There wasn't any significant progress in attendance from 2000 to 2004 but it improved substantially from 2004 and 2007 in Bangladesh.

- $85 \%$ of children in primary school age 6-10 attend primary school at the appropriate age with $83 \%$ for male and $86 \%$ for female.
- Students over or under the official primary school age range make up $35 \%$ of the primary school age population.
- There is moderate gender disparity in favor of females in primary school attendance in Bangladesh from 2000 to 2007.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey

The net attendance ratio (NAR) is the percentage of the official primary school-age population that attends primary school. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) is the total number of students attending primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population. The primary NAR does not capture those students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than the official age.

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Bangladesh

Children in rural areas are equally likely to attend school as children in urban areas.

- In urban areas, $83 \%$ of children of primary school age attend school, compared to $85 \%$ in rural areas.
- The attendance rate is higher for males in urban areas whereas it is higher for females in rural areas.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Bangladesh

There are moderate regional disparities in primary school attendance in Bangladesh.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the Khulna region (89\%); attendance is lowest in the Dhaka region (83\%).
- In all regions, more than four-fifths of children attend schools at the appropriate age.
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Chittagong region and highest in the Rajshahi region.



The attendance in secondary school in Bangladesh increased by 10 percentage points in $\mathbf{7}$ years from 2000 to 2007 with gross rate at 59\% and net rate at $41 \%$ by 2007.

- $41 \%$ of youth in secondary school age 11-15 attend secondary school at the appropriate age with $37 \%$ for males and $45 \%$ for females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up $19 \%$ of the secondary school age population.
- Females have had higher secondary school attendance rates than males in Bangladesh since 2000 with more pronounced gender disparity by 2007.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey
Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Bangladesh
There are slightly more youth attending secondary school in urban than in rural areas.

- In urban areas, $45 \%$ of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to $40 \%$ in rural areas.
- Females are more likely to attend school than males in both urban and rural areas.



## Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Bangladesh

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Khulna region (48\%); attendance is lowest in the Sylhet region (29\%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the Sylhet region and lowest in the Rajshahi region.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

School Attendance by Age and Sex, Bangladesh


- For females, the highest attendance rate is at age 8 (93\%) and for males at age 9 (90\%).
- Beyond those ages, school attendance rate gradually declines for both genders to upper $40 \%$ by age 15 .

Over-Age, Under-Age, and On-Time Students in Primary School, Bangladesh
Only about 11\% of primary school students are in the appropriate GRADE for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.


- About $88 \%$ of the male primary school students and $86 \%$ of the female students are over-age by grade.
- About $2 \%$ of the male primary school students and $3 \%$ of the female students are under-age by grade.
- In this country, a significant portion of children enter primary school at an older age than the official age.

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2004
The Implications of Over-Age/Under-Age Students
For the system: Both late entry into primary school and grade repetition can cause children to be over-age for their grade. Early entry in primary school can be a cause of underage attendance.
In the classroom: Large numbers of over-age and/or under-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

## Educational Attainment, Bangladesh

Men are better educated than women across older age groups with a closing gender gap among younger age groups.

- $90 \%$ of men and $92 \%$ of women who are 15-19 years old have attended school.
- Among the population aged $20-24$ years old, $21 \%$ of men and $16 \%$ of women have completed secondary or higher.
- Men and women combined, the cohort that entered school 15 years ago ( $20-24$ year olds) is more likely to have completed secondary school or higher than the age cohort that entered school 25 years ago (3034 year olds).

Female


Male


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

Female Literacy Rate (age 15-24)


- $76 \%$ of women age $15-24$ in urban areas can read, compared to $72 \%$ in rural areas.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007
Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

- The percentage of women who can read is 31\% among women age 45-49 and 78\% among women age 15-19.
- $79 \%$ of women who completed grade 5 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.

