

## EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

This study was conducted in 2012, with the aim of providing country information and analysis for Rural Development Report - 2012 of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP), Bangladesh. The study is mainly based on secondary data, but research team also used primary data collected through key informant discussions and focus group discussions when required.

The objectives of the study were to conduct a situation analysis on youth in development, to explore further strategies to be adopted in youth development regionally and to examine the way forward for youth in development. Non availability of processed, published data on youth was one of the major limitations of the study. The adopted definition "youth" in this study was both "male and female" who belong to 15-29 years.

The proportion of youth population was 27.1 percent (5,576,000) of total population in 2010 and it shows declining trend of youth population when compared with 2000 data (29.7 percent). Of the total youth 28.7 percent were employed in 2010 and it consisted of 53.6 percent of males and 24.3 percent of females. However, percentage of employed youth also shows a declining trend compared with 2000 data.

The successive governments had made many efforts towards improvement of the youth by providing positive policy directions such as increasing the age of marriage, preventing child abuse improving the quality and strengthening of vocational trainings and skill developments, improving the facilities and quality of higher education institutions and signing bi-lateral agreements for foreign employment. However, there are many issues and challenges on youth development as well as to get youths' fullest support for the development process.

The issues related to youth are, less youth participation at decision making level of politics and labour market, small but considerable number of child labour, less trust on political and governing systems, sectorial disparities in resources distribution and marginalized group far from national figures of educational achievement and low computer literacy rate. Furthermore, weakness in the use of two languages and difficulties to build up mutual trust among different ethnic groups, high suicide rates among youth lack of saving habits, difficulties in access to credit average age of entering the job market being high are other issues related to youth development.

The research team suggested strengthening career guidance, conducting of awareness programmes to change the mind set of youth on job market, implementing most related but not yet implemented recommendations of the Presidential Commission on youth in 1989, implementing of bi-lingual policy in a more practical way, and develop proper coordinating and monitoring mechanism to improve youth development in CIRDAP member countries.