

State of Telecommunication/ ICT Indicators in Bangladesh

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Country Profile

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Area | - 147570 Sq.km |
| 2. Population | - 123.15* Million (Now 140 Millions) |
| 3. Population Density | - 834/Sq.km* (now 949/sq.km) |
| 4. Administrative Division | - 6 |
| 5. Districts | - 64 |
| 6. Sub Districts (Upazila) | - 472 |

*Source - Population census 2001

Country Profile

Contd.....

7. Unions(Rural)	- 4484
8. Villages (Rural)	- 87319
9. City Corporation (Urban)	- 6
10. Municipalities (Urban)	- 223
11. Total Households	- 25.06* Million
12. GDP	- 361 USD (2001-2002)*

*Source - Population census 2001

Government Organizations related to Telecommunication/ICT Promotion/Regulation

Name of the Organization	Functionality
Ministry of Post and Telecommunication (MOPT)	Formulation of Policy/Guideline/Acts related to Telecommunications.
Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) under MOPT	State run Telecom/Internet/value added Service Provider
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) under MOPT	Telecom sector regulator (Licensing authority of Telecom/Internet and related communication service provider)
Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology (MOSICT)	Formulation of policy/ Guideline/Acts on ICT/S&T, Promotion and Development of ICT
Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)	Promotion, Research and Development of ICT, Implementation of projects on ICT, Advisory Services to the Government organizations.

Data collection on Telecom /ICT

- Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has been authorized by the Bangladesh Computer Council Act 1990 to collect, analyze and dissemination of data/information related to ICT.
- Bangladesh Tele-Communication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has also been authorized by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001 to collect data/information related to Telecommunication.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the National organization to collect and publish data in various sector. But currently it does not have any plan to collect data on Telecom/ICT.

Data collection on Telecom /ICT

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- At present no policy regarding ICT data collection in the country.
- BCC conducted survey on IT resources of Bangladesh first in 1999 and it is the last.
- Present Telecom/ICT data reflects information supplied by various public/private service providers. It is not supported by any national survey.
- Usually when data/information requires then BTRC/BCC/concern Ministry request service providers to supply data/information

Telecom Operators

Operators	Functionality
Public Sector	
Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone board (BTTB) (State owned)	Telecom carrier, Basic Telephony Service (PSTN), ISP & other value added services.
Teletalk (Under MOPT)	Cellular Service
Private Sector	
Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd (City Cell)	Cellular Service (CDMA-800) Number of subscribers - 0.3 Millions.
Grameen Phone	Cellular Services (GSM -900) Number of subscribers - 2.4 Million

Telecom Operators, Private Sector

Contd.....

Operators	Functionality
TM International Bangladesh ltd. (AKTEL)	Cellular Service (CDMA- 8000) Number of Subscribers 1 Million
Sheba Telecom (Pvt) Ltd	Cellular Services (GSM -900) Number of subscribers – 0.054 Million
Bangladesh Rural Telecom authority (BRTA)	Rural fixed line phone services
15 private PSTN operators have got license from BTRC	Private PSTN services would be available within 1 st quarter of 2005

Public Sector Infrastructure

- BTTB has Digital Data Network in 13 Districts with 23 nodes and it will increase up to 41 districts with 71 nodes within 2005 which is able to provide high speed point to point share data line from 64 to 2083 kbps.
- BTTB has established digital fixed line telephone exchange in all 64 districts and 165 sub districts. Rest sub districts will come under digital exchange within 2005.
- BTTB has established Optical Fiber network with major districts to capital Dhaka and soon it would connect all districts.
- BTTB has joined SEA -ME-WE-4 International submarine cable consortium and Bangladesh will be connected by the 3rd quarter of 2005.

Public Sector Infrastructure

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- All BTTB's digital exchange areas are under the coverage of dial up internet connection through remote access point (Point of Presence, POP). Number of POP will increase up to 39 by the end of 2005 and all sub districts HQ will come under dial up internet coverage.
- Bangladesh Railway have 1800 KM fiber optic network. Now being utilized by the private cellular operator Grameen phone.
- Power Grid Company of Bangladesh have 448 KM Fiber optic network between Dhaka and Chittagong over its high voltage transmission line. But this facility is still unutilized. It has started installation of FOC over its high voltage transmission line throughout the whole country. Which would have a very good potentiality for data communication

Present Telecom/ ICT indices

Number of Fixed Line Telephone (Under Public Sector Agency BTTB)	Capacity 0.925 million Connection: 0.80 million digital and 0.011 million analog
Number of Mobile Telephone Under Private Sector	3.75 million
Teledensity:	Fixed Line 0.57 set/100 peoples Mobile 2.68 set/100 peoples
International Voice Circuit (For all Countries of the world under BTTB)	6000

Present Telecom/ ICT indices

Contd.....

International Trunk Exchange (Under BTTB)	2
International Internet Backbone	10 MB
Paging and Radio Trunk Subscribers (Under BTTB)	7000
Telex Subscriber	1200
Number of IX	1 (Private Sector)

Present Telecom/ ICT indices

Contd.....

Number of ISP's	175(Nationwide -27)
Ground Satellite Station (Under BTTB)	4
Number of PCs	0.50 million (estimated)
Number of Internet Subscribers	0.2 million (estimated)
Number of Internet Users	2.0 (estimated)
Software Exports Firms	26
VSAT User	85
VSAT Provider	30
VSAT Hub	4
Domestic Data Communications Service Provider	24

Telecom Market

It is the country's fastest growing sector. Number of Cellular phone lines user increased from 0.2122 million to 2.5 million during April 2000 to April 2004. Now the numbers are 3.75 Millions. This sector attracting more foreign investment. State owned BTTB, the only PSTN Service provider could not meet the demand of the market. But now after liberalization of this sector BTRC have issued 31 Licenses to 15 companies to introduce PSTN service all over the country. By the first quarter of 2005 this service will be available. It is Hoped that we will see a dramatic increasment of PSTN phones like cellular phone and PSTN teledensity will increase up to 4 per 100 Peoples by the year 1010 following the national Telecom policy. As internet telephony enable making overseas call at a much cheaper rate than conventional telephony it has got significant potentiality in the country. Government has already declared VOIP legal.

Challenges for data collection

- No policy existing for telecom/ICT data collection, even policy maker does not think about it
- 3 organizations have been given responsibilities for data collection but none have even plan to collect data/ conduct survey
- Lack of coordination among the organizations
- Concern service providers/institutions do not reply any query timely/easily sent by BTRC/BCC or other organizations
- Lack of adequate fund

Constraints for Telecom/ICT market

- Low per capita income
- Cost of telephone connectivity as well as call rent are not affordable by majority of the common peoples
- Absence of PSTN/Internet infrastructure in the rural areas where 80% peoples lives
- Internet connection costly and slow
- Cost of PC's are not affordable by general peoples
- Absence of local contents in the internet
- Absence of Unicode compliance Bengali interface
- Lack of adequate skilled ICT teachers/trainers

Thanks