

Database Profile on Macroeconomic and HRD Indicators in the SAARC Region (1990-2006)



**SAARC Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC)
Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Database Profile on Macroeconomic and HRD Indicators in the
SAARC Region
(1990-2006)**

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FOREWORD

The Fourth Edition of the “Database Profile on Macroeconomic and selected Human Development Indicators in the SAARC region presents time series data from 1990 to 2006. The statistical part of this issue has been further improved on the basis of comments and information received from various agencies in the SAARC region. Data for the profile has been collected from relevant Ministries, Departments and Institutions in the SAARC Member States and gaps have been filled by using reports of UNDP, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre and, various other documents. The database is divided into two parts, Part-I provides analysis of macroeconomic indicators, incidence of poverty, trends in health & nutrition, education, gender and development, and Part-II presents time series data from 1990 to 2006 on these indicators. The analysis of key macroeconomic and social indicators, where possible reflects updated position of South Asia.

The support of SAARC Member States, relevant Ministries, Departments and Institutions of the SAARC region is appreciated. SAARC Secretariat also deserves thanks for coordinating this activity with commitment. We believe the Database Profile 2008 will be used extensively by policymaker, planners and researchers working on SAARC region.

Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan
Director SHRDC

Islamabad, December 2008

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The finalization of the Database Profile (1990-2006) became possible with the commitment and hard work of the staff of the SAARC Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC), particularly Dr. Javed Humayun (Research Fellow-Research), Mr. Amir Mustafa (Research Officer), Ms. Wadiat Kazmi, (provided editorial support), Mr. Ahmad Subhani Malik, and Mr. Abdul Waheed (Data Entry Operators). I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Government Officials, Departments, Ministries, and Statistical Bureaus of the SAARC Member States for providing the information and statistics to publish the Fourth Edition of the Profile in time. I would like to put on record my thanks to the SAARC Secretariat for their support to SHRDC's activities.

Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan
Director SHRDC

Islamabad, December 2008

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes
BOP	Balance of Payment
CIF	Cost, Insurance and Freight
CPI	Consumer Price Index
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAOSTAT	Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FOB	Freight on Board
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measures
GNP	Gross National Product
GoP	Government of Pakistan
HD	Human Development
HDC	Human Development Centre
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPI	Human Poverty Index
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INDRs	Indian Rupees
IT	Information Technology
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SHRDC	SAARC Human Resource Development Centre
TB	Tuberculosis
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UIS	Unified Information System
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WB	World Bank
WDI	World Development Indicators
WHO	World Health Organisation
WPI	Wholesale Price Index

The background features a large, faint watermark of the SAARC logo, which consists of a stylized flame or flower shape with the word "SAARC" written below it.

PART-I

**ANALYSIS OF CORE INDICATORS OF DEVELOPMENT
IN THE SAARC REGION (1990-2006)**

1- MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS IN THE SAARC REGION

1.1 Macroeconomic Performance¹

1.1.1 Recent Developments

The world economy faced with turbulent financial markets, and unprecedented increase in global oil and food prices in 2007 and 2008 has entered into a major downturn. The major advanced economies are already in recession. The emerging and developing economies are also slowing, in many cases to rates well below the trend growth rates. Most of South Asian countries are in the grip of high inflation, while many are experiencing severe balance of payments pressures and fiscal imbalance together with drop in foreign exchange reserves. South Asia's growth of GDP in 2008 is expected close to 7.1 percent down from 8.6 percent in 2007 and 9.0 percent in 2005.

The majority of South Asian economies in this period experienced, surging inflation, deteriorating current account and fiscal balances, declining local currencies, a large drop in foreign reserves and belated monetary tightening. All these developments have reduced growth prospects of the South Asian countries in 2008. In some of the regional economies increased risk perception was seen in a downgrading of credit ratings, a rise in sovereign bond spreads, a slide in capital inflows, and declining access to international capital.

Inflation in South Asia accelerated in 2008, reaching double digits by mid-year from a moderate level of 5.5 percent in 2007 to an expected level of 11.8 percent in 2008 is mainly due to demand pull factors. Food price inflation has increased sharply resulting in increased poverty levels and miseries of poor and vulnerable households. The weakening of local currencies against the US dollar has further contributed to inflation pressures. Except Bangladesh and Nepal all the South Asian economies are expected to bear the burden of double digit inflation in 2008, hardest hit countries likely would be Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Fiscal deficit as a share of GDP in the region is estimated to be worsened to around 8.0 percent of the GDP in 2008 from 5.2 percent in 2007. Increase in overall fiscal deficit is mainly due to absorbing huge bill of subsidies despite some upward adjustment of domestic fuel prices in response to the higher world prices and losses of state-owned oil and electricity companies as result of high oil prices. In most countries of the region food exports have been restricted to secure the domestic food supply. India has banned the export of wheat since September 2007, and added non-basmati rice and edible oil

to the export ban in 2008. An export tax has also been imposed on basmati rice. Bangladesh and Nepal restricted food exports in May and April 2008, respectively, and Sri Lanka applied a price floor for rice exports.

To ebb the inflationary pressure, several countries have used monetary policy for containing price pressure. Central banks have adopted tight monetary policy. India and Pakistan lifted policy rates and cash-reserve ratios, and Sri Lanka raised the yield on government securities. Bangladesh is the exception as it is keeping an accommodative policy to facilitate economic recovery from natural disasters in 2007. Countries with currency pegs, including Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal, however, have less room for active use of monetary policy to address increasing inflation pressures.

Since most countries in South Asia are net importers of food and fuel, they suffered from higher import costs and a worsening of their terms of trade, resulting in deterioration in their trade and current account balances and pressures on their foreign exchange reserves. The impact of high current account deficit has partly been relieved by strong performance in services exports (India and Maldives) and robust workers' remittances.

Afghanistan

The prevailing drought is likely to hit agriculture and reduce GDP growth in 2008 lower to 7.5 percent from 11.5 percent achieved in 2007. A 49 percent increase in food prices as well as higher prices of imported fuel took year-on-year inflation to 33 percent in June 2008. Nonfood prices rose by around 10 percent, indicating that high inflation is largely the result of exogenous factors rather than macroeconomic policies. For 2008, projected average inflation is revised to 24 percent up from 13 percent in 2007. To reduce the impact of food inflation, the import tax on both wheat and wheat flour has been eliminated and the tax on edible oil has been reduced from 3.5 percent to 2.5 percent.

Bangladesh

The economy showed resilience in recovering from natural disasters. Economic growth and the current account surplus at 6.2 percent and 0.9 percent of the GDP respectively are expected for 2008. However, inflation and budgetary pressures grew. Higher global oil prices pushed up oil subsidies, causing fiscal pressures to grow. As a result, inflationary pressure on the economy increased, averaging 9.9 percent for the year, but still is in single digit. Due to increasing prices of oil and other inputs in international and local markets, import bills remained under high pressure. But foreign trade remains at a satisfactory level. The remarkable growth of import-export trade, current account surplus, and increasing trend in the flow of remittance kept the external sector stable.

¹Analysis in this section is based on IMF's World Economic Outlook (November 2008), Asian Development Bank Outlook for 2008, and data and material provided by the SAARC Member State for the data profile.

Allocations in budget were made commensurate with the development strategy and priority of social sectors including reduction of income poverty and human poverty so that effective use of funds can be ensured. The highest growth in textile industry along with the continued trend of growth in service sector propelled the GDP growth rate to 6.6 percent in 2006. National Agriculture Policy to provide guidelines for the development of agriculture is in the process of formulation.

Bhutan

In 2007, GDP growth at 17.0 percent, pulled up largely by the start of operations at the 1,020-megawatt Tala hydropower plant. As full output from Tala has come on line, the GDP growth in 2008 is expected to be around 14.0 percent. The inflationary pressure in the economy is creeping up. On year-on-year basis, it is estimated that inflation will increase to 10.0 percent in 2008 from 5.2 percent in 2007. Given the parity peg between the currencies of Bhutan and India, price movements are very similar, and in view of what are happening in India. With Tala's hydropower exports to India, the current account balance has switched from deficit into a large surplus amounting to 10.5 percent of GDP in 2007 and is expected to remain close to 10 percent of the GDP in 2008. Model education, social, and environment projects are underway with support from multilateral development organizations.

India

The recent global developments are challenging India's strong growth performance of recent years. The economy after enjoying a high GDP growth rate of above 9 percent in recent years is likely to experience a low GDP growth around 7.4 percent in 2008. Increase in oil and world commodity prices and partial pass-through of price increases have triggered steep domestic inflation in double digit (11.5 percent) in 2008 from a low level of 4.7 percent in 2007. A widening trade deficit and large fiscal imbalances that have been created by escalation in oil and other subsidies are the main problems faced by the economy. Share of exports as percent of GDP has increased manifold to 23 in 2006, and share of imports in GDP as percent remained 20.3 in 2006, both figures were the largest in the history of India. Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as percent of GDP was 2.41 in 2006 comparing with mere 0.07 in 1990. Finding all these figures India has focused on double-digit growth rate during Eleventh Five-Year Plan period. Service sectors including software and IT, banking, have been key role player in the economy. Growth in pharmaceutical, textile, steel has also contributed to the current boom in Indian economy.

Maldives

Economic growth for 2008 is expected close to 6.5 percent, owing mainly to reduced construction activity. Due to a significant revenue shortfall, the Government has committed itself to reducing current expenditures by 20 percent and has decided not to start any new capital project for which contracts have not been awarded. The consumer

price index, mainly reflecting the escalating costs of food and fuel, rose by 15.5 percent (year on year) in June 2008. Average inflation for the year is forecasted at 11.0 percent for 2008 up from 7.4 percent in 2007. Due to expansionary fiscal policy, high imports, and rising fuel and food prices, the current account deficit is expected to 50.9 percent of the GDP in 2008 from 40.1 percent in 2007.

Nepal

GDP growth is expected close to 5.6 percent in 2008 from 2.6 percent in 2007 due to a weather-induced recovery in agriculture. The growth revival is also aided by continued expansion of services. Industrial growth, however, declined to 1.8 percent from 3.9 percent due to the impact of power and fuel shortages and labor tensions. As a result of sharp increases in food and oil prices, year-on-year inflation is expected to increase to 7.9 percent in 2008 from 6.4 percent in 2007. Higher remittances and tourism receipts have helped more than offset a widening trade deficit to generate a current account surplus of 1.9 percent of GDP in 2008 from a negative base in 2007.

Pakistan

The unprecedented increase in global oil and food prices and domestic policy uncertainties have stressed the economy in 2008, as revealed in a slowdown in growth, a buildup in inflation, wide fiscal and current account deficits, a weaker currency, and a large drop in foreign reserves. Increased risk perception has been seen in a downgrading of credit ratings, a rise in sovereign bond spreads, a slide in capital inflows, and declining access to international capital. The GDP growth rate in 2008 is expected close to 4.5 percent significantly down from 6.8 percent achieved in 2007. The inflationary pressures are high on both food and non-food items. Inflation is expected to increase to 12 percent in 2008 from 7.8 percent in 2007. The current account deficit of the balance of payments is expected to increase sharply from 4.8 percent of the GDP in 2007 to 8.4 percent in 2008.

Sri Lanka

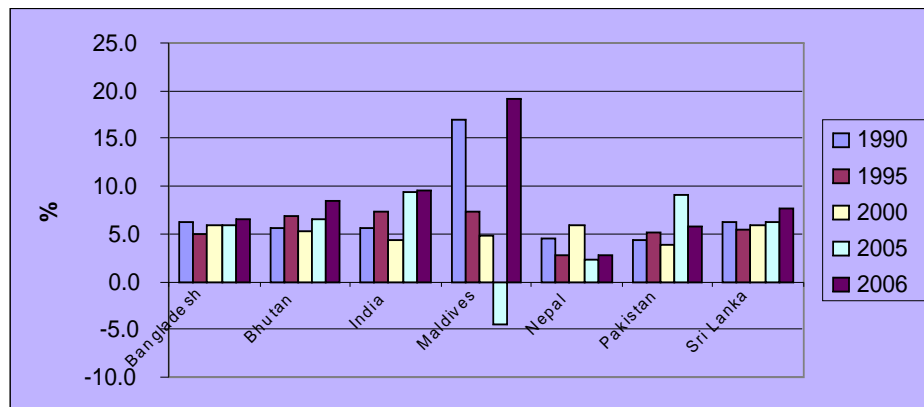
The economy, grew by 6.8 percent in 2007, and is estimated to grow around 6 percent in 2008, mainly due to the global slowdown affecting Sri Lanka's key export markets. In 2008, the Government increased fuel prices several times to allow a pass-through of international oil price increases. Electricity tariffs were also revised in 2008, reflecting cost pressures on thermal power generation. Adjustment in price has pushed up inflation, which is expected to reach 24.0 percent in 2008, compared with the 15.2 percent in 2007. The central bank has intervened to keep the Sri Lanka rupee from depreciating so far in 2008; this policy helps limit inflation pressure but could lead to a rapid depletion of the relatively low level of gross official reserves. The current account deficit will further deteriorate moving to 8.2 percent of the GDP in 2008 from 4.2 percent of the GDP in 2007. However, growth in worker's remittances and inflows of FDI and foreign funding is likely to partly offset growing trade and current account deficits.

1.2 Real GDP Growth Rate

SAARC Member States have maintained GDP growth rate in 2006 at 8.9%. GDP growth in South Asia is significantly higher compared with several developing regions. However trickle down effects of growth would take time to effect to benefit population of the region. Continuous efforts to witness high increase investment in information technology, telecom has been the major force behind the high growth in the region.

Real GDP growth rate has increased in almost all the countries. Country-wise analysis shows that Bangladesh's real GDP growth at 6.2 percent in 1990 increased to 6.6 percent in 2006. Bhutan during the period 1990-2006 witnessed sharp increase from 5.6 percent to 7.8 percent. India maintained its growth momentum from 5.6 percent in 1990 to 9.6 percent in 2006. Growth in IT sector, textile, and continuous increase in exports mainly contributed to the sustained growth rate. Maldives growth which was negatively effected in 2005 due to Tsunami witnessed a sharp increase in GDP growth of 19.1 percent highest in SAARC region. Nepal economy has witnessed low and high GDP growth from 2.3 percent in 2005 to 2.8 percent in 2006. Pakistan was maintaining its growth but has witnessed a low growth rate of 5.8 percent in 2006. Sri Lankan economy has showed an increase 7.7 percent in 2006. Figure 1.2 below shows the trend:

Figure 1.2: Real GDP growth rate



Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

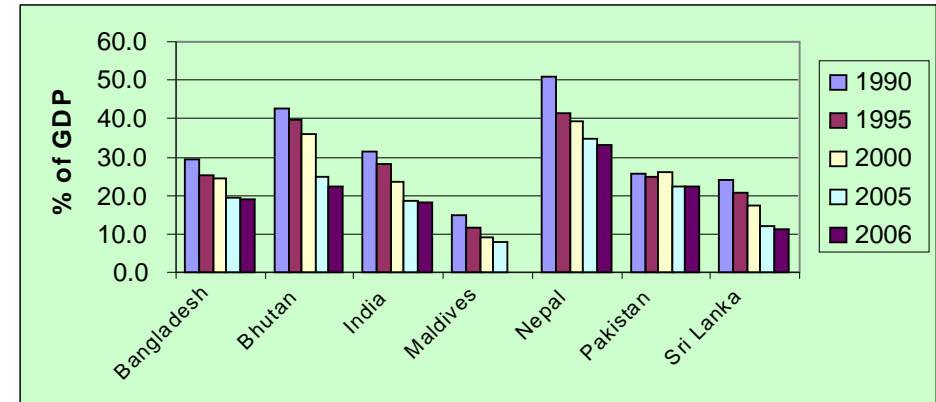
1.3 GDP Sectoral Share

1.3.1 Share of Agricultural Sector in GDP

SAARC Member States have experienced declining share of the agriculture sector in the GDP during 1990 to 2006. Continuous growth in service and industrial sectors of

the region shows that this trend would continue in the future. Share of agriculture sector in GDP declined in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, while this share remained stagnant in Pakistan. Figure 1.3.1 below gives the details:

Figure 1.3.1: Share of the Agricultural Sector in GDP

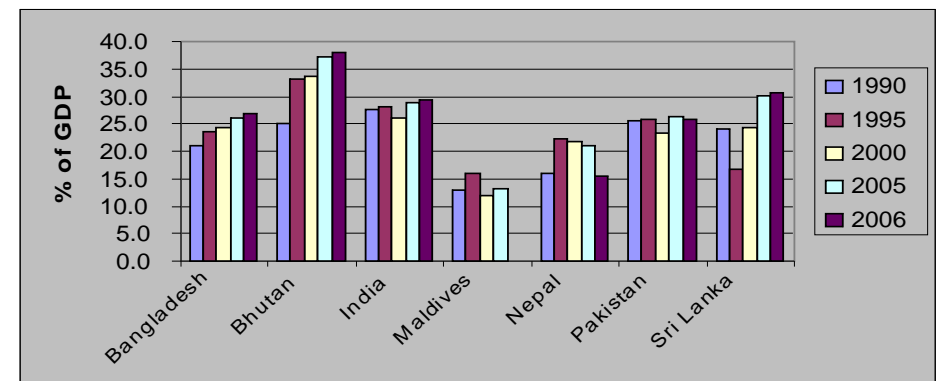


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.3.2 Share of Industrial Sector in GDP

Share of Industrial Sector in GDP have increased in all the SAARC States except Nepal where it declined slightly in 2006. In Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka share has increased in 2006, whereas in Nepal share declined from 16 percent in 1990 to 15.5 percent in 2006. Pakistan has witnessed slight increase from 25.6 percent in 1990 to 25.9 percent in 2006. Comparative position of the SAARC Member States is given in figure 1.3.2.

Figure 1.3.2: Share of Industrial Sector in GDP

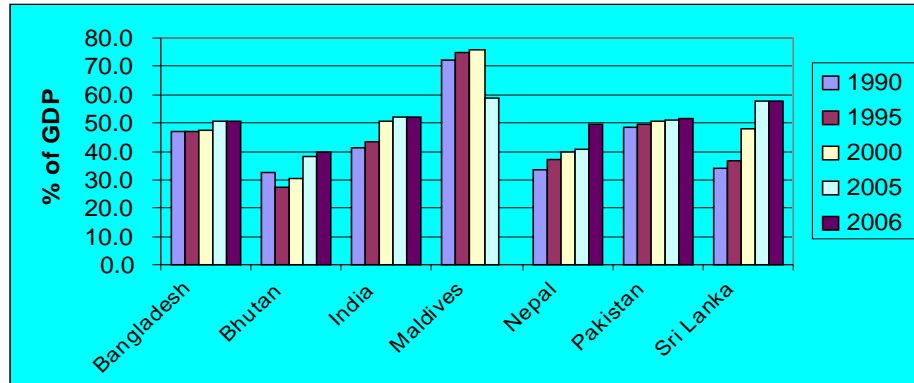


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.3.3 Share of Service Sector in GDP

Share of service sector in GDP shows that all the Member States have maintained a larger share of service sector in their respective GDP. In Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan this share has increased during the study period. India has showed a sustained figure 52.3 percent, and Sri Lanka 58 percent during 2005 and 2006. Figure 1.3.3 below shows the trends:

Figure 1.3.3: Share of Service Sector in GDP

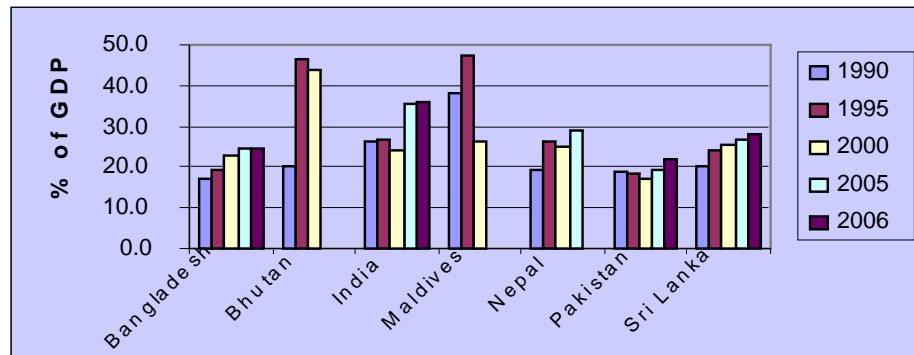


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.4 Gross Domestic Investment (as % of GDP)

Domestic Investment (as % of GDP) has increased in Bangladesh from 17.1 percent in 1990 to 24.7 percent in 2006. India has also witnessed an increase in domestic investment from 26.3 percent in 1990 to 35.9 percent in 2006. IN Pakistan and Sri Lanka, rate has increased from 18.9 percent and 20 percent in 1990 to 22.1 percent and 28 percent in 2006 respectively. Figure 1.4 below gives the details:

Figure 1.4: Gross Domestic Investment (as % of GDP)

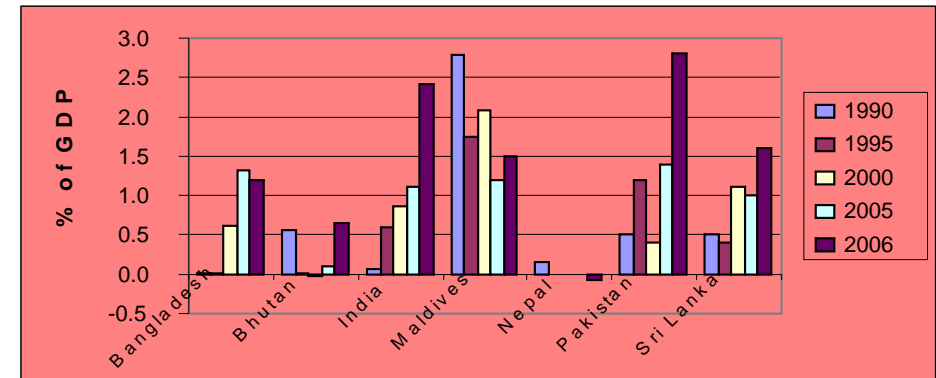


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.5 Foreign Direct Investment (as % of GDP)

The inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as % of GDP has increased significantly in Bangladesh during the analysis period from 0.01 percent of the GDP to 1.2 percent in 1990 and 2006. India attracted larger share of FDI in the SAARC region which is continuously increasing from 0.07 percent of the GDP in 1990 to 2.41 percent in 2006. Maldives and Nepal have witnessed slight decline in FDI flows during 1990 and 2006. Pakistan on the other hand has registered a large increase in FDI inflow from 0.5 percent of the GDP in 1990 to 2.8 percent in 2006 (Figure 1.5). Although South Asia receives meager amount of world FDI inflows but its share is increasing.

Figure 1.5: Foreign Direct Investment (as % of GDP)

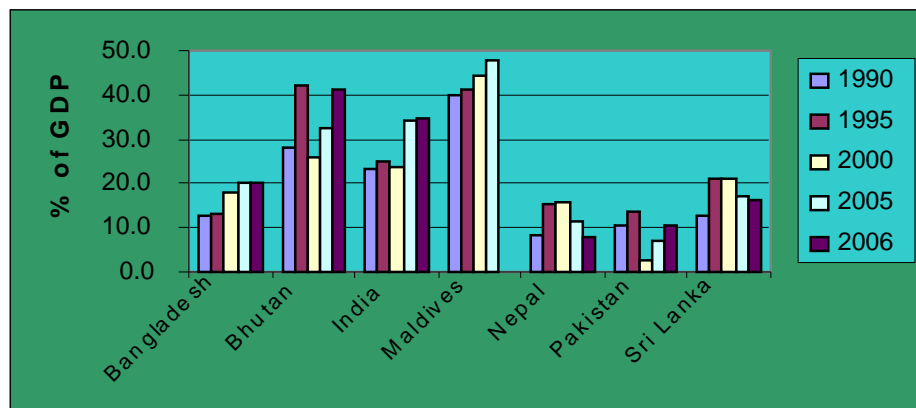


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.6 Domestic Savings (as % of GDP)

Domestic savings (as percent of GDP) has increased in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Sri Lanka during 1990 and 2006. In Nepal it has declined while Pakistan witnessed a slight increase from 10.4 percent in 1990 to 10.5 percent in 2006. In Bangladesh and Bhutan an increase from 12.9 percent and 28 percent in 1990 to 20.3 percent and 41.4 percent in 2006 respectively has been observed. India has dominated with an increase from 23.1 percent in 1990 to 34.8 percent in 2006. Details are given in Figure 1.6:

Figure 1.6: Domestic Savings (as % of GDP)

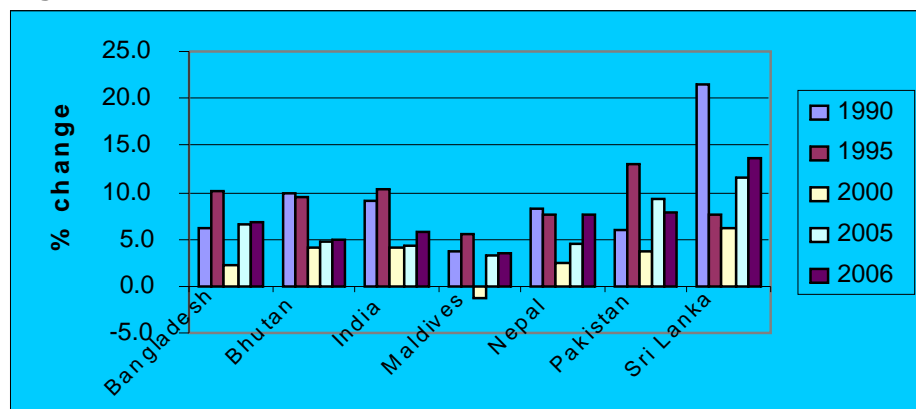


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.7 Rate of Inflation

The SAARC Member States have maintained a low rate during 1990 and 2006. Although inflation has increased during 2005 and 2006 but still low compared to several developing countries. Calculated in terms of percentage change in Consumer Price Index (CPI), inflation rate in Bangladesh has declined from 6.13 percent in 1990 to 6.8 percent in 2006, while in Bhutan it has decreased from 10 percent in 1990 to 5 percent in 2006. In India, Maldives, and Nepal rate of inflation has decreased slightly during the analysis period. In Pakistan rate of inflation has increased from 6 percent in 1990 to 7.9 percent in 2006. But in period 2005 and 2006 inflation rate in Pakistan has declined from 9.3 percent to 7.9 percent. Figure 1.7 gives the details:

Figure 1.7: Rate of Inflation

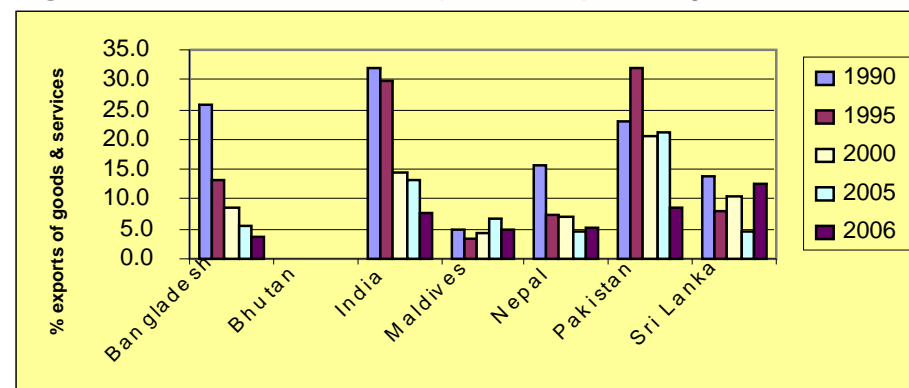


Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

1.8 Total Debt Service (as % of exports of goods & services)

Debt service liability as percentage of export of goods & services has decreased considerably in all the Member States except Maldives during 1990 and 2006. In Bangladesh and India debt service liability has been reduced from 25.8 percent and 31.9 percent in 1990 to 3.7 percent and 7.7 percent in 2006 respectively. In Maldives, debt services burden has increased slightly from 4.8 percent in 1990 to 4.9 percent in 2006. Pakistan and Sri Lanka have also witnessed decline from 22.9 percent and 13.8 percent in 1990 to 8.6 percent and 12.7 percent in 2006 respectively. Table 1.8 below shows the trend.

Figure 1.8: Total Debt Service (as % of exports of goods & services)



Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

2- POVERTY PROFILE IN THE SAARC REGION

2.1 Poverty Profile

Poverty is still high in the SAARC region. Poverty in the region is rural phenomena, where more than 65 percent population lives, that contribute 20 percent in GDP as percentage share. Table below gives the detail on national poverty in the SAARC Member States. Table 2.1 provides details on incidence of poverty in the SAARC Member States.

Table 2.1: Population in Poverty (National Poverty Line)

Years	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
1990	47.5	-	36.0	-	40.0	26.1	26.1
1995	-	-	35.0	-	42.0	-	25.2
2000	20.0	36.3	26.1	43.0	38.0	34.4	22.7
2005	19.5	-	27.5	-	-	23.9	-
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

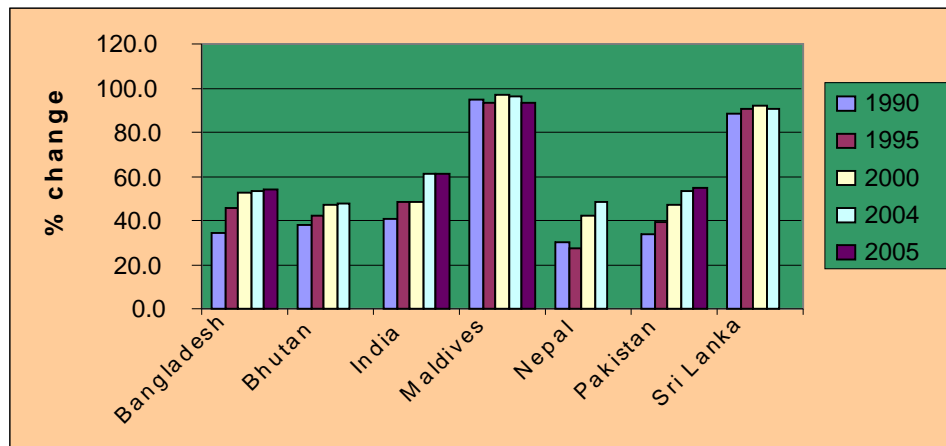
Data Source: Part II, Table 1.1-1.7

3- EDUCATION PROFILES IN THE SAARC REGION

3.1 Adult Literacy Rate

Adult literacy rate has increased in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Pakistan. Bangladesh and India have showed an increase from 34.2 percent and 40.8 percent in 1990 to 53.7 percent and 61 percent in 2006 respectively. Maldives and Sri Lanka have showed remarkable increase in the rate. Figure 3.1 shows the trend:

Figure 3.1: Adult Literacy Rate

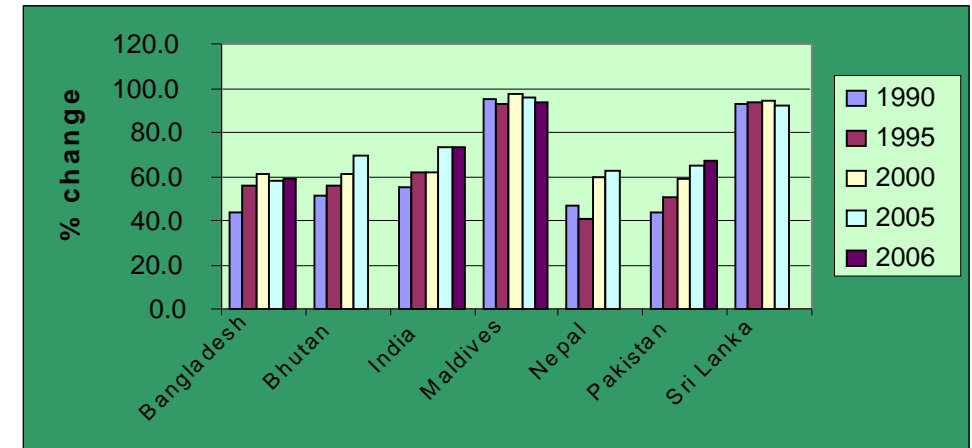


Data Source: Part II, Table 3.1-3.7

3.1.1 Male Literacy Rate (age 15 & above)

Figure 3.1.1 below shows male literacy rate (age 15 & above), witnessed increase in most of the SAARC Member States. In Bangladesh and India, rate increased from 44 percent and 54.9 percent in 1990 to 58.5 percent and 73.3 percent in 2006 respectively. Maldives and Sri Lanka have maintained their 90 plus figures during the analysis period. Figure 3.1.1 gives the details:

Figure 3.1.1: Male Literacy Rate (age 15 & above)

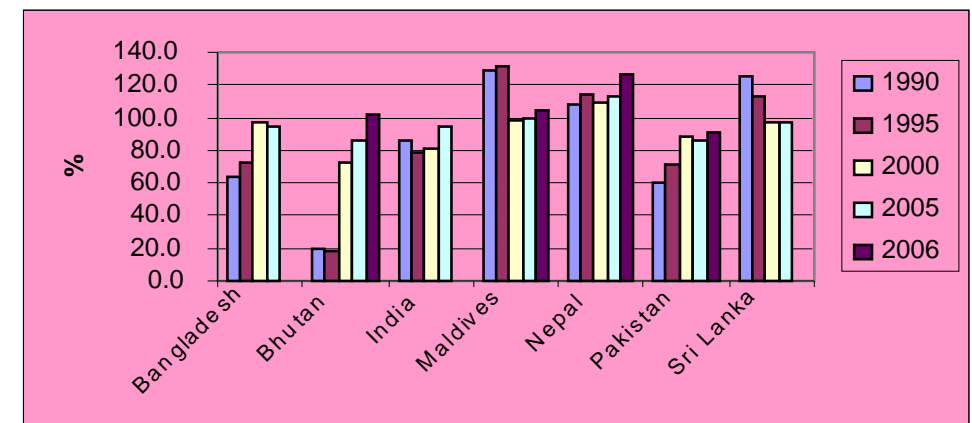


Data Source: Part II, Table 3.1-3.7

3.2 Primary School Enrolment

Primary school enrolment (gross) has increased in Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Pakistan during 1990 and 2006. In Maldives and Nepal rate has increased from 129 percent and 108 percent in 1990 to 105 percent and 126.1 percent in 2006 respectively. Pakistan has also showed encouraging figure 60 percent in 1990 to 90.5 percent in 2006. Figure 3.2 below shows the trends:

Figure 3.2: Primary School Enrolment

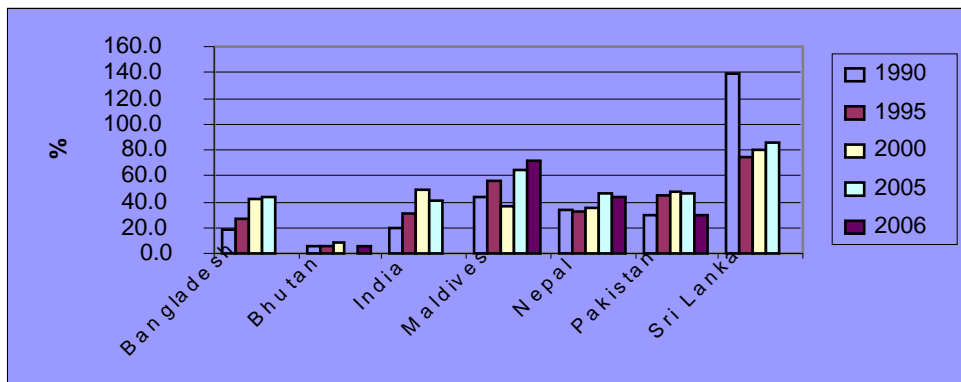


Data Source: Part II, Table 3.1-3.7

3.3 Secondary School Enrolment

Secondary school enrolment (gross) has increased in Maldives and Nepal from 44 percent and 33 percent in 1990 to 71 percent and 43.2 percent in 2006 respectively. Pakistan has registered slight decline during the study period from 30 to 29.4 percent. Figure 3.3 shows the trends:

Figure 3.3: Secondary School Enrolment

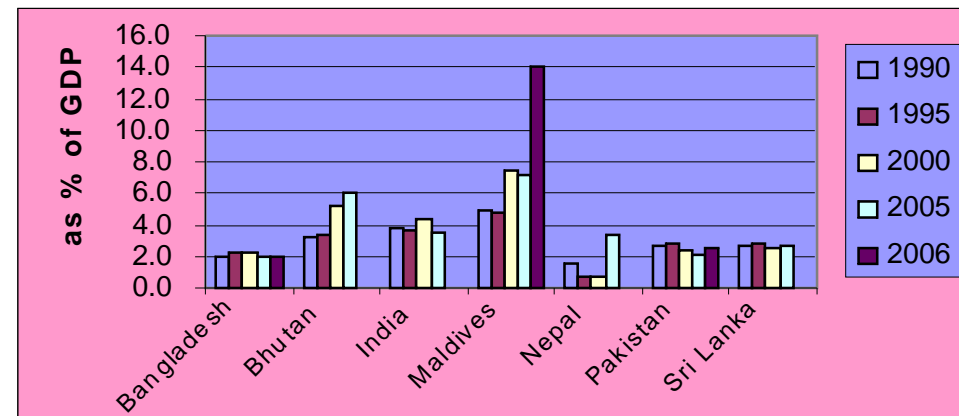


Data Source: Part II, Table 3.1-3.7

3.4 Public Expenditure on Education (as % of GDP)

Public expenditure on education is quite low in the region. In Bangladesh, expenditure on education remained at 2 percent of GDP while in Pakistan it declined from 2.6 to 2.5 during 1990 and 2006 (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: Public Expenditure on Education (as % of GDP)



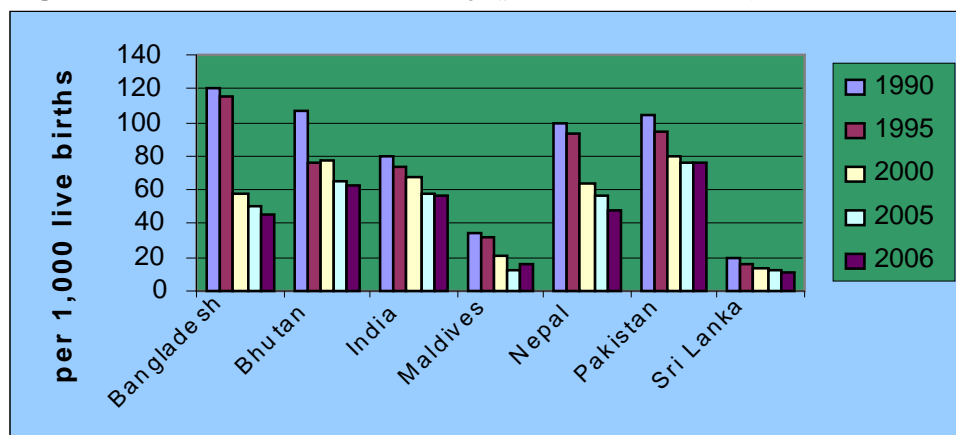
Data Source: Part II, Table 3.1-3.7

4- HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROFILES IN THE SAARC REGION

4.1 Rate of Infant Mortality (per 1000 live births)

SAARC region has achieved significant progress in improving health indicators. Rate of infant mortality has declined significantly in all the SAARC Member States. In Bangladesh and Bhutan infant mortality rate has declined from 120 to 45 per 1000 live births and from 107 to 63 respectively during 1990 to 2006. Similarly, in India and Maldives infant mortality has decreased from 80 and 34 in 1990 to 57 to 16 in 2006 respectively. Nepal and Pakistan have also witnessed decline from 100 and 104.7 in 1990 to 48 and 76.1 in 2006 respectively. Sri Lanka has achieved highest reduction in the infant mortality rate from 19.3 to 11 in 1990 and 2006. Figure 4.1 shows the trends:

Figure 4.1: Rate of Infant Mortality (per 1000 live births)

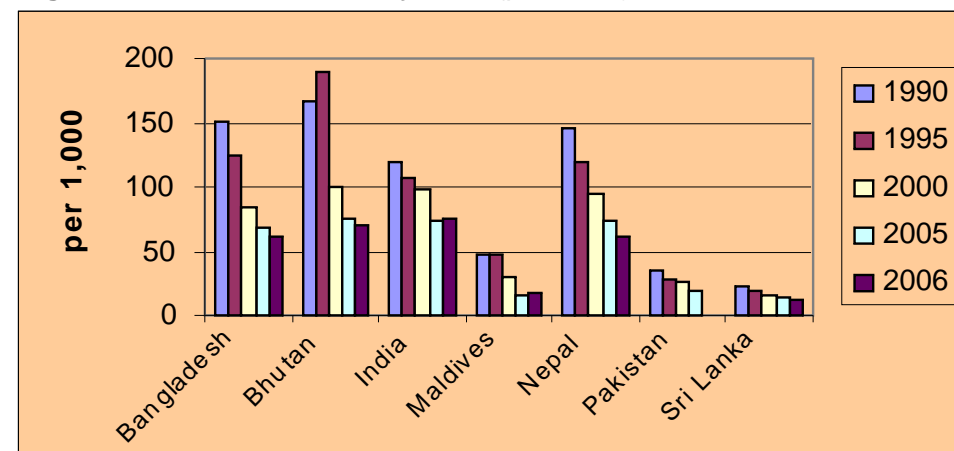


Data Source: Part II, Table 4.1-4.7

4.2 Under-5 Mortality Rate (per 1000)

Under-5 mortality rate in all the SAARC Member States has declined considerably during 1990 and 2006. In Bangladesh and Bhutan rate declined from 151 and 166 in 1990 to 62 and 70 in 2006 respectively. In India and Nepal, decline is more pronounced from 119 and 145 in 1990 to 76 and 61 in 2006 respectively. Maldives and Sri Lanka have showed remarkable progress during the study period. Figure 4.2 below shows the trends:

Figure 4.2: Under-5 Mortality Rate (per 1000)

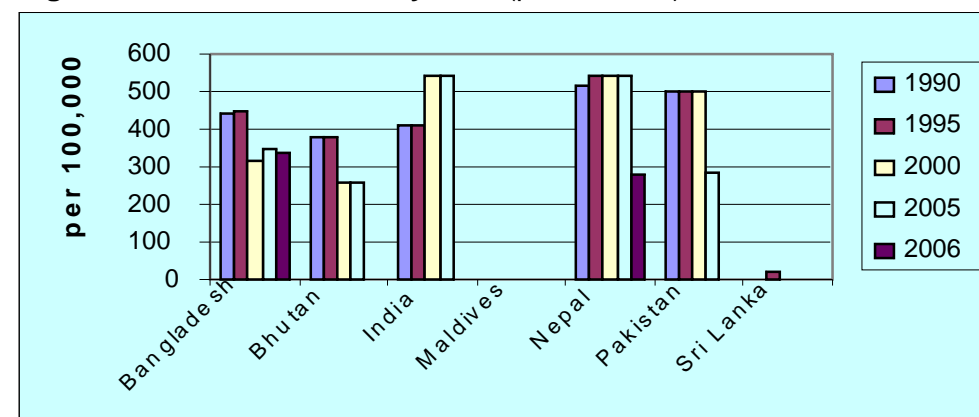


Data Source: Part II, Table 4.1-4.7

4.3 Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000)

Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000) has declined in Bangladesh from 440 in 1990 to 337 in 2006. In Nepal rate has declined from 515 in 1990 to 281 in 2006. Maldives has achieved highest progress in reducing maternal mortality rate (per 100,000) from 2 in 1990 and 1 in 2006 (Figure 4.3). Maldives achievements are comparable with developed countries' rate.

Figure 4.3: Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000)

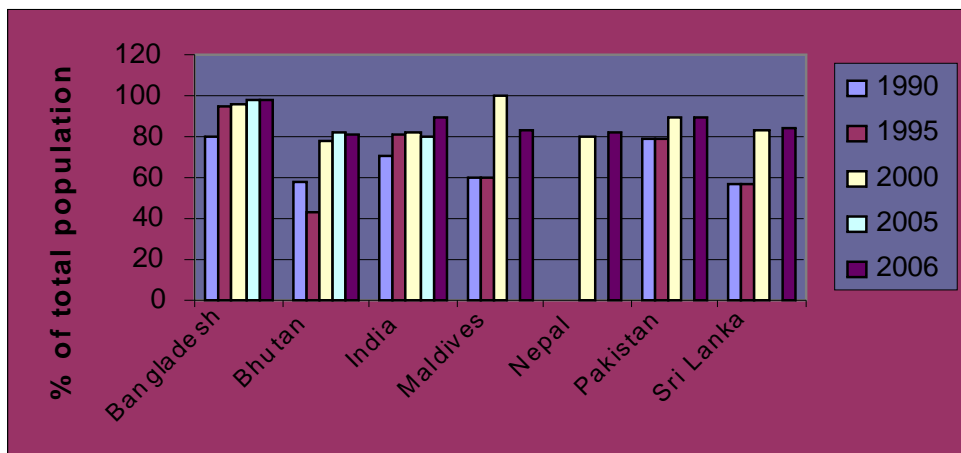


Data Source: Part II, Table 4.1-4.7

4.4 Access to Safe Water (% of total population)

Access to safe water as percentage of total population in SAARC region has increased in all Member States. In Bangladesh and Bhutan, access to safe water supply rate has increased from 80 percent and 58 percent in 1990 to 97.7 percent and 81 percent in 2006 respectively. Percentage of population access to safe water has also increased in India and Maldives from 71 and 60 in 1990 to 89 and 83 in 2006 respectively. Figure 4.4 below gives the details:

Figure 4.4: Access to Safe Water (% of total population)

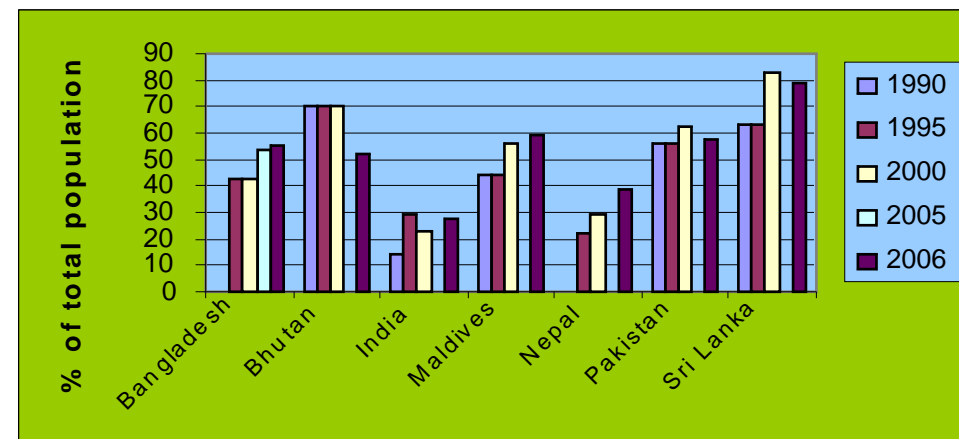


Data Source: Part II, Table 4.1-4.7

4.5 Access to Sanitation (% of total population)

Access to sanitation as percentage of total population in the SAARC Member States has increased during 1990 and 2006. In India and Maldives, access to sanitation has increased from 14 and 44 in 1990 to 28 and 59 in 2006 respectively. Sri Lanka has also witnessed an increase from 63 in 1990 to 79 in 2006. Figure 4.5 below shows the trends:

Figure 4.5: Access to Sanitation (% of total population)

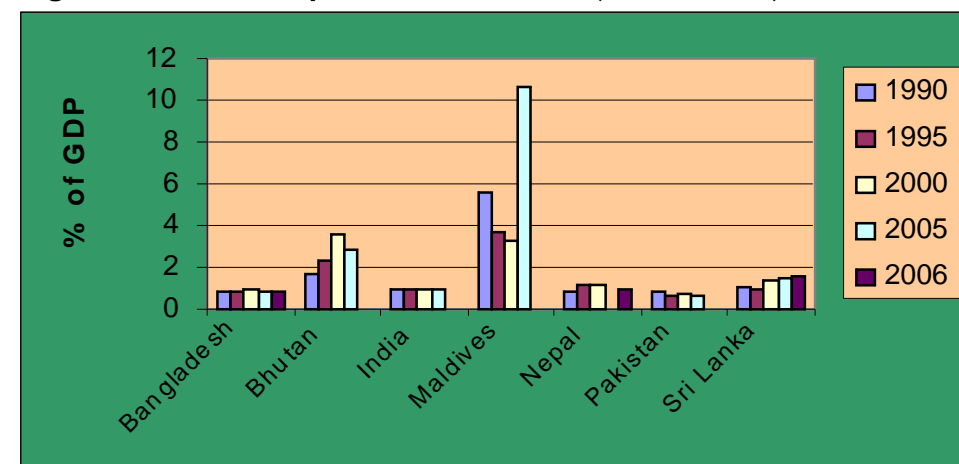


Data Source: Part II, Table 4.1-4.7

4.6 Public Expenditure on Health (as % of GDP)

Public expenditure on health as percentage of GDP in the SAARC region has increased during 1990 and 2006. Bangladesh has registered stagnant rate with slight changes at 0.8 percent in 1990 and 2006. Nepal has achieved nominal increase from 0.8 percent in 1990 to 0.9 percent in 2006. Sri Lanka has witnessed increase from 1.1 percent in 1990 to 1.6 percent in 2006. Figure 4.6 below shows the trends:

Figure 4.6: Public Expenditure on Health (as % of GDP)



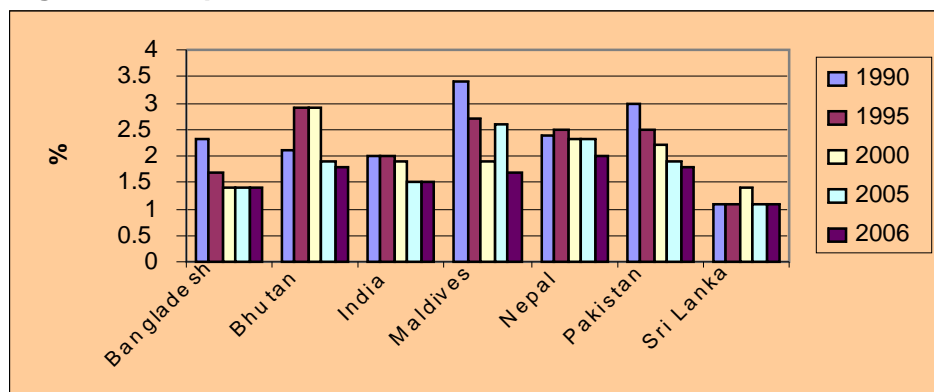
Data Source: Part II, Table 4.1-4.7

5- DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES IN THE SAARC REGION

5.1 Population Growth Rate

Population growth rates have declined in all the SAARC Member States during 1990 and 2006. In Bangladesh and Bhutan growth rate declined from 2.3 percent and 2.1 percent in 1990 to 1.4 percent and 1.8 percent in 2006 respectively. India and Maldives have also witnessed a decline from 2 percent and 3.4 percent in 1990 to 1.5 percent and 1.7 percent in 2006. In Pakistan population growth declined from 3 percent to 1.8 percent during 1990 and 2006. With small shocks, Sri Lanka maintained its population growth rate at 1.1 during 1990 and 2006. Figure 5.1 below depicts these trends:

Figure 5.1: Population Growth Rate

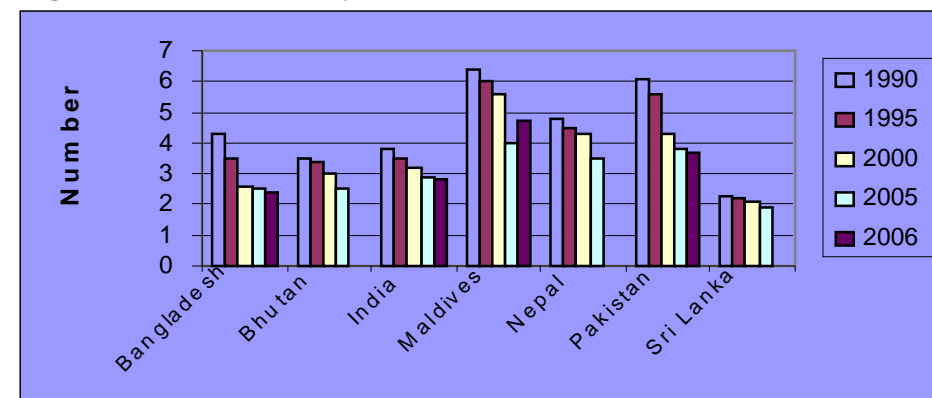


Data Source: Part II, Table 5.1-5.7

5.2 Total Fertility Rate

Total fertility rate is the average number of live births per women during her reproductive age. The rate has decreased in Bangladesh and India from 4.3 percent and 3.8 percent in 1990 to 2.4 percent and 2.8 percent in 2006 respectively. Maldives has also witnessed a decline from 6.4 percent to 4.7 percent during 1990 and 2006, while Pakistan has achieved significant decline in total fertility rate from 6.4 percent to 3.7 percent during 1990 and 2006. Figure 5.2 below shows the trend:

Figure 5.2: Total Fertility Rate

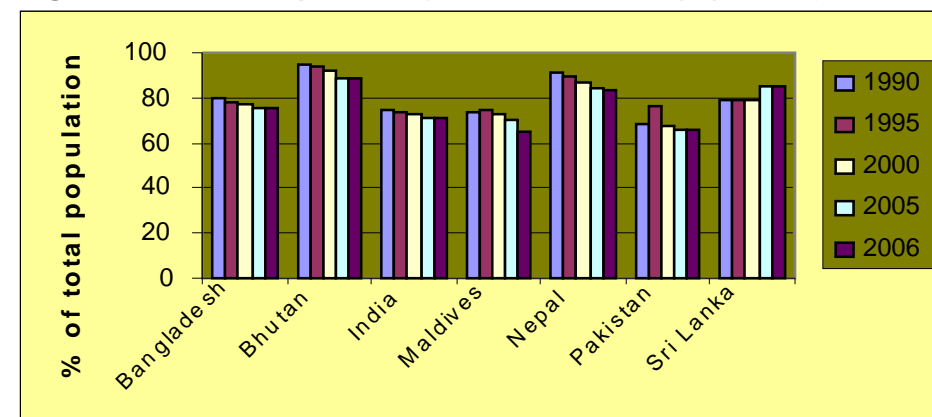


Data Source: Part II, Table 5.1-5.7

5.3 Rural Population (as % share in total population)

Rural population share in total population has decreased in all the SAARC Member States, except Sri Lanka, where it has increased from 78.7 percent to 84.9 percent during 1990 and 2006. In Bhutan and Sri Lanka rural population has declined from 94.6 percent and 78.7 percent in 1990 to 88.6 percent and 84.9 percent in 2006 respectively. Figure 5.3 shows the trend:

Figure 5.3: Rural Population (as % share in total population)

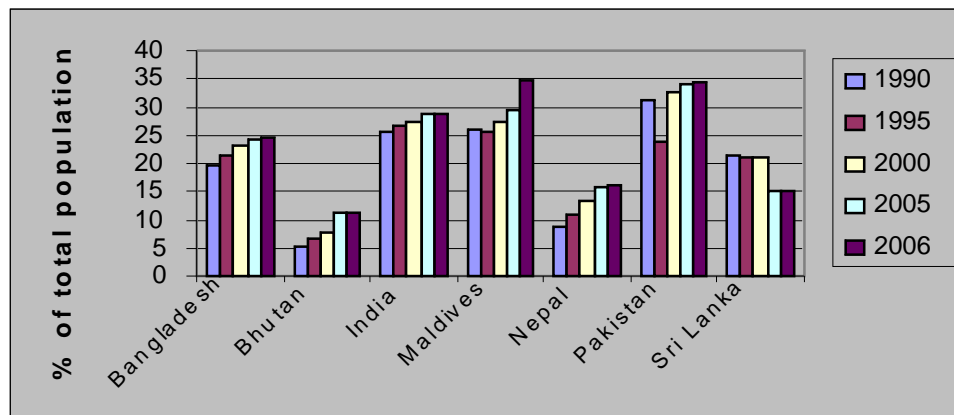


Data Source: Part II, Table 5.1-5.7

5.4 Urban Population (as % share in total population)

The rate of urbanization in the SAARC region is high and increasing. The rate of urbanization is highest in Pakistan where 34.5 percent population lives in cities. On the other hand, Bhutan has the low level of urbanization in the region. Figure 5.4 shows the trends:

Figure 5.4: Urban Population (as % share in total population)



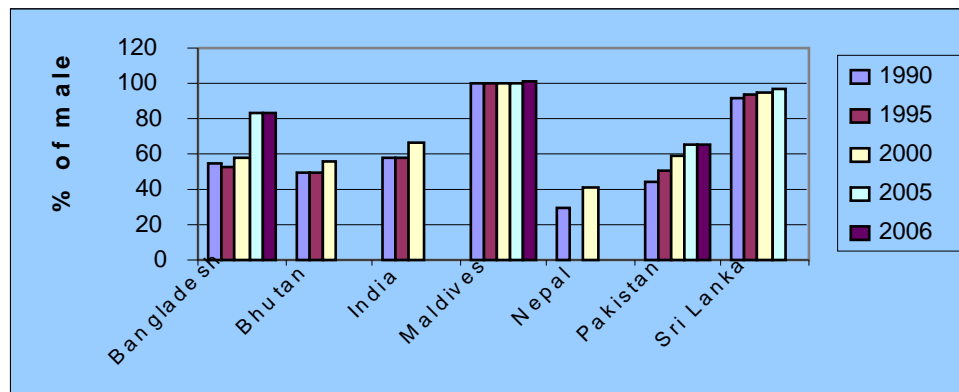
Data Source: Part II, Table 5.1-5.7

6- GENDER DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAARC REGION

6.1 Adult Female Literacy Rate

Adult female literacy rate (% of male) has increased in Bangladesh and Maldives from 54.5 percent and 100 percent in 1990 to 83.4 percent and 100.8 percent in 2006 respectively. Pakistan has also witnessed significant increase in the female literacy rate from 43.9 percent in 1990 to 65 percent in 2006 (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1: Adult Female Literacy Rate

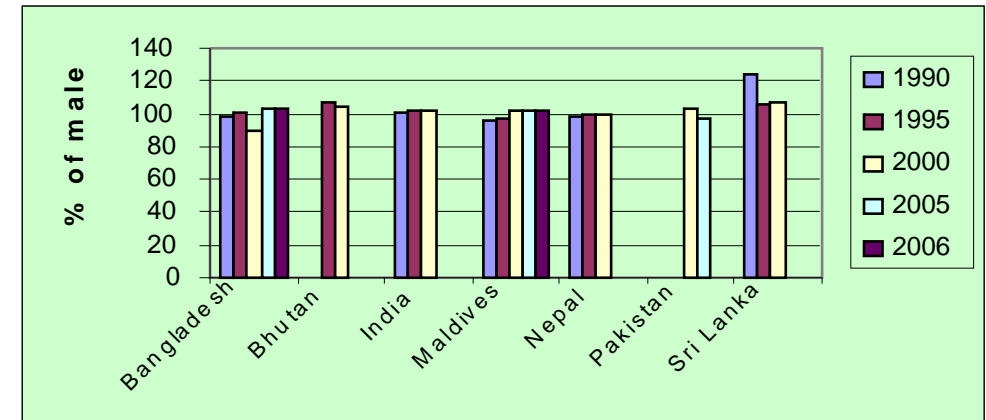


Data Source: Part II, Table 6.1-6.7

6.2 Female Life Expectancy at Birth (% of male)

Female life expectancy at birth as percentage of male has increased in Bangladesh from 98 percent to 103 percent during 1990 and 2006. Ratio of female life expectancy is highest in Maldives. Figure 6.2 below gives the details of female life expectancy:

Figure 6.2: Female Life Expectancy at Birth (% of male)



Data Source: Part II, Table 6.1-6.7