

MD. NURUL ISLAM
STATISTICAL OFFICER
BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS
BANGLADESH.

Labour Force Survey In Bangladesh

1. Introduction:

Labour force survey in Bangladesh is a household-based sample survey. Bangladesh Bureau of statistics (BBS) has been conducting labour force survey (LFS) since 1980. The first round survey was taken in 1980; the second one in 1983-84. There were two regular surveys taken in 1984-85 and 1985-86. The fifth LFS was taken in 1989, the sixth in 1990-91 and the seventh (and the last) was taken in 1995-96. The 1999-2000 survey is the 8th in the series. Until 1985-86 LFS questionnaires were framed and data were disseminated under usual/ conventional concepts. According to this definition any person aged 10 years and over who was either employed (worked at least 1 hour in the reference week or pay or profit or any person of the same age group putting in a minimum of 1 hour's work in family firm or enterprise with or without pay or profit) or unemployed (seeking or available for job during the reference period) was treated as economically active. It did not account for the own household economic activities.

In 1989, LFS questionnaire was designed to cover the economic activities as per the extended definition. In the extended definition, in addition to usual/ conventional definition some own household economic activities such as care of poultry and live stock, threshing, cleaning, boiling, drying, processing and preservation of crops/ food etc. which are usually done by the female members of agro-based household in rural areas were included and treated as economic activities. In 1990-91 and 1995-96 LFS questionnaires were also designed following the extended definition and data were presented in the report indicating both the definitions utilized by using 'U' for usual and 'E' for extended.

In 1999-2000 LFS the questionnaire was framed keeping in mind both the definitions of economic activities 'Usual' and 'Extended', based on System of National Accounts (SNA'93) and ILO concepts and definitions. The field enumeration was completed in the month of April 2000.

2. Survey objectives, Survey design and Sample size:

2.1 Survey Objectives:

The main objectives of the survey are to collect comprehensive data (current status) on Labour force characteristics of population-aged 10 years and over.

The specific objectives of the survey are as follows:

- To estimate the size of the labour force (economically active population) by age, gender, education, locality.

- To estimate the number of working (employed) by occupation, industry and employment status.
- To assess demographic and socio-economic conditions of labour force.
- To assess the average hours worked, earnings etc, of working (employed) persons.
- To assess the extent of unemployment/ under employment.
- To estimate the number of educated unemployed by age, sex, education and locality and type of economic activities involved on completion of education.

2.2 Survey design and sample size

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) was under taken in Bangladesh using integrated multipurpose sample (IMPS) design. The IMPS design is based on the 1991-population census area frame and consists of 442 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) of which 252 are rural and 190 are urban areas. In the rural area the PSU is defined as a Mauza and in the urban area as a Mahallah with average household size of 250. There are two stages of stratification. At first, 5 administrative divisions are treated as super-strata and within these super- strata there is the second stage of stratification comprising (i) Rural areas (ii) Municipalities and (iii) Statistical Metropolitan Areas (SMA). Municipalities and SMAs constitute Urban sample areas. Using the IMPS household listing of PSUs prepared by the Bangladesh Household Expenditure Survey (HES) project, 20 households in rural areas and 25 households in urban areas are selected from each PSU for collection of data. Selection of sample household was done using the circular systematic sampling method. For this purpose, a predetermined random table is used for the selection of first sample household and this process continues by adding sampling interval to the previously selected household number until the same size 20/25 is covered. The above design and procedure was approved by the labour force survey Technical Committee.

3. Survey questionnaires:

The draft questionnaire for the survey on labour force was designed on the basis of the objectives, SNA 93 and ILO concepts and definitions. To finalize the draft questionnaires and develop instruction and training manuals, control forms and survey procedure etc. at least two field pretests were carried out in both rural and urban areas (Urban areas-10 EA and rural areas 25 mauzas). The main objectives of the Pre-test were:

To test the suitability of the survey questionnaire.

To test and verify the coverage of items as per objectives of the survey.

To identify the questions which the respondents/ enumerators find difficult to answer and

To estimate the time required for filling of the questionnaire etc. The pretested questionnaires were reviewed and analysed and placed before the technical committee. According to the suggestions of the T.C. the questionnaires were modified and thus got approval of the T.C.

4. Training of Survey Personnel:

For proper conduct of an important nation wide survey of this type an arrangement for intensive training was made for the survey personnel. Training was imparted at three stages. At the first stage all Regional statistical officers/ District Co-ordinators were given two days training at Dhaka Head office. At the second stage they acted as master trainers and imparted training to the

Thana Statistical Officers/Supervisors and at the third stage imparted training to the local enumerators. Both class room training and data collection procedures, methodologies of filling of questionnaires at filled level were imparted.

5.Survey system and field organization:

This survey is a regular one aimed at providing current estimate of labour force in the country. The survey was carried out under the guidance and supervision of a Technical Committee set up for this purpose. All districts and Thana statistical officers were involved during the field operation. Statistical Investigators and Statistical Assistants, Junior Statistical Assistants were trusted for data collection. During field enumeration, the Enumerators used EA maps of PSUs to identify the boundary of the mauza/mahalla and location of sample households within the PSUs to ensure coverage.

6.Data Processing:

Preliminaries checking of entries in the questionnaires were done by the supervisors and enumerators at field level. Thorough manual editing was carried out by the trained editors at Dhaka Headquarters. Coding of occupation and industry was done by using Bangladesh Standard Occupational Classification (BSOC) and Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC Rev-3) at 2-digit level.

Edited and coded questionnaires are further edited and check the internal consistency, omissions and errors by computer. The final tables were produced on the IBM main frame of BBS. The weights were based on the estimated total population.

7.Concepts and definitions:

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) followed the ILO concepts and definitions for adopting labour force survey. Concepts and definitions are enclosed in a separate pieces of paper.

8. Key Indicators:

Key Indicators is enclosed in a separate pieces of paper.