

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh is responsible, through its different agencies, to promote youth wellbeing and their development by providing appropriate skill development training, enhancing knowledge and capacities, motivation, giving small loans for establishing small enterprises and businesses, apart from making social awareness.

You know, youth across the globe including that of Bangladesh were in perilous situation amid Covid-19 pandemic as the virus spread out all over the world killing millions of people. In this disastrous situation, it is the youth who came forward without fear to help the helpless in such panic-stricken moments. Many youth organizations in Bangladesh extended their cooperation voluntarily for combating the worsening situation as well as extending their cooperation with the government in the form of making awareness against the Covid-19, distributing food and drink to the people who dare not go out of houses, delivering masks, hand sanitizers, a good number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medicine among mass people as far as possible, joining Covid-19 camp for help vaccination, using social media and apps to spread accurate information about what to do, forming a Platform of Youth through virtual meetings for suggestions regarding doable, conducting research and developing technologies and so on.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh, through its different agencies, creates ability and condition for youth for their overall development and wellbeing. It works as a catalyst providing opportunities of blooming their talents and ensuring youth empowering as a whole. We have a national youth policy-2017 which is the mirror and guideline by which the agencies under the Ministry work for youth community of different diversities and cultures, and safeguards the rights of youth. The Ministry has also formulated some other legal policies and frameworks for promoting youth living across the country, for example, youth organization (Registration & Operation) Act-2015, youth organization (Registration & Operation) Rules-2017, Action Plan for full implementation of national youth policy & Youth Development Index-2021, national youth award policy and so on.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has been carrying out various projects for the development of youth in the form of providing training and credit facilities. The Ministry has training programme from which more than 0.3 million youths are provided with training every year. So far, The Department of Youth Development has provided training to more than 6.5 million youths.

Keeping in line with the SDG (8.6), where the target is set to reduce substantially the number of youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), The MoYS is going

to initiate a big project costing about 400 million US dollar for creating employment opportunities for the NEET youth of the country based on the need of the national and international job market. Two million youths are expected to be benefitted by this project. We will continue to undertake such projects in future as well.

Apart from providing training to the youth, the Youth Ministry, through its agencies, provides credits to the young entrepreneurs. The Ministry also helps them get loans from public and private financial organizations.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh always encourages and inspires good initiatives by the Youth in the form of rewards and incentives. We observe the National Youth Day on 01 November each year. On that day, National Youth Awards are conferred among the youth for their outstanding performance on self-employment, entrepreneurship, voluntary and social activities. Apart from this, we have a Youth Welfare Fund from which we provide awards and financial support for youth organizations and individual youths.

Capital of Bangladesh Dhaka had been working as the OIC Youth Capital-2020. On this occasion, we organized various events and competitions, mostly on virtual platform, among the youth across the world. Due to Covid-19 situation, the events continued and the closing ceremony was held on 30 December 2021. With those events, we reached 2.5 million youths digitally and the number of participants in the competitions were about 8000. Youths from 89 countries, from OIC countries and beyond took part and 178 youths from 36 countries were awarded. It may be mentioned here that many of the youths were awarded for voluntary activities during Covid-19 situation.

The Ministry of Youth always works for the development of Youth and we are always with our younger population because their dreams, their aspirations and activities will shape our future.