



Conference on
**Recommendations by the Task Force on
Re-Strategising the Economy**

**Session 6:
Social Inequality and Poverty Alleviation**

Tuesday, 25 February 2025, Dhaka

Presentation by

Dr Rumana Huque

Member

Task Force on Re-Strategising the Economy

Organised by



In Collaboration with

Task Force Committee on Re-strategising the Economy and
Mobilising Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development





Reaping the Benefits of Demographic Dividends: Investment in Education (Primary and Secondary Education)

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&

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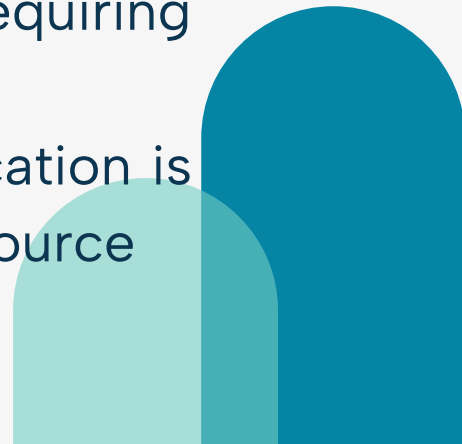
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Background

- Current state of primary, secondary and higher education is less than ideal, fails to meet global standards
 - Skills mismatch between academia and labour market
 - 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) demands digital literacy, ICT knowledge, and analytical thinking, requiring education system reform
 - Investing in primary, secondary and higher education is the key to turn large population into valuable resource
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Key Indicators of Primary Education, 2018–2023

Key Indicators		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gross Enrolment Rate (%)	Boys	110.32	104.49	100.1	105.32	103.16	100.71
	Girls	118.30	114.93	108.9	106.14	118.46	109.83
	All	114.23	109.60	104.9	105.72	110.48	104.53
Net Enrolment Rate (%)	Boys	97.55	97.65	97.37	97.39	97.52	97.68
	Girls	98.16	98.01	98.25	97.44	97.81	97.84
	All	97.85	97.74	97.81	97.42	97.56	97.76
Survival Rate to Grade 5 (%)	Boys	80.93	84.1	83.3	85.25	85.9	85.91
	Girls	87.73	86.1	85.9	87.1	87.8	87.83
	All	83.53	85.2	84.7	86.2	86.25	86.93
Primary Cycle Dropout Rate (%)	Boys	21.4	19.2	19.1	15.05	14.88	14.12
	Girls	15.69	15.7	15.5	13.25	13.19	12.32
	All	18.6	19.9	17.2	14.15	13.95	13.15
Teacher Student Ratio	All	1:37	1:35	1:34	1:35	1:33	1:29

Source: Bangladesh Education Statistics 2023 (BANBEIS).

Key Indicators of Secondary Education, 2018–2023

Key Indicators		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gross Enrolment Rate (%)	Boys	69.56	67.83	67.13	66.40	69.10	66.55
	Girls	82.50	83.36	85.19	83.15	83.20	83.70
	All	75.32	75.62	76.38	75.78	76.10	74.81
Net Enrolment Rate (%)	Boys	64.47	60.11	62.89	63.29	67.60	64.37
	Girls	74.68	74.47	80.62	79.09	80.02	80.62
	All	69.38	67.30	71.89	70.25	73.76	72.20
Dropout Rate (%)	Boys	36.01	35.52	36.80	32.50	33.25	30.46
	Girls	40.19	37.67	34.86	40.29	40.78	34.87
	All	37.62	36.73	35.76	35.66	35.98	32.85
Teacher Student Ratio	All	1:45	1:42	1:41	1:38	1:36	1:34

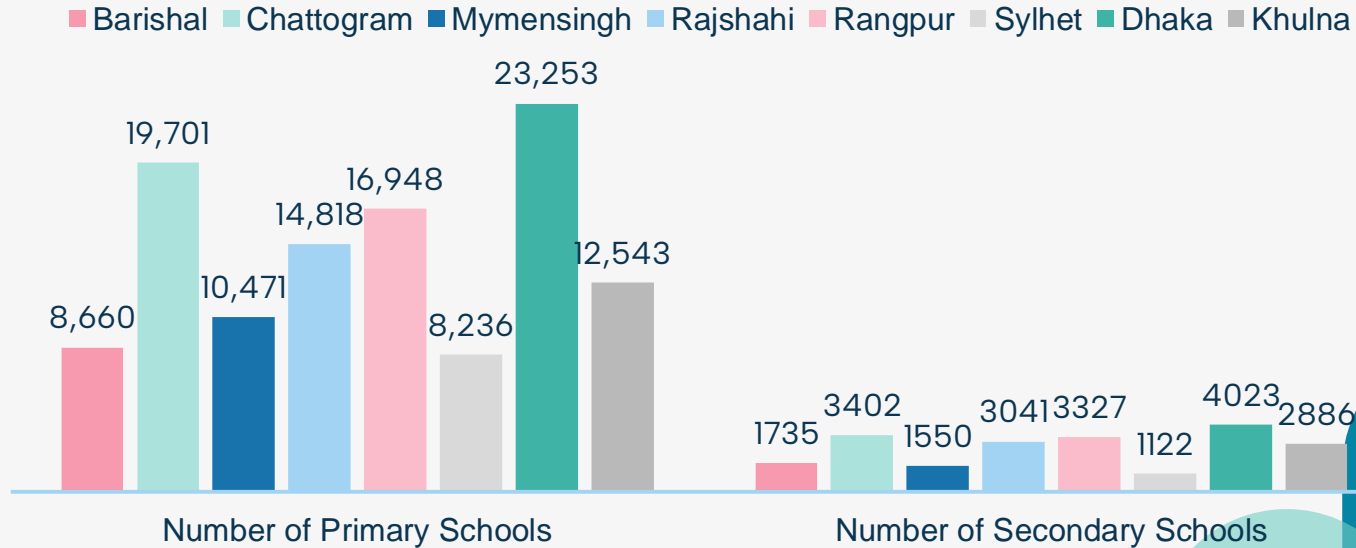
Source: Bangladesh Education Statistics 2023 (BANBEIS).

Key Indicators of Higher Secondary Education, 2018–2023

Key Indicators		Year					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gross Enrolment Rate (%)	Boys	45.35	48.68	49.19	48.50	46.79	56.06
	Girls	42.16	45.87	47.54	49.88	48.71	58.47
	All	43.8	47.32	48.39	48.79	47.70	57.20
Net Enrolment Rate (%)	Boys	36.88	31.72	36.53	41.88	44.26	51.14
	Girls	33.9	36.99	36.97	40.49	44.61	52.74
	All	35.43	35.81	36.40	40.54	44.42	51.90
Dropout Rate (%)	Boys	18.02	17.28	20.57	20.74	21.59	20.51
	Girls	21.21	19.66	22.02	21.56	22.60	22.45
	All	19.63	18.55	21.16	21.14	22.72	21.51
Teacher Student Ratio	All	1:35	1:34	1:36	1:35	1:34	1:38

Source: Bangladesh Education Statistics 2023 (BANBEIS).

Division-wise Distribution of Primary and Secondary Schools in 2023



Source: APSC 2023 and Bangladesh Education Statistics 2023.

Key Challenges of Primary and Secondary Education

Quality of primary and secondary education

- Heterogeneity of education system
- Poor performance of students in some subjects
- Less focus on life skills, extracurricular activities, moral education
- Shortage of Teachers
- Weak teacher-student; teacher-parent relationship
- Dependency on private tuition

Gaps in Infrastructure and Resources

- Inadequate facilities
- Inadequate salary of teachers
- Lack of digital infrastructure
- Midday meal programme

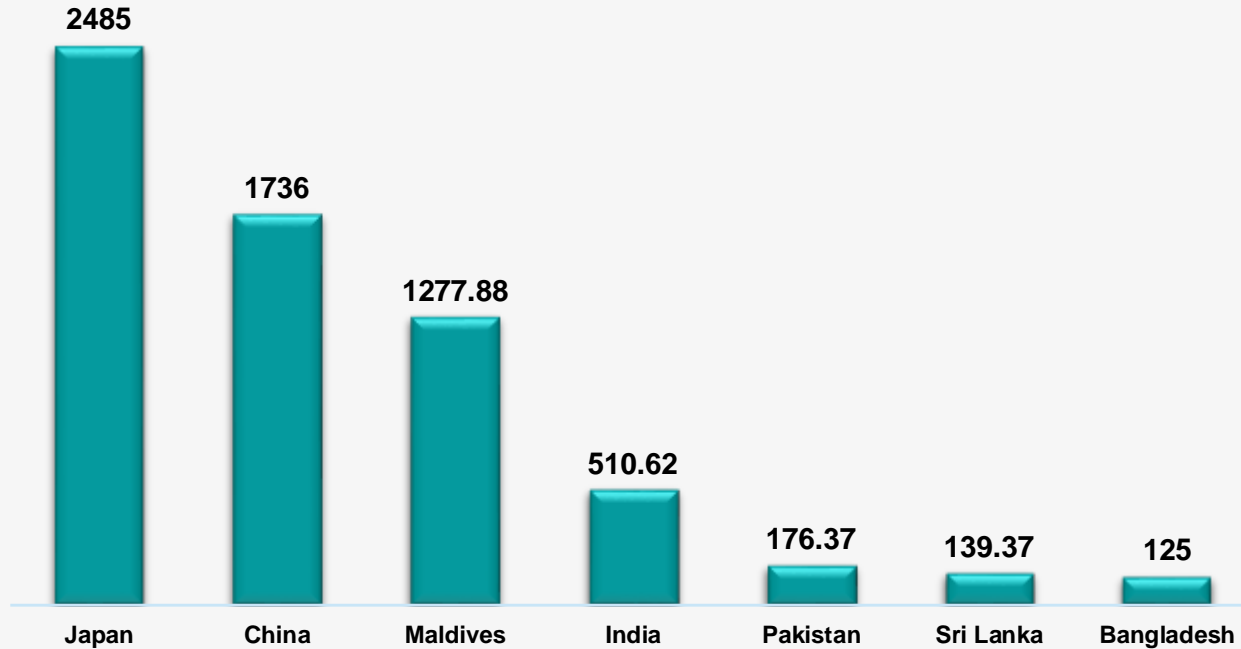
Gender and Social Disparities

- Socioeconomic barriers
- Gender inequality
- Regional disparity

Policy and Governance

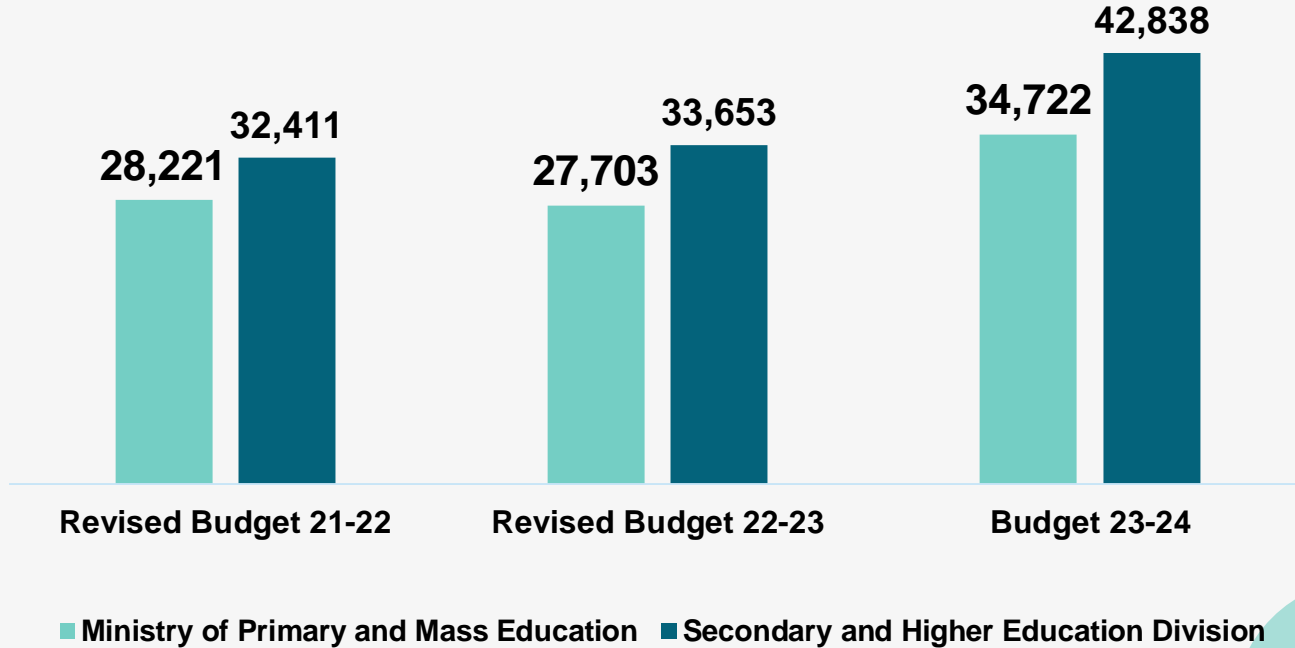
- Inadequate coordination
- Resource Allocation
- Conflicts of interest
- Inadequate monitoring and supervision
- Delay in scholarship disbursement

Minimum salary of secondary school teachers (in dollars)



Source: The Ministry of Education and Finance of the respective country, world population review and IRI

Ministry/Department wise Allocation for Education Sector



Source: Budget in Brief.

Policy Recommendations

Short-term Strategies

- Standardise education systems
- Update teaching and students' assessment methods
- Conduct comprehensive need assessment of facilities
- Allocate additional resources to expand ICT access
- Provide socioeconomic support
- Rationalize engaging teachers in multiple activities
- Availability of technology
- Conduct public expenditure tracking

Medium to long-term strategies

- Improve teacher-student ratios
- Recruit qualified teachers with pay scale
- Strengthen training programme
- Explore public and private sector collaborations to implement training programmes for specific skill deficits of teachers
- Support for students with disabilities
- Address menstrual hygiene challenges
- Enhance monitoring



Thank You!

