Health Sector in Bangladesh

Introduction

- Heath system consists of all organizations ,people and actions whose primary intent is to promote ,restore or maintain health.
- Weak health system is considered one of the main barriers in reaching the health related MDG's.
- Reformation of an underperformed health sector is a must for the country to walk smoothly in the path of development sector
- Reformation of health sector can be done by policy regulation, financing and improvement of the managerial and institutional arrangements of health system.

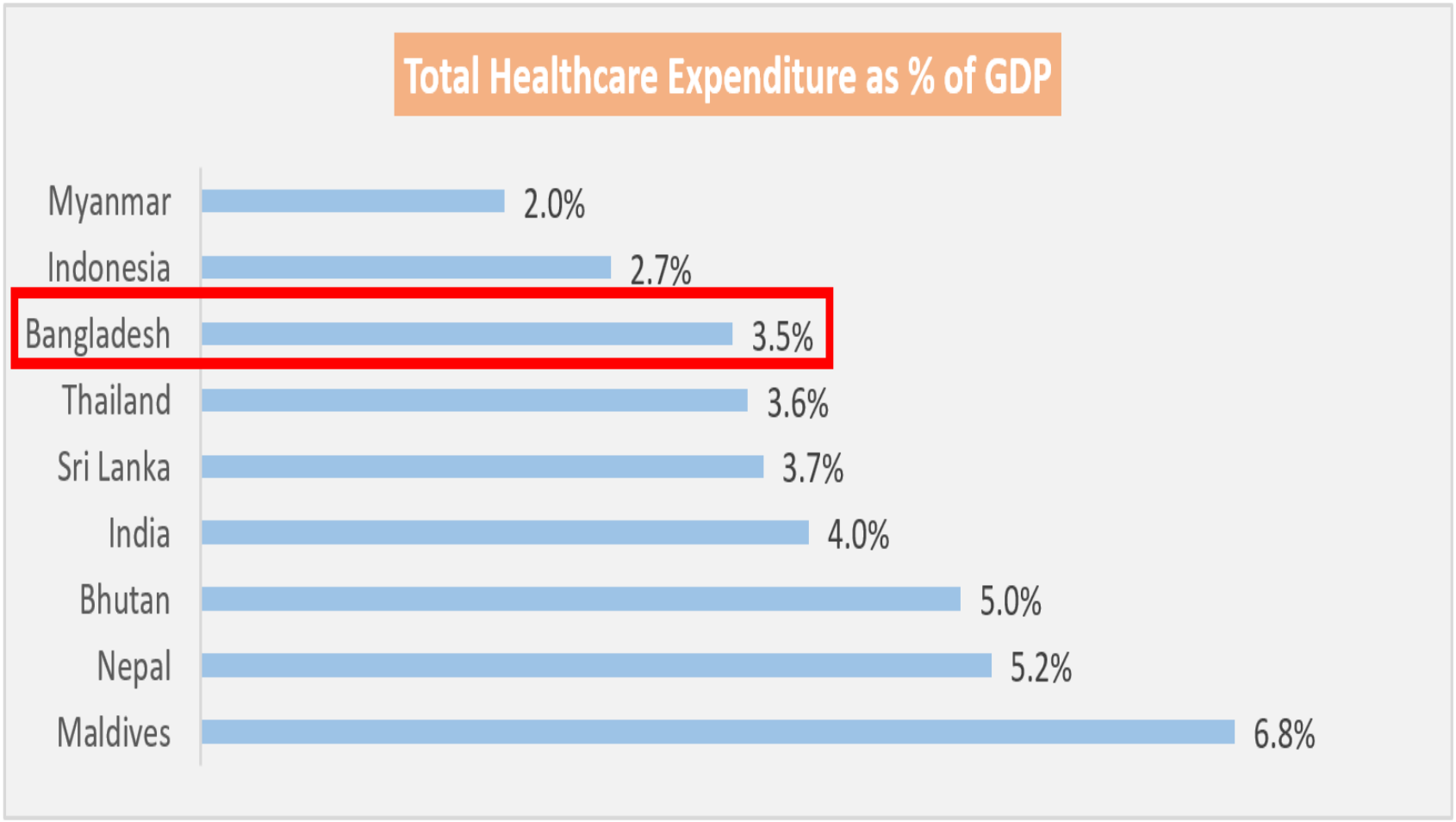
Health System in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated South Asian country with 163 million of people expected to increase around 218 million by 2030.
- The population of the country is relatively young where only 4% of the population is being over 65 years of age or older.
- Bangladesh is currently observing a high rate of urbanization where those urban areas is often under served in basic necessities like sanitation and clean drinking water sources.

- Despite having significant improvement in health related indicators in recent years government of Bangladesh faces major issues concerning it’s capacity to plan and implement a broad range of health services.
- Substantial portion of people especially the poor experiencing a wide range of health related problems linked to socio-economic disparities.
- Bangladesh has low per capita health expenditure as well as a low percentage of GDP spent on health.

- Public sector health care financing accounts for only 34% of the total health care expenditure which is inadequate to meet the demands of population.
- Nearly one fourth of health expenditures of Bangladesh are funded by international aid agencies.

Healthcare expenditure as % of GDP



Source: WHO Database, 2007

Health facilities available in Bangladesh

Type of Hospitals	No. of Hospitals	No. of Beds
District Hospital	53	7,850
General Hospital	11	1,350
Infectious Disease Hospital	5	180
Medical/Dental College Hospital	22	11,960
Specialized Hospitals Affiliated with Post-graduate Institutes	7	2,300
BSMMU (Medical University)	1	1,212
Others	28	2,201
Total	**126**	**27,053**

Source: Bangladesh Health Bulletin, 2013

Current Health Workforce

- Four stakeholders which are the government sector, private sector, Non government organization & donor community are influential in determining policy and technical assistance.
- Bangladesh has low ratios of credentialed professional only 0.5 doctors and 0.2 nurses per 1000 people where the standard is 2.28 per 1000.
- Bangladesh has a shortage of skilled health workers with twice as many doctors and nurses clustered disproportionately in urban areas.

Different type of health care providers

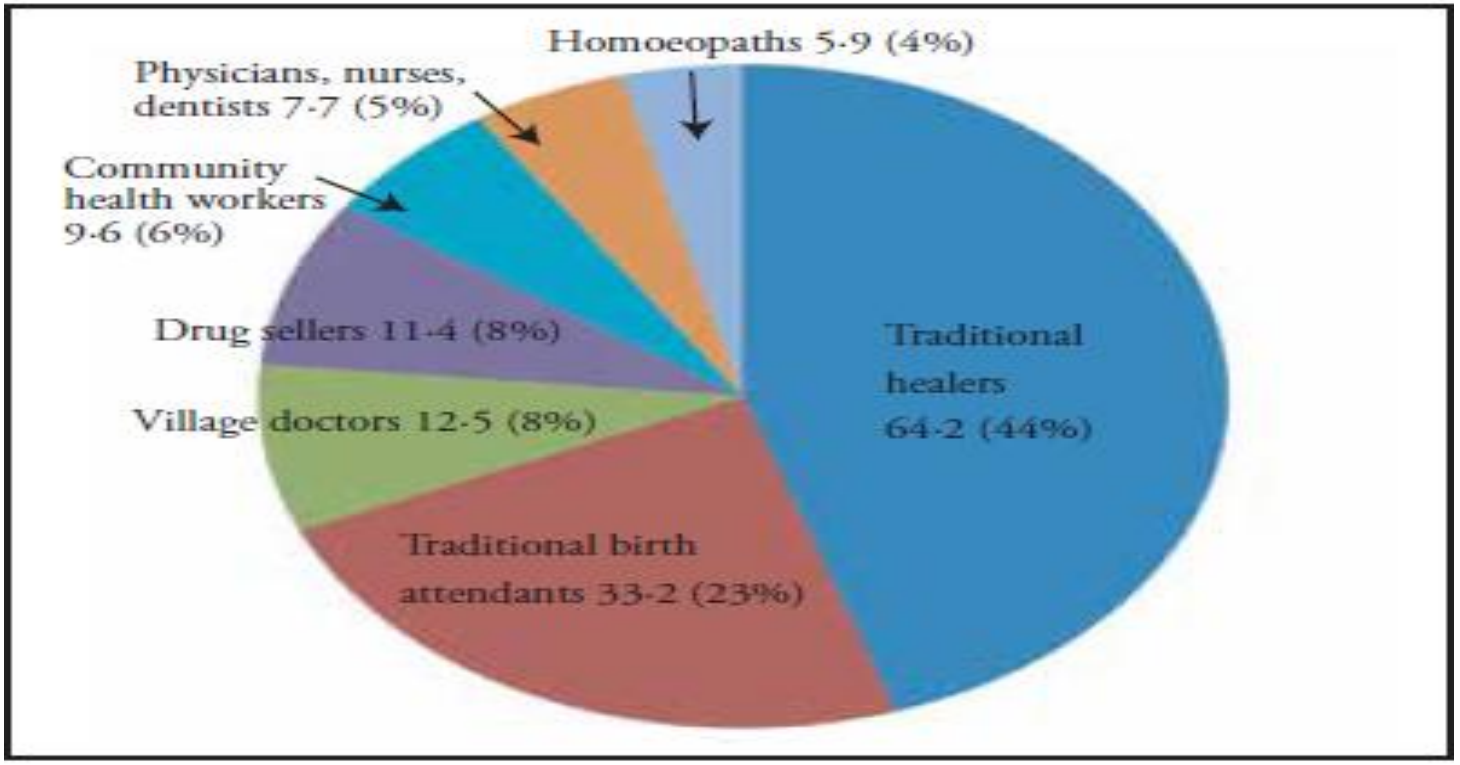


Figure-1: *Density of different types of health-care providers per 10 000 population (Data from The state of health in Bangladesh 2007)*[11]

Sources of financing for health expenditure in Bangladesh

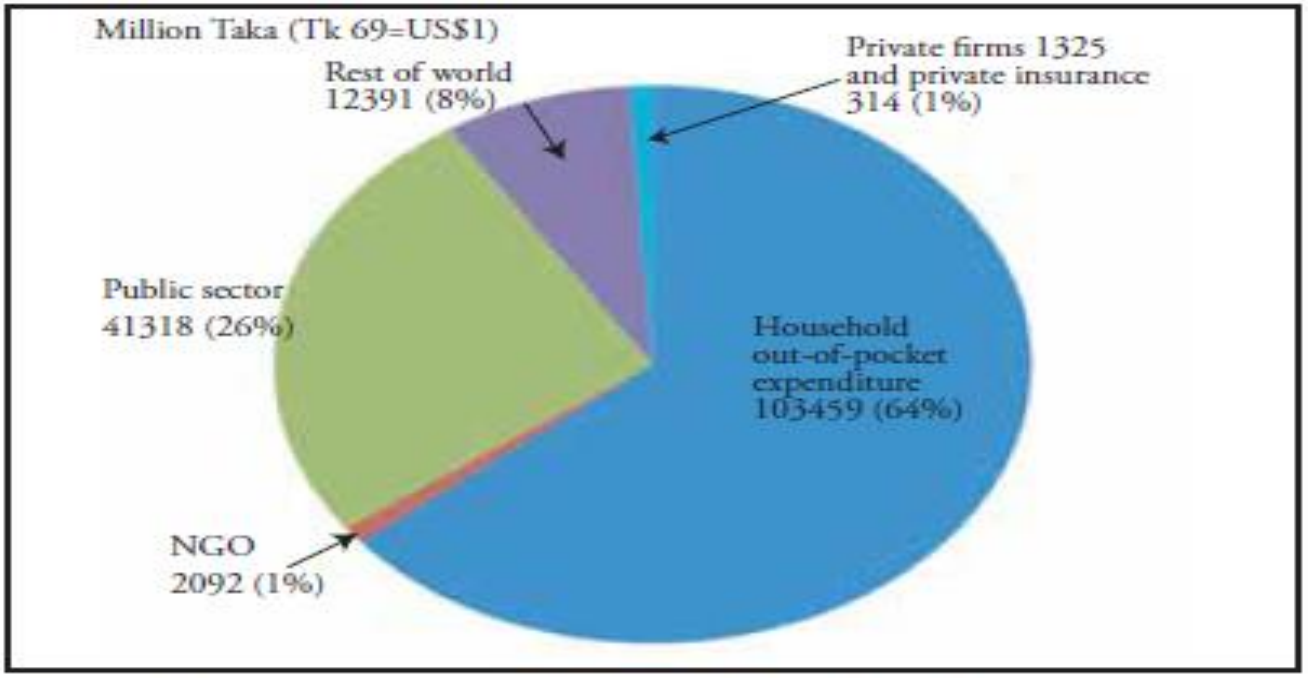


Figure-2: Sources of financing for health expenditure in Bangladesh, 2006–07(Data from Bangladesh National Health Accounts 1997–2007)[12]

Reformation of the health sector in Bangladesh

- Just after the independence in 1971,health system in Bangladesh was focused primarily on rural areas.

- First five year plan(1973-1978) undertook a project called “first population project” highlighted the importance of building a network of health facilities ,maternal and child welfare center.

- In the first population project significant number of vertical programs like Malaria and Pox eradication programs along with family planning program have been organized

- “Second Population and Family Health Project” is taken during second five year plan of the country to set up medium and long term objectives for all the health related sectors.
- The “third population and family welfare project” taken during 1986-92 which began to provide some support for the reduction of infant mortality.
- While fourth population project provide maternal and child health support and diseases control activities.

Challenge for the Health System in Bangladesh

- Comparing to South-Asian and Asian neighbors like India and Thailand Bangladesh lags behind in respect of expertise and experience of doctors.
- Some of the major drawbacks of Bangladesh health system which needs to be addressed as below:-

- **Limited public facilities like inadequate per hospital bed**
- **Compromised access of not getting free services**
- **Lack of essential treatment and diagnostics commodities**
- **Lack of local level planning**
- **Inadequate financing**
- **Weak health information system**

Achievements of Bangladesh Health sector

Infant mortality rate (IMR)	43 deaths per 1,000 live births
Child mortality rate	11deaths per 1,000 children
Under-5 mortality	44 deaths per 1,000 live births.
Vaccination Coverage	87.5%
Under age 5 are stunted	41%
Severely stunted	15%
Overall wasting	16%
Children under age 5 are underweight	36%
Severely underweight	10%
Skilled attendance at deliveries	32%
Maternal Mortality rate (MMR)	194 per 100,000 live birth
Antenatal Care Coverage (1 visits) from any Provider	67.70%
Antenatal Care Coverage (4 visits) from any Provider	25.50%
Total fertility rate	2.30%

Source: Simple Vital Registration System (SVRS) 2011.

- Bangladesh has already surpassed some neighboring countries to achieve related MDG.
- Life expectancy has improved from 44 to 66 .
- Meeting MDG target of reducing under five mortality rates.
- Currently almost 100% of Bangladesh children receive immunization due to the success of extended programee of immunization.
- Successful in taming many contagious diseases.
- Covid infection rate has been decrease due to the successful implementation of vaccination programee.