

Abstract

Bangladesh is one of the least health access countries of the world. After thirty eight years of independence it could not yet achieve the desired development in health arena; as still around forty percent of the population is living below the poverty line. Though some improvements have taken place in health indices, overall health condition of the population is far from satisfactory; especially women and children have been victims of various health hazards. Child and maternal mortality rate are quite high. Along with the constitutional obligation for providing medical care, Bangladesh was committed to ensure primary health care (PHC) to its citizens by the year 2000 as per *Alma Ata Declaration 1978*. It has already failed to keep up this vow. In the mean time, the era of new global challenges has commenced with the introduction of eight new challenges for the global community including Bangladesh. Amongst these eight goals which are to be achieved by 2015 three are directly health-related, namely as reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

In fact, the health-related challenges are never-ending. New problems and hazards are keeping on emerging from time to time. Health governance is a crucial factor in fulfilling those challenges. In this arena, the government is the protagonist followed by private sector run by local entrepreneurs, NGOs and international organizations. In fact, experience shows that health governance is a complicated one and fulfilling the health related challenges of this sizable population is not possible for the government alone. So far, in the case of MDGs nine years have already elapsed and available time ahead is only six years. It is now necessary to analyze the performance of Bangladesh towards attaining the health-related MDGs and fulfilling the overall Mission of Health, detect if there is any loophole in the goals and what the inherent problems are and finally find out requirements for achieving the said mission, so as to help proper policy-formulation for this purpose.