

The goal of BRAC Education Programme (BEP) is to make significant contribution to the achievement of Education for All (EFA) in Bangladesh. The education programme was launched in 1985 with 22 one-room primary schools, and an intention to develop a school model for poor, rural children, especially girls, which would equip them with basic reading, writing, numeracy and life skills.

The Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) model involves a three-year programme for poor children aged 8-10, who were never enrolled or had dropped out of formal schooling. In 1999, this school model was expanded from a three-year cycle (covering Grades I-IV) to a four-year cycle covering Grades I-V.

Over time, the programme has evolved organically, following a 'life cycle' approach with capacity and potentials to empower communities through livelihood improvement, citizenship development and poverty alleviation.

Objectives

- Promote education for girls
- Provide quality education to children from poor families, ethnic minorities and children with special needs
- Implement post-primary and continuing education programmes for the rural poor and other disadvantaged communities



Photo credit: BRAC

Students of BRAC Boat School in class

Strategic Approaches

- BEP complements GOB efforts in achieving the MDG and EFA goals
- Inclusive in terms of gender, ethnicity, different ability/disability and remote locations
- A broad-based strategy that includes partnership with local NGOs, communities and engagement with local level government officials
- Programme fits into MDG and all EFA goals

Achievements

- Recent pass rate of BRAC pre-school graduates in Primary School Certificate (PSC) exam is 99.99 per cent and almost 7.26 per cent received A+ grade
- BRAC primary graduates have accomplished outstanding results in Primary School Certificate (PSC) exams compared to the national level ones. Pass rate of BRAC's student is 99.97 per cent with 5.44 per cent scoring GPA 5,

the highest score. The pass rate among ethnic children is 100 per cent and the pass rate of children with special needs is 100 per cent

- Students of BRAC BEP-PACE supported schools have also achieved good results in Junior School Certificate exam (JSC). In 2014 the pass rate of BRAC-supported non-government secondary schools is 90.4 per cent. The pass rate of girls is 91.1 per cent compared to a pass rate of 89.7 per cent for boys
- The overall pass rate of students in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam in 2014 was 93.1 per cent. The pass rate of girls is 93.7 per cent compared to a pass rate of 92.5 per cent for boys
- 3,542 (F 45 per cent) students received scholarships both at HSC and undergraduate levels through the Medhabikash Uddayag programme, which promotes meritorious students from poor families

At a glance

Pre-primary school

- 13,800 BRAC pre-primary schools (BPPS)
- 400,072 (F 61.11 per cent) students
- 13,800 teachers
- 5.61 million (F 61.57 per cent) students completed the entire course
- 5.57 million (F 61.53 per cent) students transferred to class I to date

Primary school

- 22,791 BRAC operated primary schools (BPS)
- 681,794 (F 62.17 per cent) students in BPS
- 9,333 BRAC operated rural primary schools
- 288,829 (F 62.16 per cent) students in rural BPS
- 4,607 BRAC operated urban primary schools
- 142,061 (F 62.55 per cent) students in urban BPS
- 2,295 Education for Ethnic Children (BPS)
- 58,806 (F 56.45 per cent) students in EEC (BPS)
- 607 boat schools (*shikhha tari*)
- 17,699 (F 59.38 per cent) students in boat schools
- 984 schools for drop-out children
- 25,755 (F 61.59 per cent) students in schools for drop-out children
- 22,622 female teachers in BPS
- 5.35 million (F 66.02 per cent) students completing the entire course till date
- 5.06 million (F 65.88 per cent) transfers to formal schools to date
- 393 local partners (NGOs)
- 4,965 BRAC-supported, partner NGOs-operated schools
- 148,644 (F 64.51 per cent) students in partner NGOs-operated schools
- 4,965 (F 98.12 per cent) teachers in partner NGOs-operated schools

Programmes for Ethnic Minorities and Children with Special Needs

- 40,316 children with special needs (CSN) students
- 14,289 CSN students provided with treatments
- 2,836 ethnic minorities schools
- 73,164 ethnic minority students
- 4 Neuro Developmental Disability centres with 85 students

Support to formal schooling

- Working with 11 mainstream primary schools
- Working with 4,439 mainstream secondary schools
- 19,737 school management committee and head teacher orientation
- 47,953 teachers provided with subject based training
- 90,021 (F 58.25 per cent) students provided with mentoring training
- 42,517 (F 52 per cent) student volunteers (*Chhatrabandhu*)
- 3,542 (F 45 per cent) total scholarship recipients (*Medhabikash*)
- 50 schools supported with computer aided learning
- 38 secondary schools supported with mobile education

Adolescents Development Programme

- 9,000 adolescent clubs
- 273,367 club members
- 37,173 adolescents received livelihood training (beauty care, photography, computer, journalism, poultry, driving, tailoring and block and others) as part of promoting their financial empowerment
- 88,144 received formal training in sports
- 3,452 members trained under English & ICT for adolescents

Multipurpose Community Learning Centres (MCLC)

- 2,853 multi-purpose community centres (*gonokendra*)
- 1.25 million (F 50.83 per cent) members
- 805 mobile libraries

New interventions

- 240 early childhood development (ECD) schools with 5,176 students (3+yrs) and 240 caregivers
- 984 schools for drop-out children with 25,755 students (F 61.59 per cent)
- 35 schools under school meal programme with 6,568 students
- 346 centres/schools under the GOAL project with 5,020 members/students and developed 52 coaches

Self sustained schools

- 4,830 shisu niketon (primary school) with 144,837 students
- 999 shisu kanon (pre-school) with 30,504 students
- 7 secondary schools with 1,330 students