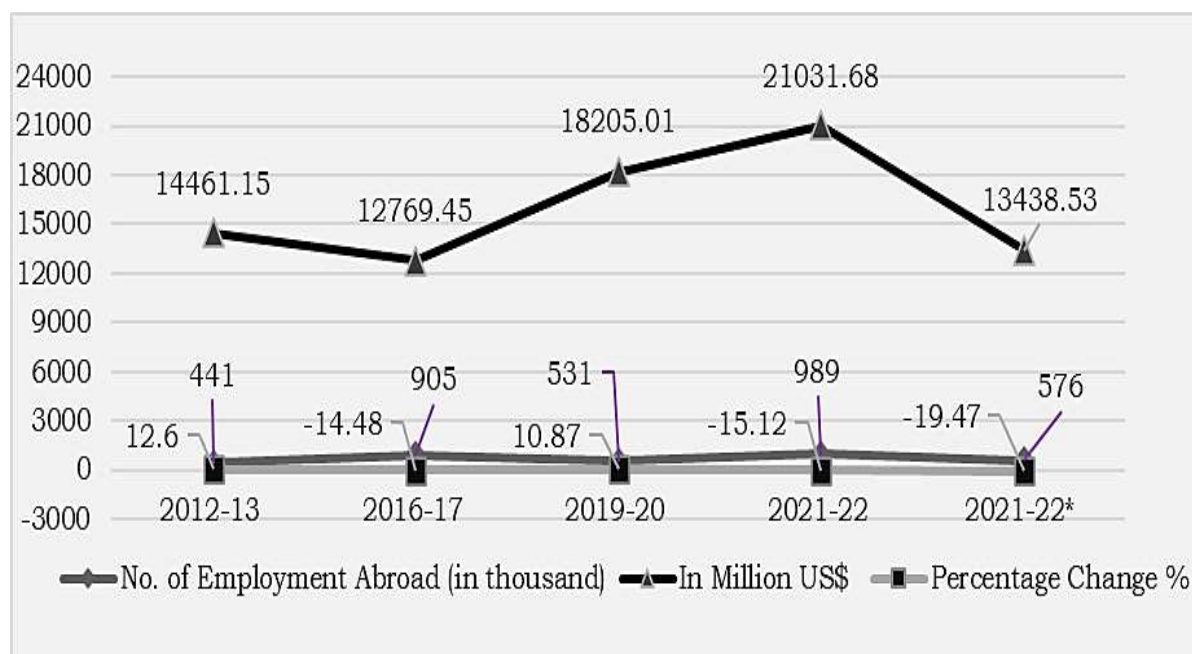
This shows how Bangladesh is continuing to grow economically and develop its industries. The changes in growth rates show the difficulties caused by global economic situations, but in general, the trend has been really good, with GDP per capita increasing from \$936 in 2010 to \$2,721 in 2022. This indicates significant advancements in living standards and economic productivity.

3.4 Foreign Employment and Remittances

The COVID-19 epidemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict are causing problems, but the government and Bangladesh Bank are controlling imports and increasing remittances to restore foreign exchange reserves. As Bangladesh recovers from the pandemic,

record numbers of people are visiting overseas. The higher exchange rate and 2.5 percent cash incentive with diverse opportunities should encourage migrants to send more money through formal channels. To boost remittance inflows and reduce foreign reserve depletion due to rising global commodity prices and a growing balance-of-payment deficit, the Bangladesh government and Bangladesh Bank have taken various aggressive actions. These include rewarding remittance senders and simplifying the process. Bangladeshi emigrants grew to 7.34 lakh in the first eight months of FY2022-23. Remittance inflows rose 4.28 percent from the previous fiscal year. Figure 4 show Bangladeshi expatriate inward remittances by year.

Figure 4: Number of Expatriate Employees and Amount of Remittance



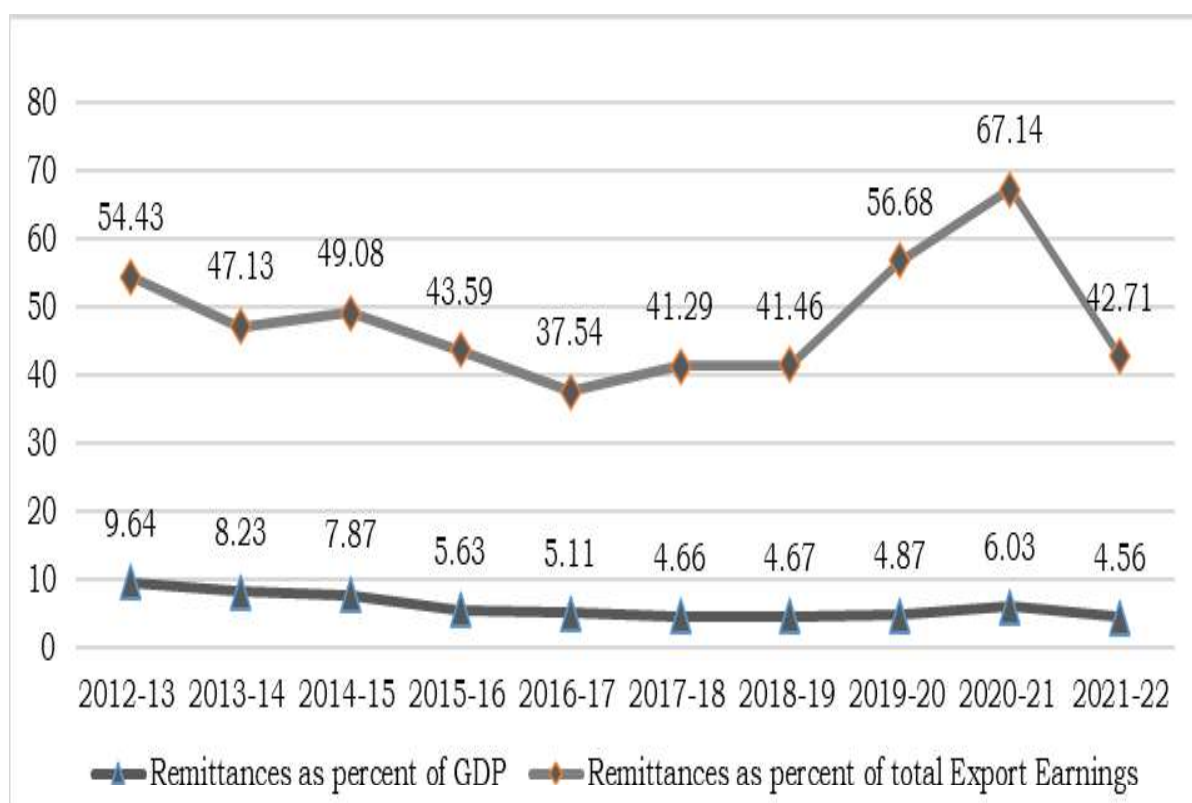
Source: BMET, Bangladesh Bank. *July-February

The figure illustrates the correlation between the number of expatriate employees employed overseas (in thousands) and the

associated remittances transmitted to Bangladesh in both US dollars and Bangladeshi Taka throughout several fiscal years.

The figure 5 displays the annual percentage change in remittances relative to the preceding year. Expatriate employment had substantial growth from 2012 to 2022, reaching its zenith in 2021-22. Remittances underwent phases of both expansion (e.g., 2019-20) and significant contraction (e.g., 2016-17 and 2021-22*).

Figure 5: Remittance as Percent of GDP and Export Earnings



Source: Bangladesh Bank, BBS

Global variables like as economic conditions, labour market dynamics, and the COVID-19 epidemic certainly influenced the volume of remittances, particularly in recent years.

The figure presents data regarding remittances relative to

GDP and remittances in relation to total export earnings for Bangladesh during the fiscal years spanning from 2012-13 to 2021-22. During the period of 2012-13, remittances accounted for 9.64% of the GDP of Bangladesh.

The percentage exhibited a consistent decline over the years, ultimately arriving at 4.56% in the period of 2021-22. Over the past decade, remittances as a percentage of GDP have shown a general decline, indicative of the expanding scale of Bangladesh's economy, despite the fact that remittances contribute less significantly to the total economic output. The role of remittances in export earnings exhibited variability, with a notable increase during the pandemic when remittances served as an essential support for Bangladesh's economy, followed by a decline as the global economy began to recover.

The data indicates that although remittances continue to play a crucial role in the Bangladeshi economy, their significance in relation to GDP and export earnings has diminished over time. During times of economic distress, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, remittances serve as essential financial inflows.

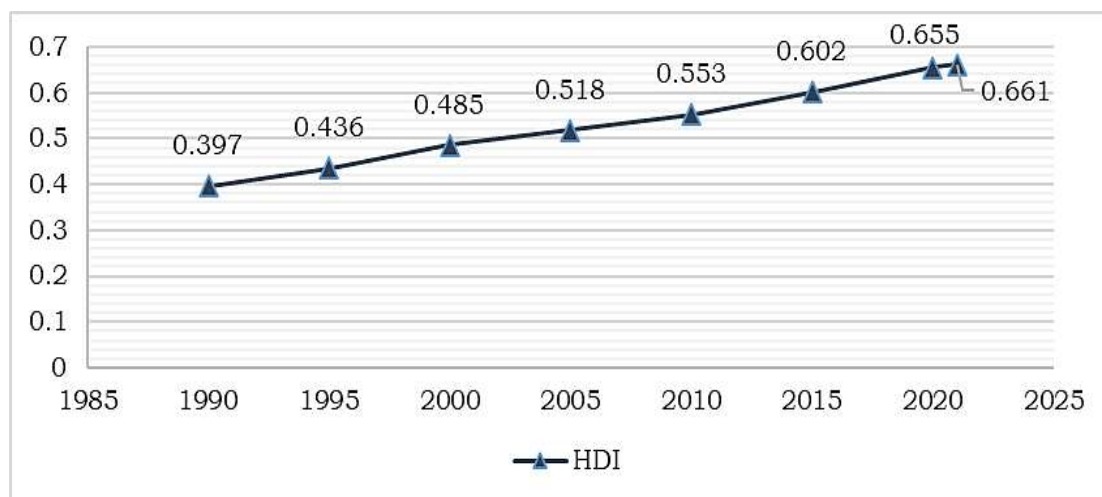
3.5 Human Resource Development

Development of human resources and fast expansion by means of bettering the lot of the impoverished define the key objectives of the government. With an eye toward life and livelihood and thereby improving the living standards of the underprivileged, the government is working to provide fundamental needs by means of economic restructuring, so countering the long-term consequences of the coronavirus. Consequently, initiatives for development are enabling Bangladesh to raise its Human Development Index.

The 'National Education Policy 2010' has produced a range

of initiatives meant to improve the quality of education, create chances for admission at all educational levels, and develop educated and competent human resources. Ranked 129th in the “Human Development Report 2022” is Bangladesh. In terms of HDI among the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Sri Lanka (73), the Maldives (90), and Bhutan (127) all rank higher than Bangladesh (129). Daily increases in sector allocations linked to human development are seen in the graph shows Bangladesh’s current HDI over a few years (Figure 6 and 7).

Figure 6: Bangladesh - Human Development Index (HDI Point)

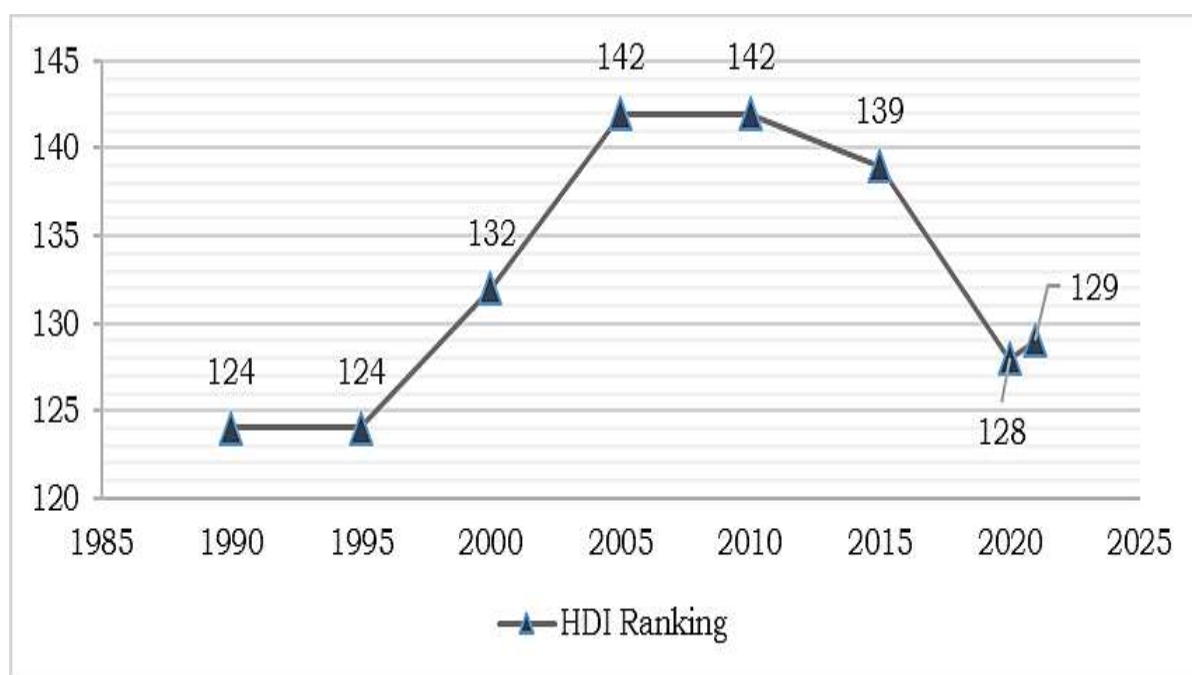


Sources: UN (2023)

The aforementioned figure illustrates the Human Development Index (HDI) values and worldwide HDI rankings for Bangladesh from 1990 to 2021. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite metric that evaluates a nation’s average performance in three fundamental dimensions of human development: health (measured by life expectancy), education, and standard of living. Bangladesh’s Human Development Index (HDI) steadily increased, with a value of 0.661 in 2021, a notable rise from

the level recorded in 1990. The rating advanced from 142 in 2010 to 129 in 2021, indicating Bangladesh's enhanced performance in comparison to other nations. Bangladesh's Human Development Index (HDI) has demonstrated steady advancement, rising from 0.397 in 1990 to 0.661 in 2021.

Figure 7: Bangladesh - Human Development Index (World Ranking)



Sources: UN, 2023

The global HDI ranking had changes, notably in the early 2000s, when Bangladesh's standing declined; however, it rebounded post-2015, achieving a rank of 129th in 2021. The increase in HDI highlights Bangladesh's continuous development initiatives in health, education, and income, despite the nation's persistent disadvantages relative to other countries.

3.6 Development in Social Sector

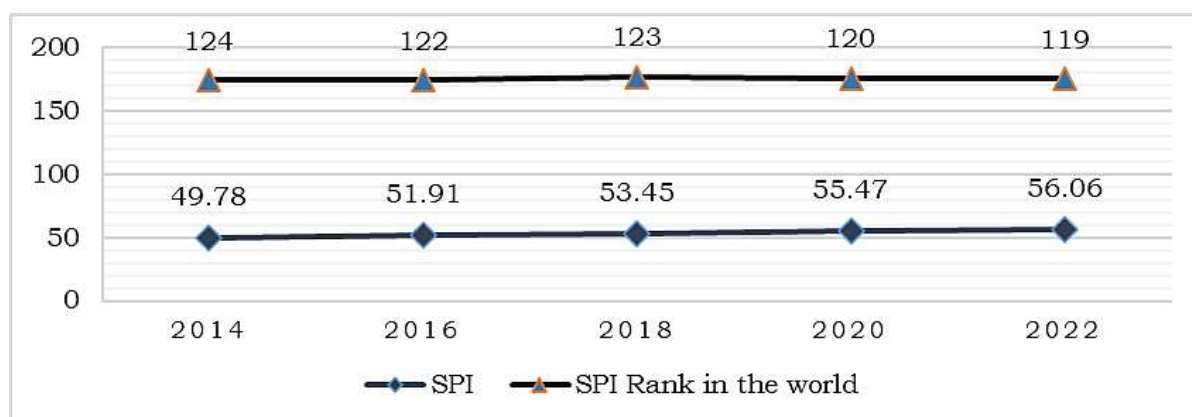
Improvements in social development indicators stem from initiatives in health and education sectors. Interventions focusing on maternal health, immunization, and primary education have demonstrated positive outcomes. The government is dedicated to addressing the fundamental needs of the population while fostering human capital development through economic restructuring that prioritizes quality of life and sustenance, thereby alleviating the enduring impacts of the coronavirus.

Increased financial allocation to social sectors, particularly education and health, will facilitate the advancement of human resource development. The government is progressively increasing budget allocations for human resource development areas, including education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children, social welfare, youth and sports development, culture, labour, and employment. The government prioritizes enhancing health sector infrastructure, expanding social security coverage, developing human resources, and ensuring effective governance within government agencies.

The below figure 8 shows Bangladesh's 2014–2022 Social Progress Index (SPI) values, world rankings, and sub-index scores. The SPI measures a nation's social and environmental performance across three major dimensions: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity. Bangladesh's SPI rose from 49.78 in 2014 to 56.06 in 2022. Social outcomes including health, education, and living conditions have improved. Bangladesh's SPI worldwide rank rose from 124th in 2014 to 119th in 2022. Despite SPI improvements, Bangladesh's position has only improved somewhat. This means that as Bangladesh develops, other nations are progressing similarly or faster. The Basic Human Needs and Foundations of Wellbeing aspects improved significantly between

2018 and 2022. These changes indicate that critical services are becoming more accessible and that residents are living better.

Figure 8: Social Progress Index (SPI)



Sources: Social Progress Imperative

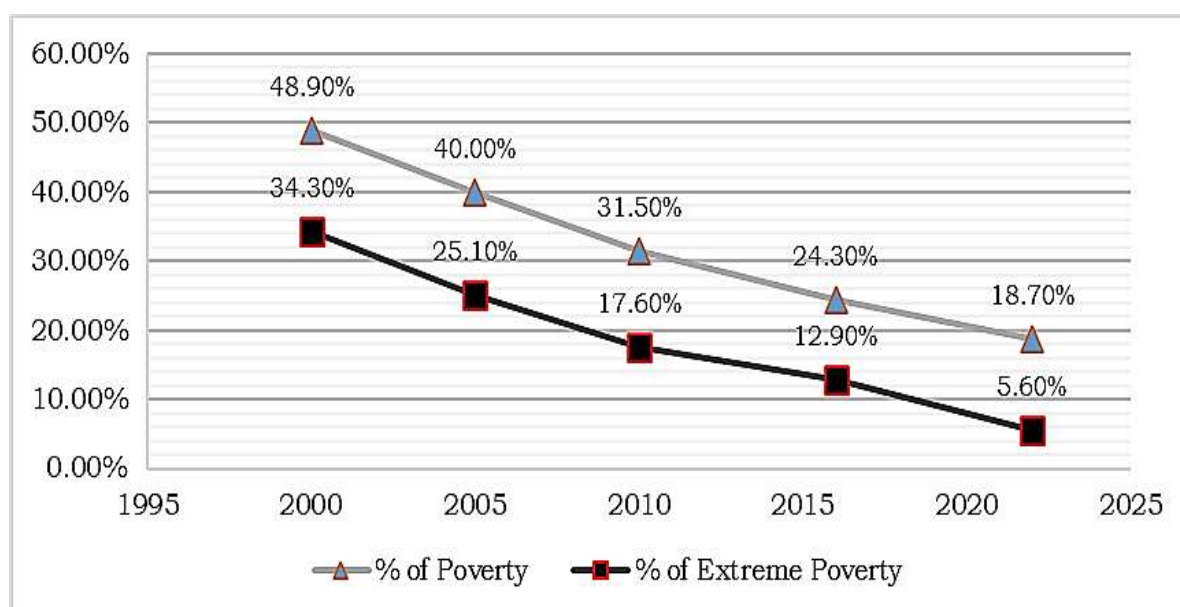
3.7 Poverty Reduction

Through government development initiatives, private investments, and various social entrepreneurs, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in reducing poverty. The poverty rate decreased from 40.0 percent in 2005 to 24.3 percent in 2016, according to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). The initial findings of the “Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022” indicate that the present poverty rate in the nation is at 18.7 percent, with an extreme poverty rate of 5.6 percent. The ninth Five-Year Plan (2020–2025) aims to reduce the poverty rate to 15.6 percent by 2025, maintaining the existing pace of poverty alleviation (Bhuyan et al., 2023).

Despite the COVID-19 epidemic and Ukraine conflict, Bangladesh’s poverty rate has dropped due to the government’s well-executed plans. To battle the COVID-19 epidemic and advance population, the government has prioritized healthcare, investments,

production, employment, human resource development, poverty reduction, and social protection. Several government development programs aim to transform the economy. To combat poverty, inequality, and promote inclusive growth, the social safety net is being expanded. The government is executing massive development projects and thorough efforts to meet the basic needs of disadvantaged, underprivileged, and vulnerable people (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Trends of Poverty Reduction Over the Year



Source: BBS, HIES-2022 Key Findings

In the context of altering poverty patterns, the high poverty threshold indicated a national income poverty rate reduction of 5.6% (from 24.3% to 18.7%) between 2016 and 2022, as reported in the preliminary findings of the “Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022” (Bhuyan et al., 2023). The average compound annual rate of poverty reduction during this period was 4.27 percent. The poverty rate has decreased by 5.9 percentage points in rural regions and by 4.2 percentage points in urban areas.

Urban areas have experienced a slower rate of poverty reduction compared to rural areas.

- From 2010 to 2016, the percentage of individuals living in poverty due to income decreased by 7.2 percentage points, from 31.5% to 24.3% within the country. The annual compound rate of poverty reduction during the same time period was 4.23 percent. Significant progress has been achieved in the country's initiatives to reduce poverty. World Bank data indicates that the poverty rate declined from over forty percent in the early 2000s to around twenty percent by 2020 (Table 3). Table 3 conveys that, Household nominal income, expenditure, and consumption expenditure have been progressively increasing;
- Average monthly family income in the fiscal year 1995–96 was Tk. 4,366. This revenue rose by a factor of 3.66 over two decades and in 2016 it came to Tk. 15,988. According to the present projection for 2022, it has climbed to Tk 32,422.

Table 3: Residency-Based Monthly Household Nominal Income, Expenditures, and Consumption Budget

Year of Survey	Residence	Average monthly Income (Taka)	Average monthly Expenditure (Taka)	Average monthly Consumption Expenditure (Taka)
2000	National	5842	4881	4537
	Rural	4816	4257	3879
	Urban	9878	7337	7125
2005	National	7203	6134	5964
	Rural	6095	5319	5165
	Urban	10463	8533	8315
2010	National	11479	11200	11003
	Rural	9648	9612	9436

	Urban	16475	15531	15276
2016	National	15988	15715	15420
	Rural	13398	14156	13868
	Urban	22600	19697	19383
2022	National	32422	31500	30603
	Rural	26163	26842	26207
	Urban	45757	41424	39971

Source: BBS, HIES-2022

- Income drove both consumption and expenditure to rise in line. At the national level, the per capita monthly spending in 1995–96 was TK. 4,090; it rose to TK. 15,715 in 2016. By 2022 the figure grew to Tk. 31,500.
- However, the national consumer expenditure in 1995-96 amounted to Tk. 4,026. In the year 2016, the value rose to Tk. 15,420 in HIES. The survey reveals that the mean household consumption expenditure has risen to Tk. 30,603.
- An overall examination indicated a marginal rise in national income compared to spending and consumption from 1995–96 to 2022.
- In 2016, rural communities experienced a situation where their expenditure exceeded their income for the first time. This trend continued in 2022.

3.8 Literacy Rate

Several indicators of human development, such as the country's literacy rate and life expectancy, have improved in Bangladesh. There has been a steady and noticeable rise in the percentage of people who are literate, particularly among women. As

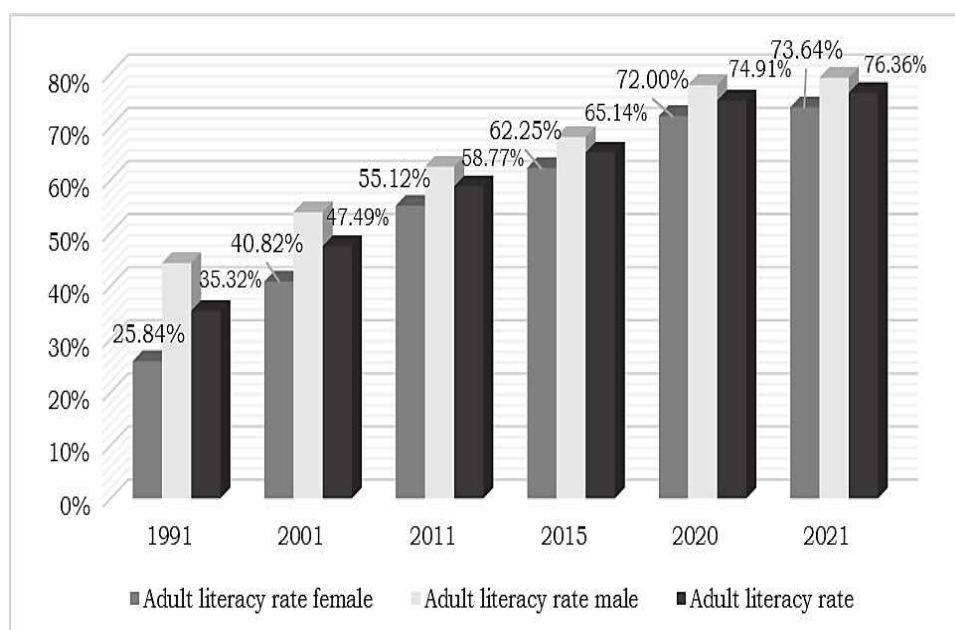
a result of the Household Survey 2022 that was carried out by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the literacy rate in Bangladesh reached 79 percent in the year 2022. When compared to the literacy rate in 2001, which was 47.49 percent, the literacy rate is at 65.14 percent in 2015.

Figure 10 presents data on the literacy rate in Bangladesh over several years, categorized by gender and age categories. The literacy rate in Bangladesh has consistently risen across all demographics.

The literacy rate for girls aged 15-24 rose from 37.99% in 1991 to 95.86% in 2021, reflecting substantial advancements in the education of younger generations. The literacy percentage for boys aged 15-24 rose from 51.74% in 1991 to 93.76% in 2021.

The adult literacy rate, encompassing both genders, increased from 35.32% in 1991 to 76.36% in 2021, indicating consistent advancement in education for the population generally.

Figure 10: Literacy Rate of Bangladesh



Sources: Bangladesh 2024. (n.d.). countryeconomy.com

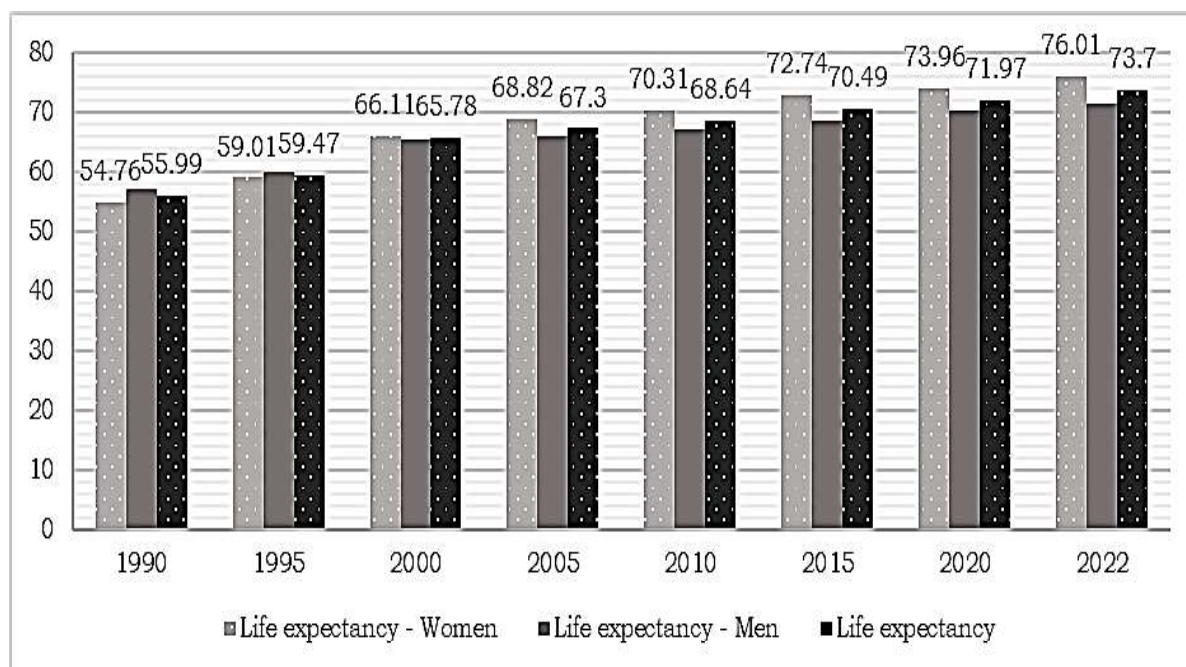
The literacy rate for those aged 15-24, both male and female, demonstrated notable enhancement over time, exceeding 95% for females and almost 94% for males by 2021. This suggests that younger generations possess much higher levels of education than older generations, perhaps attributable to improved access to educational resources.

3.9 Life expectancy at birth

Bangladesh's population growth has been hovering around 1.1 percent for quite some time, indicating that it is now experiencing a downward trend. The nation has taken significant steps to increase the availability of contraception, which has led to a decrease in the fertility rate, which has decreased to an approximate average of two children per woman in the year 2015. Indicative of the progress that has been made in healthcare is the progressive increase in life expectancy as well as the growth in the average age of the population. The average life expectancy in Bangladesh was 73.7 years in 2022, representing a rise of 2.43% when compared to the previous year, 2020. A life expectancy of 68.64 years was recorded in Bangladesh in the year 2010, which is an increase from the 56 years recorded in the year 1990.

This figure displays life expectancy at birth in Bangladesh across various years, categorized by women, men, and the total population. Life expectancy in Bangladesh rose from 55.99 years in 1990 to 73.7 years in 2022, indicating notable advancements in healthcare, living conditions, and overall development.

Figure 11: Bangladesh - Life expectancy at birth



Sources: Bangladesh 2024. (n.d.). countryeconomy.com

Historically, women's life expectancy was lower than that of men; however, it has shown a consistent increase, exceeding 76 years in 2022. In 1990, the life expectancy was 54.76 years, which increased to 76.01 years by 2022, reflecting advancements in maternal health and health services aimed at women. Life expectancy in Bangladesh rose from 55.99 years in 1990 to 73.7 years in 2022, reflecting significant advancements in healthcare, nutrition, and living conditions. The most notable increase has been observed among women, and overall, the population is experiencing greater longevity, indicative of improvements in healthcare services and socio-economic development within the country.

3.10 Social Safety-Net Programmes

To improve the economic and social conditions of the very

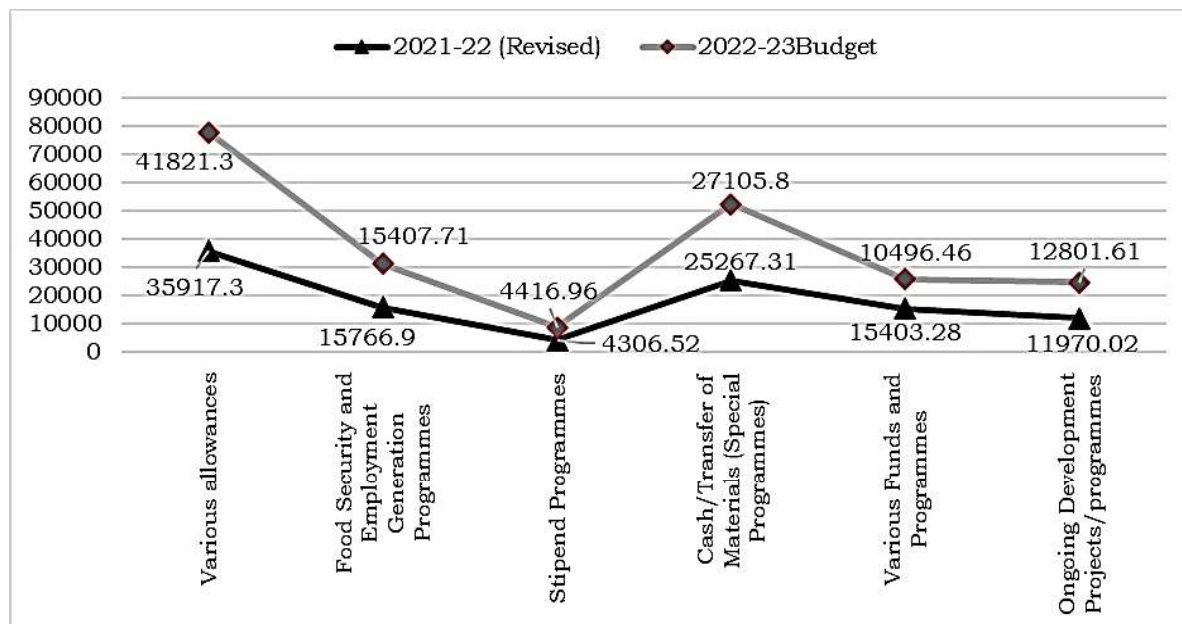
poor, the government has kept the social safety net programs running. Notable social security programs include the following:

- Programs for the old aged;
- Programs for widows and women who have lost husbands;
- Programs for people with disabilities;
- A stipend for students with disabilities to Help Defray the cost of higher education;
- The Hijra and Bede communities are experiencing changes in their living standards.

The goal of the development projects is to raise living standards in impoverished areas. People who engage in begging can find rehabilitation and other job options through the Disability Identification Survey Program. Cancer, cirrhosis of the kidneys and liver, paralysis due to a stroke, congenital heart disease, and thalassemia sufferers' access to financial assistance programs a program that helps tea workers live better lives. In the fiscal year 2022-23, a total of Tk (Figure 12). 1,13,576 crores would be set aside for social safety net activities. The allocation for the same fiscal year is 16.75% of the budget and 2.55% of GDP.

The purpose of this figure, which is labelled 'Allocation Pattern of Social Safety-Net Programmes and Social Empowerment', is to give a comparison of the budget allocations for various programmes in Bangladesh for the fiscal years 2021-22 (revised) and 2022-23 (budget). Allowances, food security, education stipends, direct cash transfers, and development projects are some of the social safety nets and social empowerment programmes that are the emphasis of these programmes. With considerable increases in allocations for allowances, direct payments, and development projects, the budget for 2022-23 demonstrates a continuous focus on social safety-net programmes.

Figure 12: Social Empowerment and the Allocation Pattern of Social Safety-Net Programs



Source: (Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, n.d.)

This suggests that social welfare and national development are a priority for the government. On the other hand, certain decreases, such as those reported under “Various Funds and Programmes,” may indicate a change in the focus of the budget towards programmes that are more direct or have a greater impact.

3.11 Community Level Development

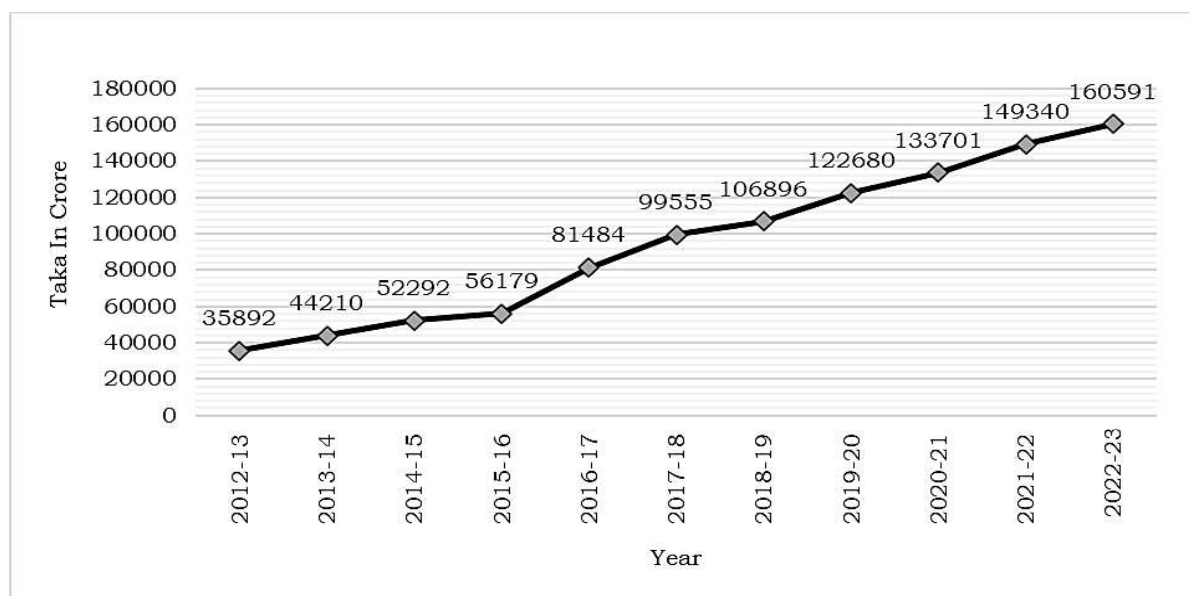
The genuine prosperity of a nation resides in its populace. The basic objective of development is to create an environment that enables individuals to lead a long, healthy, and inventive life. Human progress may be precisely defined as the methodical enhancement of choices and the creation of opportunities for all persons. Human growth is defined as the advancement of persons, intended for their own advantage and propelled by their own agency.

The Human development framework has established a composite indicator called the Human Development indicator (HDI) to assess advancements in essential facets of human development. The notion includes three essential features of human development:

- Life expectancy at birth quantifies the duration of a person's life, free from illness or disability.
- The measurement is derived from the mean years of education and the projected years of education.
- Gross national income per capita is an indicator that assesses a satisfactory level of living standards. The theoretical upper limit of the HDI is 1.0.

Over the course of its history, Bangladesh has demonstrated great progress in terms of both economic and human development, as demonstrated by the Human Development Index (HDI). Between the years 1990 and 2019, Bangladesh's Human Development Index (HDI) had a substantial improvement, increasing from 0.394 to 0.632. This reflects an increase of around three-fifths. China is now in the lead, but Bangladesh is also among the top five countries that have achieved considerable progress in terms of the biggest absolute improvements in the HDI score throughout that period. There are five countries that have made significant progress. Over the course of the last three decades, Bangladesh has moved up from the category of having a low level of human development to the category of having a medium level of human development (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Government Allocation in the Social Sector of Selected Ministries



Sources: Bangladesh Economic Review, 2023

The figure illustrates the government's allocations to the social sector of specific ministries in Bangladesh from the fiscal year 2012-13 to 2022-23. The allocations are expressed in crore taka (Tk.) and exhibit a consistent increase over time, which is indicative of the government's increasing emphasis on social sector investments, which typically encompass sectors such as education, health, and social welfare. Over the past decade, the government of Bangladesh has consistently and considerably increased its allocations to the social sector, which is indicative of a strong emphasis on the enhancement of health, education, and social welfare. The government's concerted effort to resolve critical social sector requirements during the middle years (2015-2017) is indicated by the significant increase. The sustained expansion, which exceeded Tk. 160,591 crore in 2022-23, underscores the significance of social investment in Bangladesh's long-term development strategy.

3.12 Development of Health and Family Welfare

By placing an emphasis on life and nourishment, the government is making concerted efforts to combat the worldwide coronavirus pandemic and to lessen the economic burden of the epidemic. By encouraging the growth of the health, nutrition, and population sectors, the government has expanded its efforts to ensure that all residents have access to healthcare that is both of high quality and low cost. This is very necessary to cultivate a population that is robust, healthy, and capable of working successfully (Table 4).

Table 4: The trend of health indicators of Bangladesh. from 2014 to 2021

Indicator	Level	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021*
Crude Birth Rate (Per 1000 population)	National	18.9	18.7	18.3	18.1	18.8
	Urban	17.2	16.1	16.1	15.3	16.4
	Rural	19.4	20.9	20.1	20.4	19.5
Crude Death Rate (Per 1000 population)	National	5.2	5.1	5	5.1	5.7
	Urban	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.9	4.8
	Rural	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.2	6.0
Average Age at Marriage	Male	24.9	25.2	25.5	25.2	25.3
	Female	18.3	18.4	18.9	19.1	19.1
	Both	70.7	71.6	72.3	72.8	72.3
Life Expectancy at Birth (year)	Male	69.1	70.3	70.8	71.2	70.6
	Female	71.6	72.9	73.8	74.5	74.1
Infant Mortality Rate (<1 year) (Per 1000 live births)	National	30	28	22	21	22
	Urban	26	28	21	20	21
	Rural	31	28	22	21	22
Maternal mortality Ratio (Per lakh live births)	National	193	178	169	163	168
	Urban	182	160	132	138	140
	Rural	196	190	193	178	176

Total Fertility Rate (per women, 15-49 years of age)	National	2.11	2.1	2.05	2.04	2.05
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Source: Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics report-2021

The health sector has made significant progress as a result of a diverse array of activities. Due to the government's prompt implementation of its intervention, substantial progress has been made in the reduction of fertility and mortality rates, the improvement of average life expectancy, and the reduction of neonatal and maternal mortality rates. The government's health and social protection programs have significantly improved the quality and expansion of health services, leading to significant success in the control of infectious diseases. In addition, the expansion of women's education and the development of the food security system have resulted in an increase in life expectancy and an improvement in the standard of living of the populace.

3.13 Programmes for Women and Child Development

With a view toward promoting optimum child development, maternity benefits and allowances for working and nursing moms have been created to address the health and nutritional needs of economically impoverished pregnant women in both rural and urban settings. Microcredit initiatives have also been developed to let women seek opportunities for self-employment. With 47 District Sadar Hospitals, 20 Upazilas Health Complexes, and 13 One-Stop Crisis Cells at Government Medical College Hospitals among 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) put up by the Multisectoral Program across the nation, these OCCs strive to support children and women who have been persecuted. As of February 2023, the One-Stop Crisis Centers and One-Stop Crisis Cell have seen 174,209 women and

children overall suffering abuse generally. Initiatives aiming at empowering disadvantaged, vulnerable, undereducated women have included income-generating and IT training.

Every year the government is presenting to the national parliament a gender budget report explaining the policies and strategies for advancement of women, activities of many ministries/divisions impacting women development, KPIs linked with female welfare attained, major achievement for uplifting women's rights, allocation for women development etc. Analysis of women's development of 43 Ministries/ Divisions is included in the 2018-19 fiscal year gender budget report. The following table 5 shows budgetary estimates of gender budget reports from 2010-11 to now.

Table 5: Information on Gender Budget Report

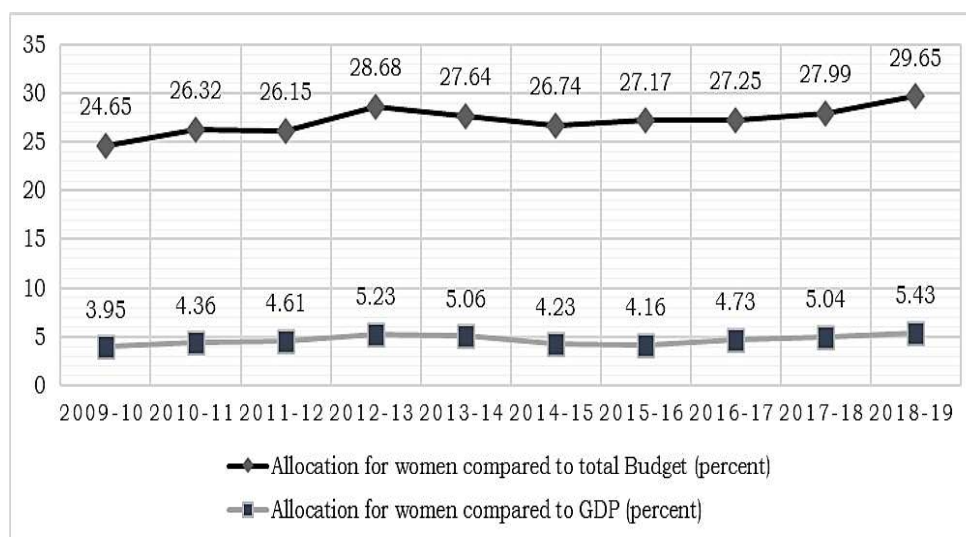
Fiscal Year	Total Budget (crore taka)	Allocation for Women Dev. (crore taka)	Allocation for women compared to total Budget (percent)	Allocation for women compared to GDP (percent)
2010-11	130011	34221	26.32	4.36
2011-12	161213	42154	26.15	4.61
2012-13	189231	54302	28.68	5.23
2013-14	216222	59756	27.64	5.06
2014-15	239668	64087	26.74	4.23
2015-16	264565	71872	27.17	4.16
2016-17	340604	92765	27.25	4.73
2017-18	400266	112019	27.99	5.04
2018-19	464580	137742	29.65	5.43

Source: RCGP Data Base, Finance Division. Figure from 2010-11 to 2016-17 are Revised Estimates, 2017-18 Budget Estimate

This statistic shows Bangladesh's women's development budgets from 2010-11 to 2018-19. The table shows how much of the national budget and GDP go to women's development. The women's

development budget rose to 137,742 crore takas in 2018-19, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of GDP. Women's development allocation increased from 34,221 crore in 2010-11 to 137,742 crore in 2018-19, and its share of the budget increased from 26.32% to 29.65%. Bangladesh is boosting its budgetary allocations for women's development in the national budget and as a percentage of GDP. The emerging trends reflect nationwide gender inclusiveness and empowerment efforts. As a percentage of the overall budget, the portion of the budget that is allocated to the advancement of women has also grown, reaching 29.65 percent in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. An increased financial commitment is demonstrated by the fact that the proportion of GDP that is allocated for the development of women has increased from 3.95 percent in 2009-2010 to 5.43 percent in 2018-2019. The number of ministries and divisions that are active in gender budgeting has increased from four in 2009-2010 to forty-three in 2018-2019, which reflects a larger focus on gender equality on the part of the government.

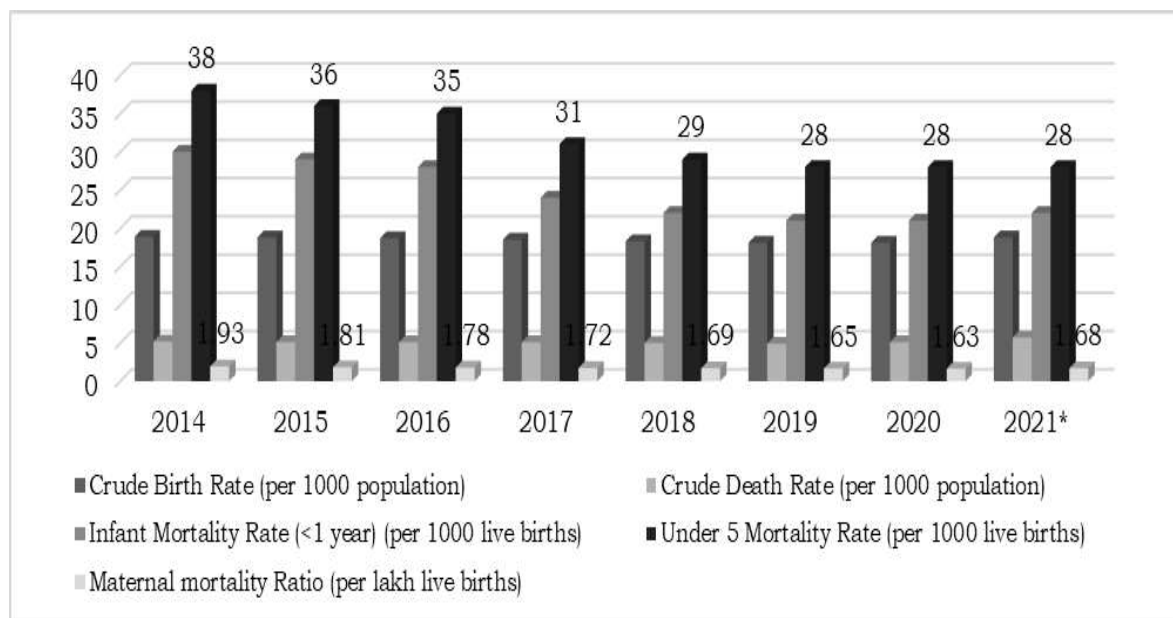
Figure 14: Budget allocation for women compared to total budget and GDP



Source: RCGP Data Base, Finance Division. Figure from 2009-10 to 2016-17 are Revised Estimates, 2017-18 Budget Estimate

This figure 15 illustrates important health indicators, monitoring trends in birth and death rates, as well as infant, under-five, and maternal mortality in Bangladesh over time. The crude birth rate experienced a minor decline from 18.9 in 2014 to 18.1 in 2019, suggesting a gradual reduction in birth rates. Nevertheless, a slight increase to 18.8 was observed in 2021. The crude death rate exhibits a decrease from 5.2 in 2014 to 4.9 in 2018. There is a significant increase to 5.7 by 2021, likely attributable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global mortality rates. Infant mortality has significantly decreased from 30 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 21 in 2019, with a minor increase to 22 noted in 2021. This suggests advancements in child healthcare over time, although the pandemic may have marginally disrupted this progress. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has shown a consistent improvement, decreasing from 1.93 per lakh live births in 2014 to 1.63 in 2020.

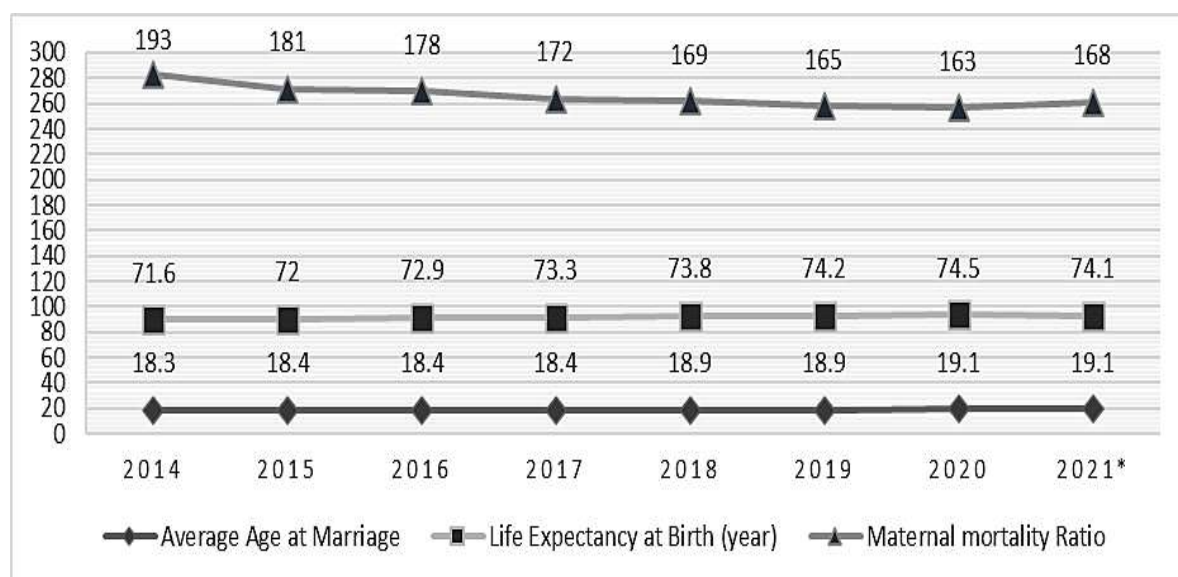
Figure 15: Children and Maternal health trends from 2014-2021



Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics-2021

A slight increase to 1.68 is observed in 2021, likely attributable to disruptions in maternal healthcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2014 and 2021, notable progress has been achieved in decreasing infant and under-5 mortality rates, along with the maternal mortality ratio. This indicates improved healthcare services, especially in maternal and child health. Overall, the trends indicate positive long-term advancements in children and maternal health; however, the setbacks noted in 2020-2021 underscore the challenges introduced by the pandemic.

Figure 16: Bangladesh - Women Development Index



Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics-2021

The average marriage age for Bangladeshi women rose from 18.3 in 2014 to 18.9 in 2018.

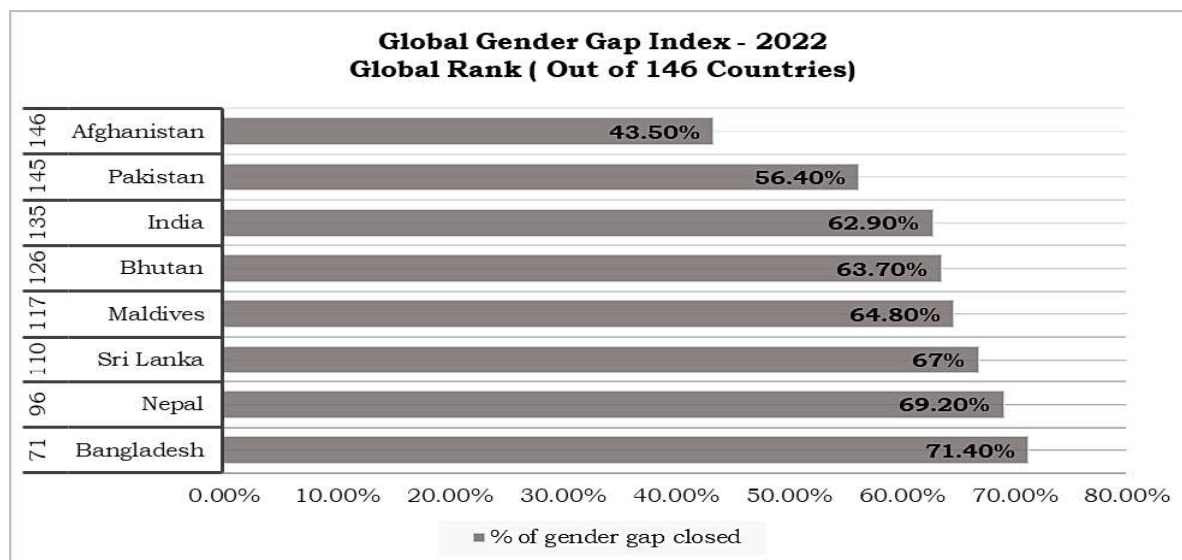
This indicates favorable social improvements, since a higher average marriage age is linked to improved education and health for women. Over five years, women's life expectancy climbed from 71.6 years in 2014 to 73.8 years in 2018. This indicates better healthcare, nutrition, and quality of life for Bangladeshi women. The

maternal mortality ratio dropped from 193 in 2014 to 169 in 2018. This shows improved maternal healthcare services, access to medical treatment throughout pregnancy, and maternal health awareness. The Women Development Index indicators show Bangladeshi women's well-being improving. More women are living longer and marrying later, which signals better health and living circumstances for women. The decrease in maternal mortality shows improvements in maternal healthcare and safety.

3.14 Gender Development

In terms of human development, Bangladesh, like any other country, goes through the experience of gender disparities. Although gender parity has been attained throughout the elementary and secondary levels of enrollment, girls continue to have higher rates of dropping out of school compared to boys. In 2017, the percentage of girls who were enrolled in tertiary education was 17 percent, while the percentage of boys who were enrolled in the same level of study was 24 percent overall (figure 17).

Figure 17: Gender parity in South Asia (% of gender gap closed)



Source: World Economic Forum, 2022

The percentage of women who are actively participating in the work force in this nation is just 36 percent, which is much lower than the rate of 81 percent that is observed among men. Women made up around 12 percent of the workforce in senior and middle management roles in the year 2017.

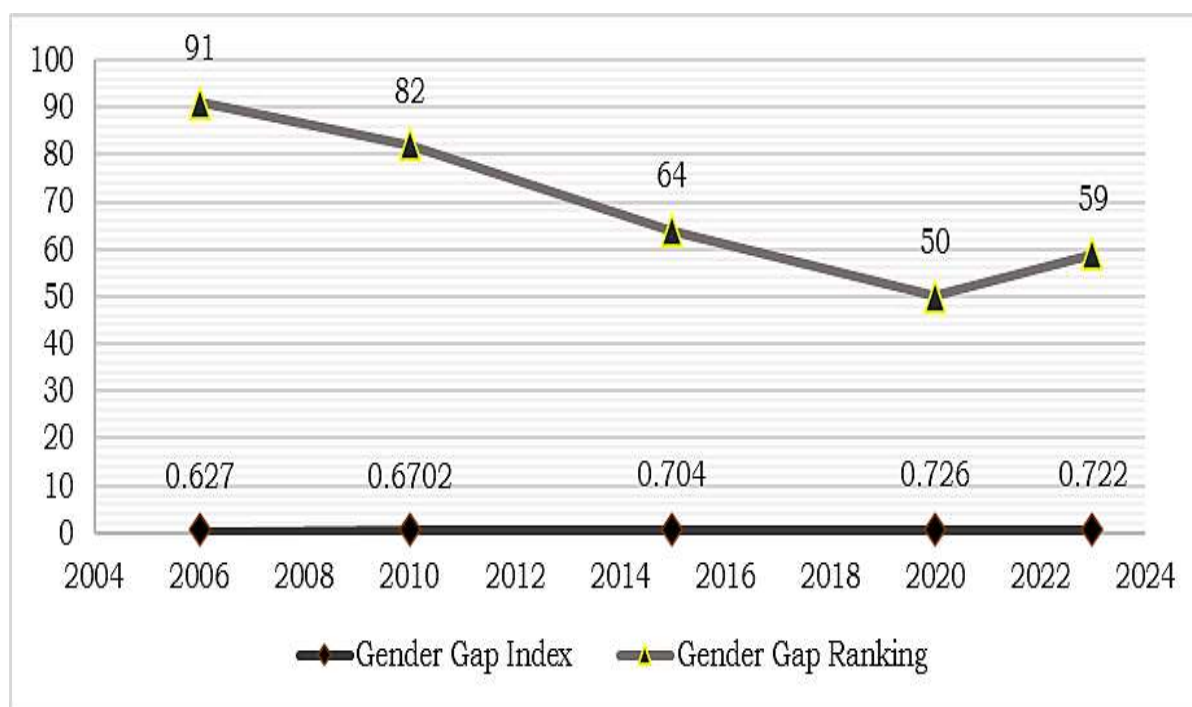
This figure displays South Asian gender parity and the Global Gender Gap Index's closed gender gap percentage. The rankings show South Asian nations out of 146 worldwide. Bangladesh leads South Asia in gender parity, closing 71.40% of its gap. This puts the country in a good position worldwide. India decreased its gender gap 62.90% to rank sixth in the region and 135, globally. Pakistan ranks near the bottom internationally, reducing just 56.40% of its gender gap, and Afghanistan ranks worst globally and in South Asia, closing only 43.50%. Afghanistan trails regionally and worldwide in gender parity, whereas Bangladesh leads South Asia (Figure 18).

The Global Gender Gap Index for Bangladesh, which tracks

the country's efforts to reduce the gender gap from 2006 to 2023, is displayed in this figure. The Gender Gap Index tracks inequalities between the sexes in four critical areas: economic empowerment, health and survival, educational achievement, and economic engagement and opportunity.

With a Gender Gap Index of 0.722 in 2023, up from 0.627 in 2006, gender parity in Bangladesh has been steadily improving throughout the years. Additionally, the country's worldwide position has been steadily rising, except for 2023, when it dropped little from 2020. In spite of ups and downs, Bangladesh is still one of South Asia's top performers in terms of gender equality.

Figure 18: Bangladesh - Global Gender Gap Index



Sources: Bangladesh 2024. (n.d.). countryeconomy.com

3.15 Women Empowerment

The contributions of women in Bangladesh are substantial across various domains, including the economy, politics, culture, judiciary, medical professions, administration, diplomacy, armed forces, law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, research, and technology, both nationally and internationally.

- Bangladesh has an 80% literacy rate, and women's literacy has been rising.
- In 1971, few women graduated from universities and colleges. Today, millions do.
- About 5,000 female doctors graduate annually. Social equality has been granted to women.
- Over 25% of Bangladesh's GDP comes from SMEs, and 10 million women are entrepreneurs or work for them. Over 40% of Bangladeshi SMEs are run by women, according to the ILO.
- Bangladeshi women are proud entrepreneurs. Even in distant rural places, women are earning and supporting their families, empowering them in society. They make and implement decisions more in the family and beyond.
- Bangladesh has about 15 lakh public sector workers, 4 lakhs of them are women. It was worse in 1971, when 30% of Bangladeshi governmental personnel were like this.
- About 80% of Bangladesh's garment factory workers are women. Again, Bangladesh is the world's second-largest RMG exporter and its greatest foreign currency earner, demonstrating women's economic contribution.

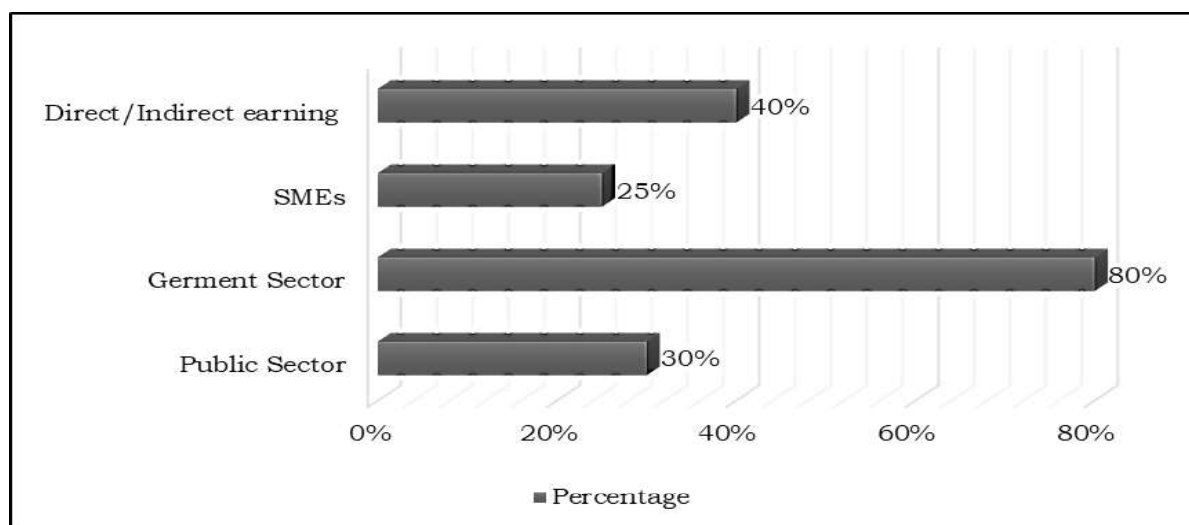
The figure presents a detailed analysis of women's empowerment in Bangladesh across various sectors, indicating both the frequency of women's involvement and the percentage contribution from each sector.

Thirty percent of women's empowerment is ascribed to the public sector. The garment sector accounts for 80% of the contribution. This underscores the significant role of the garment industry in women's employment and empowerment.

Nevertheless, the table does not provide a specific frequency figure. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 25% of women's empowerment, reflecting a substantial involvement of women in entrepreneurial and small business endeavors.

Forty percent of women are empowered via direct or indirect earning opportunities, likely encompassing informal and freelance work sectors. The garment sector significantly contributes to women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh, representing 80% of the sector's overall contribution, though the frequency remains unspecified.

Figure 19: Women Empowerment (Sector Wise Contribution)



Source: (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, n.d.)

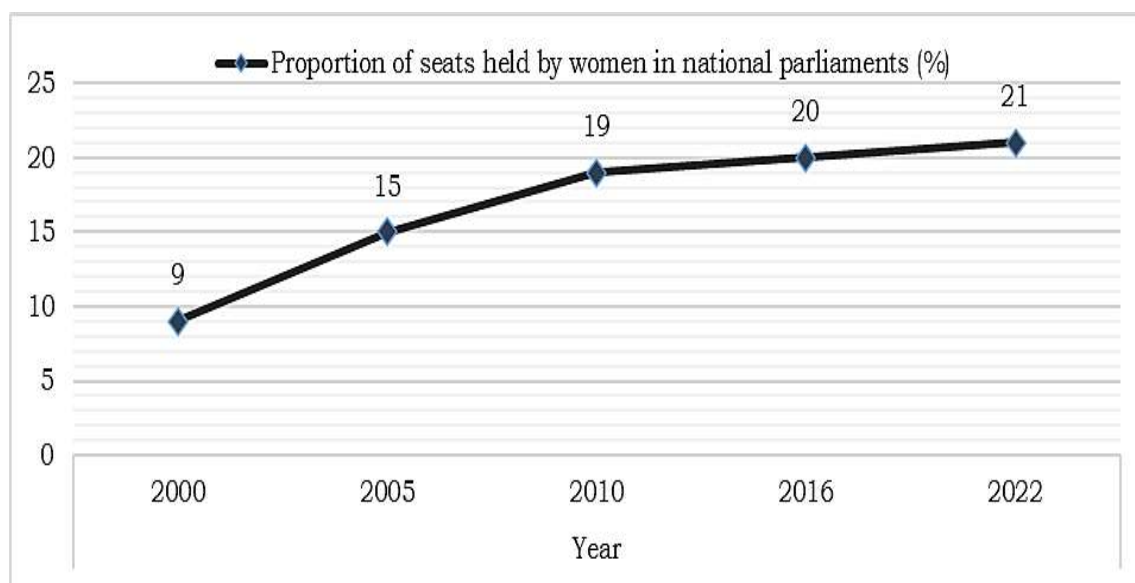
Bangladesh has received esteemed awards like the UNESCO Champion of the Earth Prize, Peace Tree Award, UN MDG Award, South-South Award, Agent of Change Award, and Planet 50-50

Award, all of which acknowledge and affirm the nation's significant accomplishments. Bangladesh is among the top 10 countries worldwide for women's empowerment. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Bangladesh has the 7th position worldwide in women's political empowerment (Figure 20).

This figure illustrates the evolution of the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments from 2000 to 2022.

The proportion of parliamentary seats held by women has steadily increased over the past two decades, nearly tripling from 9% in 2000 to 21% in 2022. This data emphasizes the consistent but gradual endeavors to enhance gender equality in political representation within national institutions.

Figure 20: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)



Source: World bank Datasheet

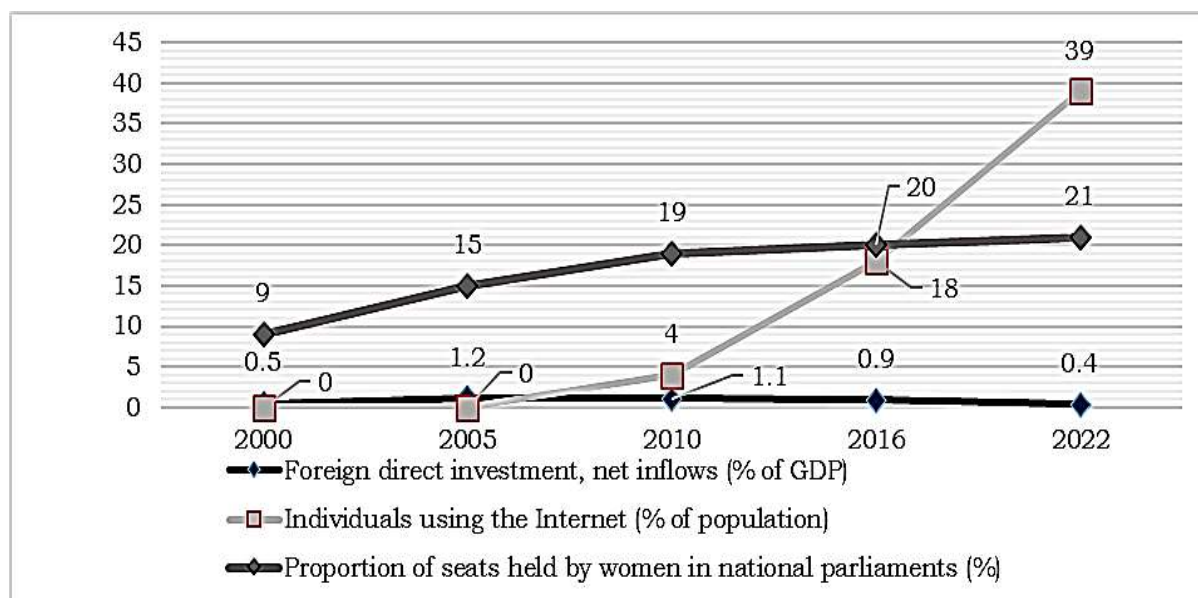
3.16 Institutional Development

Economic growth and the enhancement of living standards have been facilitated by investments in infrastructure, such as

transportation, telecommunications, and energy. FDI inflows have been on the rise, even though they have been comparatively modest in the past. In order to attract additional investment, the government has been actively promoting sectors such as manufacturing, energy, and information technology.

Figure 21 displays several measures of institutional growth in Bangladesh from 2000 to 2022, including fluctuations in foreign direct investment (FDI), internet utilization, and women's political engagement.

Figure 21: Institutional Development of Bangladesh



Sources: Bangladesh 2024, countryeconomy.com

Bangladesh had a rise in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the early 2000s, reaching its zenith in 2005; however, this trend has consistently diminished, with the latest figure (2022) at 0.4% of GDP. Internet penetration in Bangladesh has significantly increased during the past twenty years, notably from 2010 to 2022, attaining 39% of the population by 2022. The representation of women in parliament

has been rising, but at a more gradual rate than technological progress.

3.17 Private Sector Development

The private sector plays a crucial role in Bangladesh's economic development by generating income, creating employment opportunities, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), and fostering technological innovation. The private sector has actively supported exports from designated zones, invested in energy and transportation infrastructure development, and increased agricultural output through research and development. This sector creates employment opportunities for millions of Bangladeshis and contributes to national economic development. Since independence, the industry has gained from government support through liberalization and privatization programs, establishing conditions conducive to the private sector. Bangladesh's private sector has experienced rapid growth, increasing from approximately 21,608 in 1971 to over 280,989 by March 2023.

The Government of Bangladesh has engaged the private sector in its development initiatives by establishing industry-specific authorities. These include the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) to facilitate private sector investment, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) to enhance exports, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) to expedite foreign direct investment (FDI), the SME Foundation to assist small enterprises, and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Authority to encourage private involvement in infrastructure and public service delivery.

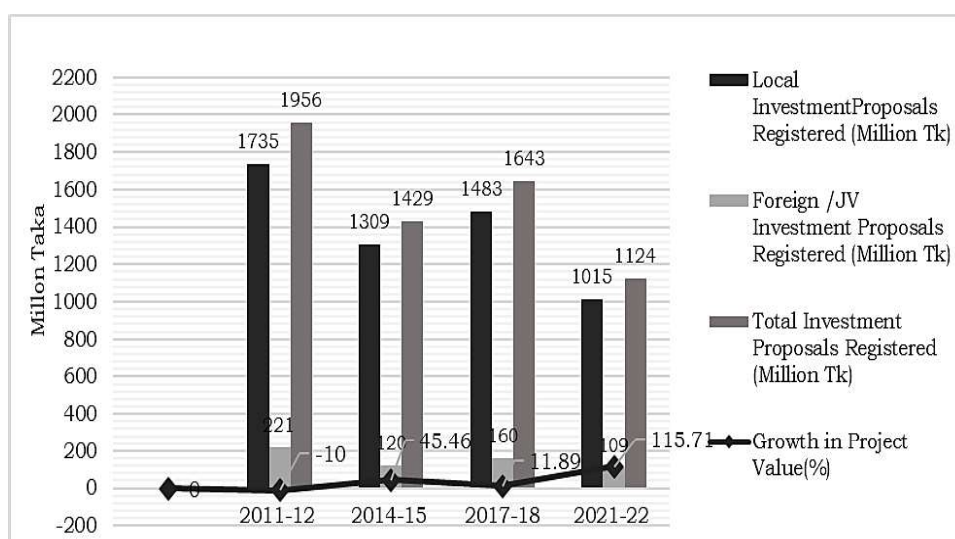
BIDA recorded 672 projects in the industrial, energy, and infrastructure sectors, with a total projected investment of TK. 7,56,836 million for FY 2022–23 (July–February). As of February 2023, BEPZA has an investment of US\$255.81 million, with 452

enterprises currently operational and 93 companies in the development phase. BEZA has reported an investment of US\$26 billion in economic zones, which is expected to create 50,000 job opportunities. Currently, 38 companies are in commercial production, with 70 sectors under development.

The One Stop Service (OSS) of BIDA is an online facilitation mechanism that consolidates relevant government agencies to deliver efficient and transparent services at both domestic and international levels. This automated, paperless, and cashless approach enables both local and foreign investors to obtain the requisite licenses and permissions for investment in the country.

Figure 22 shows BIDA-registered private investment proposals from various fiscal years. It compares local and foreign/JV investment bids and displays overall investment and project value increase. Domestic investors-maintained interest in local investment projects, which increased in value. Local investments have been more steady than international investments, notably in 2021-22, when investment proposals spiked.

Figure 22: Private Investment Proposals Listed in BIDA



Source: Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA, 2023)

3.18 Infrastructural Development in Bangladesh

In discussions about sustainable development, large-scale infrastructure initiatives like this are often overlooked. Countries like Bangladesh, which are extremely susceptible to climate-related disasters like floods and cyclones, find this exclusion even more pressing considering the problems brought about by climate change. Therefore, these infrastructure development projects are primarily designed with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind.

To direct investments in infrastructure asset protection, connection improvement, and road safety, policy and planning tools in the road sector are crucial. A number of government-sponsored initiatives are also underway to upgrade and expand the country's telecommunications network and infrastructure. The vital roles played by transportation, energy, water supply, sanitation, buildings, embankments, and cyclone shelters in Bangladesh's advancement are a major motivator for the country's heavy investment in infrastructure development. Building new roads inside villages, improving heavily travelled highways to dual lanes, and maintaining existing road networks sustainably are all part of the current policy pertaining to rural communication infrastructure. There are about 350,396 meters of bridges and culverts that the government has built or rebuilt those cross streams and river.

The last decade has seen the creation of 2,154 growth centers, 1,438 Union Parishad complexes, 346 Upazilas complexes, and 1,762 cyclone shelter centers. These units represent the smallest electoral units in Bangladesh. These projects to improve rural infrastructure have become important engines of growth for the rural economy of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has set out on a grand adventure, building some of its largest development projects to this point. Affordable housing, public works, energy, and communication systems are all a part of these projects. Some of the

most noteworthy improvements to Bangladesh's infrastructure are:

Padma Multipurpose Bridge

- At present, it is considered the most challenging megaproject currently underway in the nation.
- The Padma multifunctional bridge connects the southwestern region with the northern and eastern regions by crossing the Ganges River. The structure is intended to accommodate a single-track railway on the lower level and a four-lane roadway on the upper level.
- The local economy is anticipated to be improved by 1.2% as a result of the Padma multipurpose bridge.

Dhaka Elevated Expressway

- Dhaka is a prime example of infrastructure failure due to its short landmass and rapid population expansion. The city's terrible traffic condition was described in a 2016 New York Times story as "traffic in an extreme state of chaos so persistent and everlasting that it has converted the city's establishing principle."
- A total of 1,4 billion projects were announced by the prime minister of the country in the spring of 2011 with a three-year deadline for their completion. However, 2021 did not go according to plan. The elevated freeway is not yet finished. But there's still a chance it can be finished by 2022.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel

The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel, often called the Karnaphuli Tunnel, will be built in Chattogram in the year

2022, making it the first river tunnel in Asia. The underground road will be 2.06 kilometers in length and approximately 34 feet wide. With the bulk of the financing coming from the Exim Bank of China, experts predict a total cost of around \$1.1 billion.

Roop-pur Nuclear Power Plant

Rooppur, the nation's inaugural nuclear power facility, is situated approximately 87 miles west of Dhaka. Rosatom State Atomic Energy Cooperation: The energy-critical components are being constructed by a Russian conglomerate, while the remaining components are being managed by local developers. Officials anticipate that the inauguration of two units in 2023 will alleviate the situation.

Dhaka Metro Rail

It is anticipated that the installation of the Dhaka metro rail system would effectively reduce the amount of traffic congestion in Dhaka by providing a capacity to accommodate more than sixty thousand people per hour. There is a strategic plan in place to extend to nearby towns such as Savar, Tongi, and Vulta by the year 2035 with the implementation of this strategy.

Rampal Power Plant

With a capacity of 1300 megawatts (MW) and a value of \$1.6 billion, the Rampal power station is a coal-fired power plant on the Indian subcontinent. There is a significant increase in the amount of electricity that is being demanded in the southern area.

Conclusion

Bangladesh emerged in 1971 after a nine-month Liberation War. Bangladesh has achieved notable advancements in human development over the last 50 years; nonetheless, this progress has been uneven across different dimensions, such as socio-economic groups, regions, gender, and the rural-urban divide. Despite significant advancements in human development, challenges remain as the nation approaches the next 50 years. Substantial human deprivations continue across multiple dimensions. Some challenges are persistent, including poverty and gender inequality; others are intensifying, such as inequalities and climate change; and some are undeniably new, such as human security and the COVID-19 pandemic. Bangladesh will encounter human development challenges due to the global context. In the future, it is essential to address these issues.

Bangladesh is categorized as a developing economy. Approximately one-third of Bangladesh's population of 150 million lives in extreme poverty. The microcredit and garment sectors have significantly contributed to the country's GDP growth rates, which have surpassed 5 percent over the last decade. Despite the prevailing global climate of increased uncertainty, Bangladesh possesses a strong historical record of growth and development. In the last twenty years, rapid economic development has been supported by a stable macroeconomic environment, strong remittance inflows, significant ready-made garment (RMG) exports, and a favourable demographic dividend. Furthermore, human development outcomes improved in several areas, such as increased literacy rates, reduced neonatal mortality and stunting, and improved access to electricity.

The significant human development achievements of Bangladesh were the result of deliberate efforts over the years. This achievement resulted from a combination of factors. Identifying at

least five is straightforward. The primary advantage is improved access to essential social services, resulting in better human development outcomes. The maternal mortality rate has declined due to factors including the presence of skilled birth attendants, access to antenatal care, facility-based deliveries, postnatal care for mothers, and the fulfillment of unmet family planning needs. Improved access to women's education and employment has facilitated the reduction of neonatal and child mortality.

Policies that promote human development constitute the second factor. The increase in life expectancy at birth is attributable to advancements in several key areas, such as decreased maternal, infant, and under-five mortality rates, enhanced child nutritional status, and higher vaccination rates. Proactive policies in infant immunization, contraceptive adoption, and oral rehydration saline (ORS) led to improved health outcomes. The government's introduction of various policies, such as the extension of free and compulsory primary education to grade eight in 2016 and the establishment of honorarium programs at both primary and secondary levels, has led to an increase in school enrollment. Targeted interventions played a crucial role in the swift decrease of poverty in Bangladesh. The National Social Security Strategy addressed the interconnected issues of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization. The third factor is the resilient nature of the population. The expanding economy, bolstered by increased remittances and foreign exchange earnings from garment exports, facilitated significant economic development over the past three decades. The resilience of the populace was a crucial factor in both cases.

The empowerment of women in various domains, including economic, social, and political spheres, has significantly influenced the advancement of human development in Bangladesh. Women have led numerous social movements aimed at preventing early marriage

and advocating for asset ownership, including land rights and family tribunals. Despite the adverse effects of COVID-19 and recent global economic recession, Bangladesh is on track to graduate the LDC status in 2026. Bangladesh has now earned the respect of the international community and considered as one of the promising economies in the world. This is evident from the last few years that Bangladesh has reached a new height in development by almost doubling its GDP growth rate, per capita income and achieving notable success in most aspects of social development.

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