

History of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Bangladesh has a centralized official statistical system named the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). At independence in December 1971, Bangladesh owned a weak and disintegrated official statistical system. Agencies producing statistics were many and all these agencies were working independent of one another and pursuing statistical programs that had limited scopes and objectives. Data generated by them were inadequate and in many areas incomplete and as such, could not provide satisfactory basis for formulation of plans and framing policies of the new nation. Need for an integrated national official statistical system therefore, was felt extremely urgent after independence and paid due attention to by government.

According in August 1974, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) was created by the government by merging four relatively larger statistical agencies of the provincial and central governments, namely, the Bureau of Statistics, the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics, the Agriculture Census Commission and the Population Census Commission.

A Director General was also appointed by the government to head of the BBS and a follow-up plan for reorganizing the Bureau into an efficient centralized national institution in the field of official statistics was resolved to be taken up for implementation.

About a year later in July 1975, the Statistics Division was created and placed under the Ministry of Planning in order to control the BBS at Ministry level, provide it policy guidance and also co-ordinate, develop and carry out all programs of training in official statistics. The Statistics Division was headed by a Secretary who was also the Directory General of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

In 2002, the Statistics Division has been merged with Planning Commission and BBS is now controlled by Ministry of Planning and office headed by Director General.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is responsible for providing technical and administrative guidance to the Bureau in matters of all official statistics programmes and the implementation agency of all programmes of official statistics of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the only national Statistical Institution responsible for collecting, compiling and disseminating statistical data of all the sectors of the Bangladesh economy to meet and provide the data-needs of the users for the national planning and formulating policies by the government. The role of the BBS is providing the necessary statistics for preparing the various national plans and policies for the overall development of the country is very significant.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has a decentralized network for implementation its activities with its head office in Dhaka. At present, there are 23 regional statistical offices and 489 Upazilla/Thana offices located in the 23 greater districts in Bangladesh.