

ACHIEVING OUR DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

How do we include more young people into the economy?



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FOR several reasons, the recently conducted Population and Housing Census 2022 of Bangladesh was of interest to people in different sectors, especially the policymakers and researchers. This is primarily because census data can be a crucial source of information not only for academic research, but also for effective policymaking. Besides this, due to the change of population structure over time, there is growing attention towards the transition of demographic profile, which can be better understood through the information gathered in censuses.

We already know that Bangladesh is going through a demographic transition, under which there has been a gradual shift from a high mortality and high fertility scenario to a low mortality and low fertility one, resulting in a slowing down of population growth and an increase in the proportion of people within the age range of 15-64 years. This change in demographic profile has also been reflected in the recent census data: according to the 2022 census, the proportion of the working-age population is 65.53 percent, which was 60.62 percent in the 2011 census. The dependency ratio, which is the ratio of working-age population (15-64) to the dependent population (0-14 years and 65 year and above) has declined considerably from 73.00 in 2011 to 52.64 in 2022. This demographic shift can have important implications on the economy, as this working-age population, through effective investment in human capital development, can be translated into a productive labour force. Through higher savings and greater investment in growth-enhancing activities, this labour force can eventually lead the country towards a higher growth trajectory.

However, we must also keep in mind that, for Bangladesh, this window of demographic opportunity will close around 2040, therefore the policy focus must be on investing in the youth population and creating employment opportunities for them. In this context, it is worth noting that, in terms of the "quality" of our youth, as high as 8.79 percent within the age range of 15-29 years have no formal education, and only 5.9 percent have tertiary education (Labour Force Survey 2016-17).

According to the preliminary results of the census, among those above seven years of age, around two-thirds (74.66 percent) have basic literacy. Though this figure shows significant progress over time (the literacy rate was found to be 51.77 percent in the 2011 census), it reflects

our inability to effectively reap the fruits of demographic transition. The census data, however, reveals an optimistic scenario in terms of expansion and usage of technology of the population: 72.31 percent of adults (86.72 percent male and 58.83 percent female) were found to use mobile phone devices, and 37.01 percent were found to use the internet in recent times (46.53 percent male and 28.09 percent female). Despite the gendered segregation of such usage, this reflects a positive scenario in terms of skills development of the population. Nevertheless, we must keep in mind that technology usage does not guarantee possession of technical devices, nor does it confirm access to knowledge for skills development.

In addition to ensuring the quality of the working-age population, one crucial condition for exploiting the opportunities of positive demographic transition is the ability to utilise the youth population for the country's development while creating suitable employment opportunities. In this context, with the low level of private investment and slow pace of industrialisation, the capacity to create jobs is rather limited (employment elasticity of growth for 2013-2017 was around 0.17, with a declining trend over time). It's also worth mentioning that it's not only the quality of the working-age population or a lack of employment opportunities, but also the mismatch between demand and supply sides that leaves a gap in the effective utilisation of a favourable demographic profile.

An important as well as interesting finding of the 2022 census was that the sex ratio declined to 98.00, with 50 percent of the total population being female. As for the youth population, as high as 16.76 percent of females were found to be within the range of 15-24 years (24.67 percent within 15-29 years), where the corresponding percentages for males were 14.77 percent (21.23 percent within 15-29 years). With female labour force participation in Bangladesh being only 36.3 percent (male participation rate being 80.5 percent), the challenge of reaping the benefits of demographic transition hinges partially on investing in the development of human capital of female youth through education and training. However, gender-centric norms prevailing in society remain the real challenge for the female youth, which prevents and discourages women to acquire skills and education, and particularly to engage in the mainstream labour



The working-age population in Bangladesh, through effective investment in human capital development, can be translated into a productive labour force.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

programmes must be at the core of the strategies concerning the youth labour force. In this context, it is extremely crucial to deal with the social stigma attached with TVET programmes, and a greater incentive is needed for this. In addition to the policy initiatives to prepare our labour force to meet growing needs, it is crucial to stimulate private sector investment, as well as to provide monetary and non-monetary incentives, like low-interest credit, information facilities, tax rebate, etc to small-scale entrepreneurs.

To remove the bottlenecks in boosting female employment, the prime focus must be given towards dealing with certain inherent constraints like child marriage, and safety and security in the public sphere, along with policy interventions to deal with the challenges related to gender-centric norms. In relation to the latter, innovative policies like linking the financial incentives (e.g. tax rebate and exemptions, subsidies) to gender-sensitive strategies such as daycare centres at workplaces, child care vouchers, flexible working hours as part of post-maternity employment, etc can be considered.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

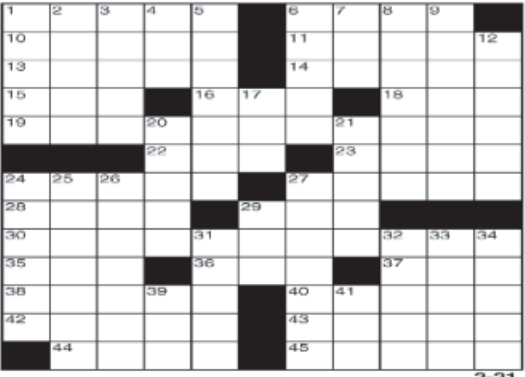
ACROSS

- 1 Backpack part
- 6 Disparaging remark
- 10 Inquiry
- 11 Basic belief
- 13 Bus patron
- 14 Highway
- 15 Presidential nickname
- 16 William McKinley's wife
- 18 Used a chair
- 19 43rd president
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- 23 Past due
- 24 Kayak's cousin
- 27 King or czar
- 28 Eager
- 29 Knight's title
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DOWN

- 35 Tyler of "Armageddon"
- 36 Set fire to
- 37 — Angeles
- 38 Fill with joy
- 40 Down-loadable read
- 42 Man of Madrid
- 43 Free of suds
- 44 Moist
- 45 Spirited horse
- 1 Parsley unit
- 2 Kid's transport
- 3 Western contest
- 4 Presidential nickname
- 5 Orbital


- minimum
- 6 Sipping aid
- 7 Zodiac cat
- 8 Odd
- 9 Sample anew
- 12 Tie down
- 17 Cub's cave
- 20 Mary's TV pal
- 21 Book jacket quote
- 24 Elevator connections
- 25 Made use (of)
- 26 Grunge group
- 27 Mob makeup
- 29 Enjoy Aspen
- 31 Store worker
- 32 Without aid
- 33 Elk's kin
- 34 Inquired
- 39 Great weight
- 41 Drill part



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চাটর্ড একাউন্টেন্টস নিয়োগের দরপত্র


খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা এর ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থবছরের জন্য চূড়ান্ত হিসাব ও খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড এমগ্রাইজ প্রভিডেন্ট ফান্ড ট্রাস্ট, খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড ওয়ার্কস পার্টসিপেশন এন্ড ওয়েলফেয়ার ফান্ড এবং খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড গ্রুপ ইন্সুরেন্স ফান্ড সর্বশ্রুতি নিম্নলিখিত কার্যক্রমে গ্রহণকরতঃ নিরীক্ষা প্রতিবেদন প্রণয়নের জন্য বহিঃ নিরীক্ষক (চাটর্ড একাউন্টেন্টস) ফর্মের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরযুক্ত পৃথক পৃথক খামে দরপত্র (অফার) আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক	বিষয়বস্তু	কার্য পরিধি
১.	অভিজ্ঞতা	সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে নিরীক্ষা কাজের কমপক্ষে ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিই কেবলমাত্র দরপত্র প্রদানের যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন। অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
২.	দরপত্র জমা ও খোলার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	জমাঃ ২৮ আগষ্ট ২০২২ সাল, বেলা ১১.০০ মিঃ খোলাঃ ২৮ আগষ্ট ২০২২ সাল, বেলা ১১.৩০ মিঃ
৩.	দরপত্র সিলিং ও মার্কিং	দরপত্র খামের ভিতর এবং বাইরে উভয়ের উপর সিলমোহরসহ ম্যানজিং ডাইরেক্টর, খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা এই ঠিকানায় দাখিল করতে হবে। ভিতরের খামের উপর চাটর্ড একাউন্টেন্টস নিয়োগসহ দরপত্র বড় করে লিখিত থাকতে হবে। বাইরের খামে টেন্ডার নং, খোলার তারিখ এবং সময় উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৪.	আনুষঙ্গিক খরচ	উল্লেখিত অর্থবছরের নিরীক্ষা কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য যাবতীয় বিষয় যেমন-ভ্রমণ, খাবার, যাতায়াত ও অন্যান্য খরচ ফর্মকে বহন করতে হবে। আইটেম অনুযায়ী ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্সসহ পেশাগত ফি বাবদ সর্বমোট মূল্য পৃথক পৃথক ভাবে অংকে এবং কথায় স্পষ্ট করে লিখতে হবে।
৫.	অতিরিক্ত কার্য	নিরীক্ষা প্রতিবেদনের অতিরিক্ত হিসেবে কোম্পানির হিসাব ব্যবস্থা তথা আইনগত স্বত্তা BAS/IAS অনুযায়ী তৈরী হয়েছে কিনা তার উপর মতামত প্রদান করতে হবে। এছাড়াও প্রাপ্তি হিসাব পদ্ধতি, বাজেট এবং বাজেটটির কন্ট্রোল ইত্যাদির ব্যাপারে একটি আলাদা প্রতিবেদন নিরীক্ষিত হিসাব প্রতিবেদনে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করতে হবে।

উক্ত নিরীক্ষা কাজে অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক সিএ ফার্মসমূহকে ভ্যাট, টিআইএন, আইসিএবি অডিট রেজিস্ট্রেশন এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যপত্রাদিসহ নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ (খুশিলি) এর প্রধান ফটকে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে অথবা ডাক/কুরিয়ার যোগে দরপত্র প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী নিয়োগপত্রে উল্লেখ করা হবে। খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সময় দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। বিস্তারিত জানতে খুশিলির ওয়েবসাইট ভিজিট করুন।

জিডি-১৫৫৪

পক্ষে ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর



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