

BRAC Education Programme (BEP)

Launched in 1985, the goal of BRAC Education Programme (BEP) is to make significant contribution to the achievement of Education for All in Bangladesh. Today the programme's school model for poor, rural children has helped equip millions with basic reading, writing, numeracy, and life skills they require to thrive in the future.

Children with Special Needs (CSN) Programme

The children with special needs (CSN) unit was set up in 2003 to integrate children with disabilities into BRAC schools, and ensure their participation in mainstream education and society in general. By 2009, BRAC CSN had provided access to schools (pre-primary and primary) and services to nearly about 100,000 children with mild to moderate degree of disabilities.

The unit first identifies children with special needs, who then get priority admission to BRAC pre-primary and primary schools. Classroom policies for special needs children include sitting in the front, studying in pairs, inclusion of CSN issues in textbooks and awareness-building among classmates and teachers.

BRAC also provides corrective surgeries, along with devices like wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids and glasses; and even builds ramps to make classrooms more accessible to disabled children.

In 2007, the unit set up an Education Stipend to promote their educational rights and foster independence. In 2009, the unit took the initiative to make CSN students more independent through participation in national sports and cultural activities, as well as income-generating activities, like running small grocery stores or raising goats. In 2013, the unit established its first neuro developmental disability centres, opening one in Pabna and another in Korail slum in Dhaka city.

BEP CSN at a glance

Total CSN students **39,969**

Total treatment provided for CSN students **13,085**

Eye treatment **6,145**

Eye operation **403**

Hearing treatment **2,760**

Hearing operation **10**

Cleft lip and palate operation **820**

Assistive device provided **2,947**

Network / Partnership

1. Centre for Disability in Development
2. Centre for Services and Information on
3. Disability Assistance for Blind Children
4. Helen Keller International
5. Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired
6. Children Institute of Education and Research
7. Campaign for Popular Education
8. National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled
9. National Association of Sports for the Person with Disability
10. Central Hospital
11. Fashion Eye Hospital
12. BRAC Limb and Brace Centre
13. Child Sight Foundation