

Quarterly Report on No-Frill Accounts

(January - March 2024)



Bangladesh Bank

Financial Inclusion Department

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Acronyms

BB	Bangladesh Bank
BDT	Bangladeshi Taka
BKB	Bangladesh Krishi Bank
FCB	Foreign Commercial Bank
FID	Financial Inclusion Department
MFS	Mobile Financial Service
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MRA	Microcredit Regulatory Authority
NFA	No-Frill Account
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NID	National Identity
PCB	Private Commercial Bank
PFI	Participating Financial Institution
PPO	Pension Payment Order
RAKUB	Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank
RMG	Ready-made Garments
SB	Specialized Bank
SBA	School Banking Account
SoCB	State-Owned Commercial Bank
SSN	Social Safety Net
SUA	Street Urchins and Working Children Account

Executive Summary

This report presents quarterly review of the No-Frill Accounts (NFAs) which includes the accounts opened with an initial deposit of Tk. 10/50/100 by the low income people, the students of schools under 18 years of age and the street urchins or working children. In March 2024 quarter, total number of NFAs has been recorded as 31,603,426 with total deposit of BDT 69,878.12 million.

The number of Tk. 10/50/100 accounts (excluding the School Banking, Street Urchins and Working Children Accounts) and the cumulative deposits in these accounts stand at 27,263,861 and BDT 47,913.10 million respectively in the March 2024 quarter. The number of accounts has increased by 1.04% in the reporting quarter compared to the previous quarter and increased by 2.73% over the year. The number of Tk. 10 Accounts for the Farmers remains the largest component of the NFAs, contributing 38.15% of the total Tk. 10/50/100 accounts. On the other hand, the second largest component is the number of accounts for SSN Programs which constitutes 36.88% of the total NFAs in the reporting quarter.

As on 31 March 2024, individuals with Tk. 10/50/100 accounts have received a cumulative amount of BDT 7,644.81 million as credit from both the BDT 2 billion and BDT 5 billion refinance schemes for the No-Frill Accounts owners. The increased amount of such credit is helping the marginalized people to maintain the soundness of their financial health.

No-Frill Accounts play significant role in the distribution of foreign inward remittances. In March 2024 quarter, these accounts received BDT 124.07 million as foreign remittances. The cumulative amount of foreign remittances received through these accounts by the end of the reporting quarter reaches BDT 6,870.82 million. The amount is 1.84% higher than the cumulative amount received by the end of December 2023 quarter.

In this quarter 87,634 new School Banking accounts have been opened. The number of School Banking Accounts has increased by 2.08% over the previous quarter. This increase is due to the resumption of school banking conferences across the country. Street Urchins and Working children accounts have also increased by 4.86% over the last quarter. 19 banks have opened 39,628 accounts of this type. Overall, the No Frill Accounts contribute significantly in bringing the financially excluded people under the umbrella of formal financial services.

Chapter 1: No-Frill Accounts

BB has taken various initiatives to ensure financial services for the people of all segments of the society. As a part of these initiatives, the central bank has issued directives for the banks to open accounts for the marginalized people with an initial deposit of Tk.10/50/100.

These accounts require neither a minimum balance nor any service charge/fee. On the contrary, relatively higher interest rates than the existing savings rates are offered in these accounts to augment welfare of the low-income people. Generally, these accounts are referred as No-Frill Accounts (NFAs). The targeted people of these accounts include farmers, RMG workers, extreme poor, the beneficiaries of the Social Safety Net (SSN) programs etc. NFAs also include the School Banking Accounts (SBAs) where students under the age of 18 years can open bank accounts with an initial deposit of BDT 100 only.

Up to March 2024 quarter, the government has disbursed subsidy/salary to 6,959,927 NFAs held with various segments of marginalized people of the society. In addition, NFAs play a significant role in channelizing inward foreign remittances. At the end of March 2024 quarter, the cumulative amount of foreign remittances

received through these accounts reaches BDT 6,870.82 million. The amount is 1.84% higher than the cumulative amount received by the end of December 2023 quarter. In addition, the number of SBAs has increased by 2.08% over the previous quarter. SBAs have been increased by 10.96% over the March 2023 quarter. The resumption of School Banking Conferences by banks across the country has contributed to this growth.

Highlights of No-Frill Accounts (Up to March 2024):

Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts (Except SBAs & SUAs)

- *Total Number of Accounts: 27,263,861*
- *Total Amount of Deposits: BDT 47,913.10 million.*
- *Total Number of Accounts for the Farmers: 10,402,457 (38.15% of total Tk. 10/50/100 accounts)*
- *Second and Third largest categories of Tk. 10 Accounts are Accounts for the SSN Programs 10,054,034 (36.88%) and the Extreme Poor 3,478,498 (12.76%).*
- *The Amount of Remittance sent through No Frill Accounts: BDT 6,870.82 million.*

School Banking Accounts (SBAs)

- Total Number of Accounts: 4,299,937
- Total Amount of Deposits: BDT 21,960.00 million

Street Urchins and Working Children Accounts (SUAs)

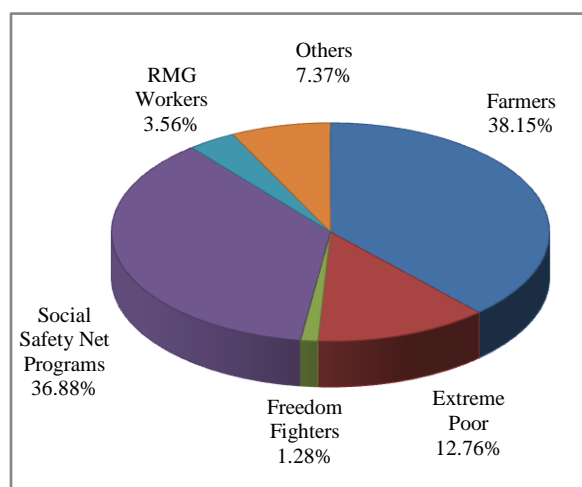
- Total Number of Accounts: 39,628
- Total Amount of Deposits: BDT 5.02 million.

Chapter 2: Tk.10/50/100 Accounts

2.1 Different Categories of Tk.

10/50/100 Accounts

As of March 2024, the total number of Tk. 10/50/100 accounts excluding SBAs and Street Urchin Accounts is 27,263,861. These accounts hold a total deposit of BDT 47,913.10 million. Among all the categories of Tk. 10/50/100 accounts, “Farmers” category has become the largest component in this quarter.



**Others (Except Farmers, RMG, SSN, FF, Extreme Poor sector)

Figure 1: Major Categories of Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts

The major categories of Tk. 10/50/100 accounts comprise of the Accounts for the Farmers (38.15%), Beneficiaries of the SSN programs (36.88%) and Extreme Poor (12.76%). A small but significant component of Tk. 10/50/100 accounts is the No-Frill Accounts for Ready-made Garments (RMG) workers which constitute 3.56% of the total Tk. 10/50/100

accounts. A complete list of these components is shown in the Table 1 in the Appendix A.

2.2 Quarterly Trend of Tk. 10/50/100

Accounts

As of March 2024, the total number of Tk. 10/50/100 accounts reaches to 27,263,861 which indicate a 1.04% rise over the previous quarter, but 2.73% growth over the year.

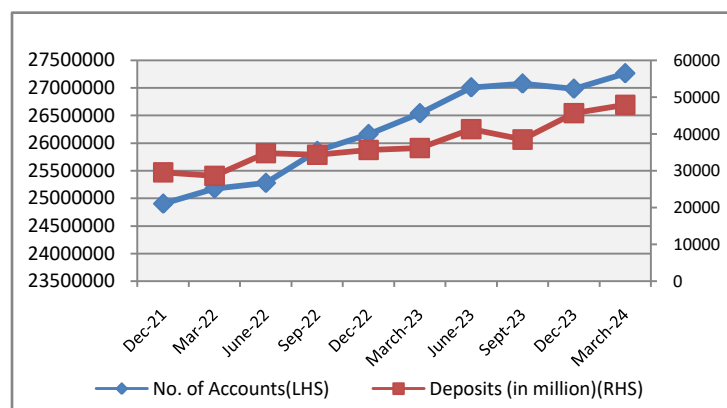


Figure 2: Quarterly Movement of Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts

Total deposit in Tk.10/50/100 accounts stands at BDT 47,913.10 million in the reporting quarter, which is 4.94% higher than that of the previous quarter and 32.38% higher than the March 2023 quarter.

2.2.1 No-Frill Accounts (NFAs) for the Farmers

BB introduced Tk. 10 Accounts for the Farmers in 2010¹ as one of the significant financial

¹ BRPD Circular No.-01/2010

inclusion initiatives to bring rural communities living on agriculture under the umbrella of formal financial services.

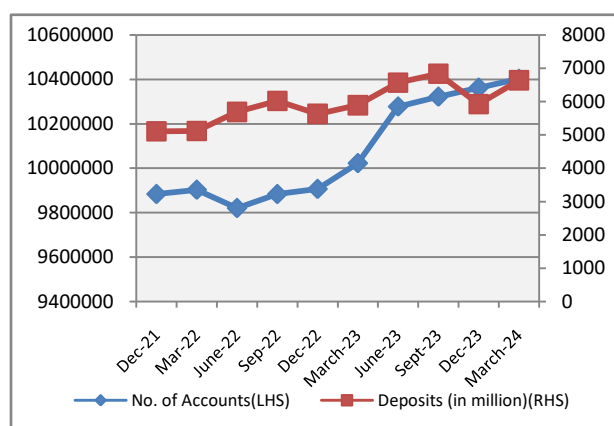


Figure 3: Quarterly Trend of Tk. 10 Accounts for the Farmers

As of March 2024, the total number of Accounts for the Farmers reaches 10,402,457 which is 0.38% higher than that of the previous quarter. On the other hand, the total deposit in the Accounts for the Farmers stands at BDT 6,638.17 million, which is 12.05% higher than that of the previous quarter.

2.2.2 NFAs for the Extreme Poor

Poverty reduction is one of the major policy objectives of BB. The central bank has advised all banks to open accounts for the extreme poor so that they can receive various Government financial supports through the banking channel. Tk.10 account also provides the extreme poor with the opportunities to save their hard-earned money.

As of March 2024, the number of Accounts for the Extreme Poor reaches 3,478,498. This

number is 0.15% lower than that of the previous quarter and 2.42% lower than that of the March 2023 quarter.

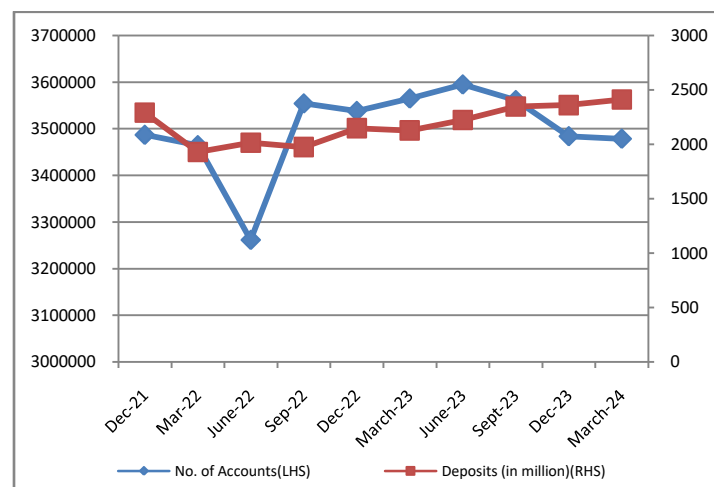


Figure 4: Quarterly Movement of Tk. 10 Accounts for the Extreme Poor

Deposit in the Accounts for Extreme Poor has been increased by 2.14% over the previous quarter and 13.33% over the March 2023 quarter.

Increasing trend in deposit in the NFAs for the extreme poor indicates a positive saving behavior of the extreme poor even in the inflationary pressure.

2.2.3 NFAs for the Beneficiaries of the SSN Programs

Government's SSN programs greatly contribute to support the marginal people of the society. Poor people can receive SSN allowances through Tk. 10 accounts. BB has advised all the banks to open SSN accounts for the beneficiaries of SSN programs only with the documentation requirement of National Identity Card (NID) and

Pension Payment Order (PPO) book.² It is noteworthy that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Government used these accounts for the beneficiaries of the SSN programs to distribute cash allowances among the financially affected low-income families.³

The number of Tk. 10 accounts for the beneficiaries of the SSN has increased by 1.90% in the reporting quarter from the previous quarter, but increased by 1.11% over March 2023 quarter.

The amount of deposits in these accounts has increased by 2.47% compared to that of the previous quarter and increased by 74.60% than that of the March 2023 quarter.

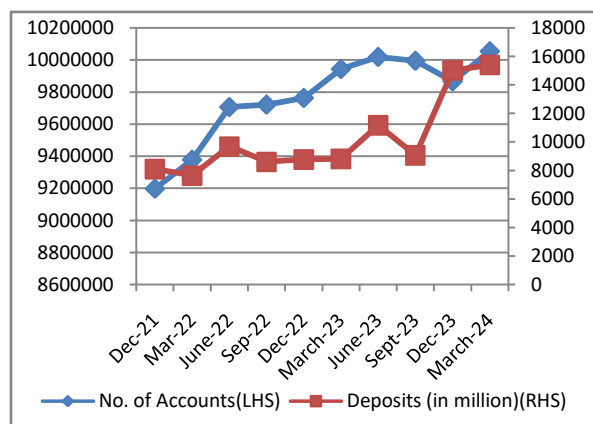


Figure 5: Quarterly Movement of Tk. 10 Accounts for Beneficiaries of the SSN Programs

2.2.4 NFAs Accounts for RMG Workers

The number of Tk. 100 accounts for the RMG workers has increased by 3.45% in the reporting quarter over the previous quarter and 20.94%

over the March 2023 quarter. This trend indicates that more RMG Workers are opening bank accounts which is helping to expand the financial inclusion network. Deposit in these bank accounts has increased by 20.57% over the previous quarter and increased by 27.89% over the March 2023 quarter.

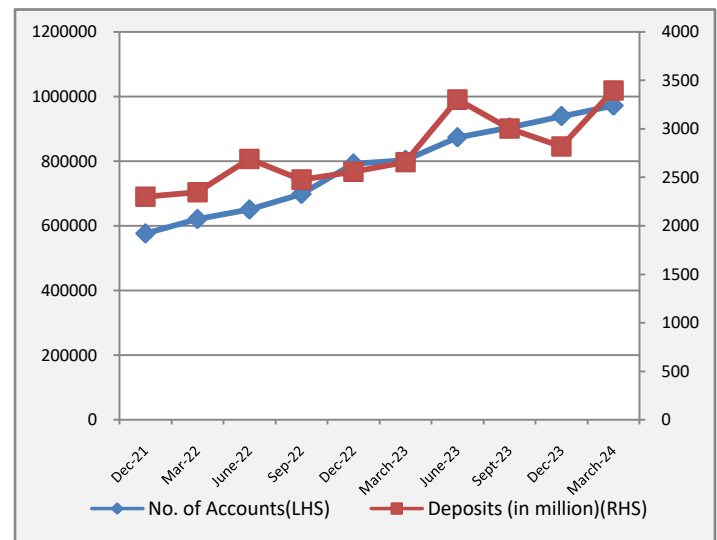


Figure 6: Quarterly Trend of Tk. 100 Accounts for RMG Workers

2.3 Performance of the Banks regarding Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts

State-owned Commercial Banks (SoCBs) dominate over the other types of banks in opening Tk.10/50/100 Accounts. As of March 2024, SoCBs opened 14,370,409 No-Frill Accounts which constitute 52.71% of the total accounts. Specialized Banks (SBs) hold 24.72% while the Private Commercial Banks hold (PCBs) 22.57% share of the total Tk. 10/50/100 accounts. Due to having limited number of branches, participation of Foreign Commercial Banks (FCBs) is insignificant in this area (0.00026%)

² BRPD Circular No-05 dated 19 June 2011

³ FID Circular No-02 dated 06 July 2020

During the reporting quarter, the total deposits held in the scheduled banks as Tk. 10/50/100 accounts amounts to BDT 47,913.10 million. SoCBs hold BDT 32,974.04 million or 68.82% of the total deposits in these accounts.

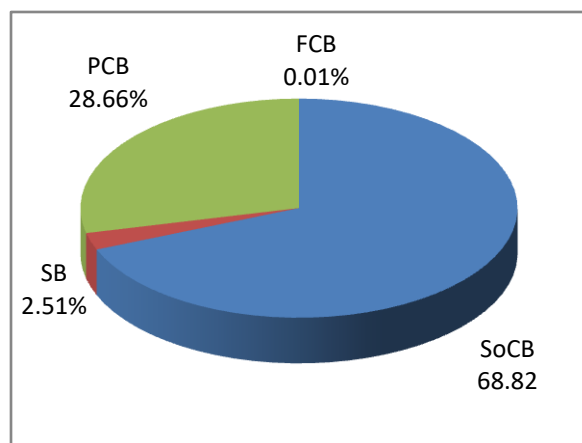


Figure 7: Market Share of Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts Deposits

2.4 Top 5 Banks' Performance on Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts

As of March 2024, top 5 banks have opened 79.14% of the total Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts. Sonali Bank PLC has opened 24.05% of the total accounts. Another SoCB in the list of top 5 banks, Agrani Bank PLC has opened 15.44% and Bank Asia PLC, a PCB, has opened 13.03% of the total accounts respectively. Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), the specialized bank with 16.33% of the total accounts, is another major contributor in promoting financial inclusion through opening No-Frill Accounts.

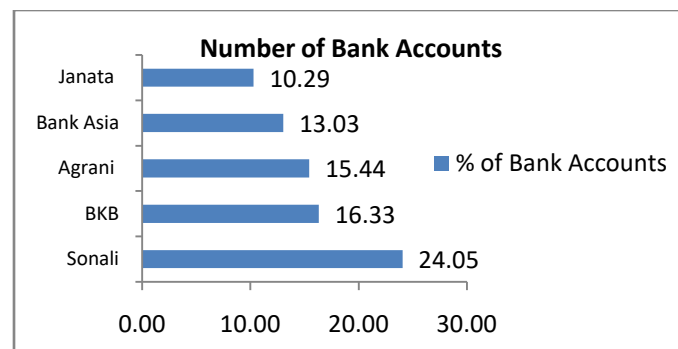


Figure 8: Top 5 Banks Based on Number of No-Frill Accounts

Top 5 banks hold 83.58% of the total amount of deposits. In terms of total deposits, Bank Asia PLC, Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC and Global Islami Bank PLC have emerged in the list as top contributing PCBs along with Sonali Bank PLC and Agrani Bank PLC.

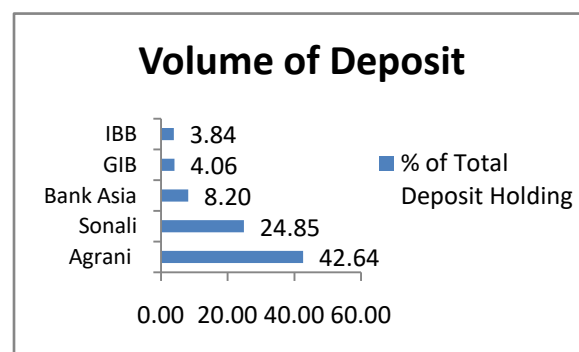


Figure 9: Top 5 Banks Based on Deposits in No-Frill Accounts

2.5 Refinance Scheme for No-Frill Account Holders

This revolving scheme facilitates banks to lend to the marginalized people with Tk. 10/50/100 accounts without collateral. In september 2021, BB took several measures⁴ to facilitate rapid recovery of rural economy from the COVID-19

⁴ FID Circular-01/2021, BB Website

pandemic as well as to make this scheme more attractive both for the banks and the targeted borrowers. As a part of those measures, the fund size of the refinance scheme has been increased from BDT 2.00 billion to BDT 5.00 billion. Individual loan size in the revised scheme has been increased from BDT 50,000 to BDT 500,000. The most significant revision of the scheme lies in the interest rate which is now 7% at the borrower level (from bank to end users) and 1% at the bank level (from BB to PFIs), replacing the earlier rates of 9% at the borrower level and 4% at bank level. Besides, Shariah based banks are now permitted to participate in the scheme.

Up to March 2024, a total of 81,107 borrowers have received BDT 7,644.81 million from both the BDT 2.00 billion and BDT 5.00 billion revolving refinance schemes.

2.6 Remittance through No-Frill accounts

Up to March 2024, the cumulative amount of foreign remittances received through these accounts reaches BDT 6,870.82 million. The amount is 1.84% higher than the cumulative amount received by the end of December 2023 quarter.

Chapter 3: School Banking Activities

3.1 School Banking Activities

School Banking is one of the most significant financial inclusion innovations by the Bangladesh Bank. The program was initiated with an aim to develop saving behavior of the students at an early age. This program introduces banking services and modern banking technologies to the students below 18 years of age. Bangladesh Bank issued directives⁵ for the banks to introduce School Banking in November 2010 and later framed a comprehensive policy⁶ in October 2013. These policies have preceded the directive⁷ to convert School Banking Accounts (SBAs) to general savings accounts once the students reach the age of 18 years (subject to the consent of the account holder).

In light of the existing School Banking policies, banks can open student accounts with a minimum deposit of BDT 100 with no service charges. Moreover, these accounts offer attractive interest rates, debit card facilities and financial education programs. 59 out of 61 banks operating in Bangladesh are so far offering school banking services. The number of SBAs has reached 4,299,937 in this quarter, 2.08% higher than that of previous quarter. Year-to-year comparison has also marked significant

growth in School Banking activities. The number of SBAs has grown by 10.96% in the March 2024 quarter compared to the March 2023 quarter. Scheduled banks have been resuming school banking conferences since November 2022 across the country. This has helped to augment school banking activities.

Deposit in the SBAs has been reduced to BDT 21,960.00 million during the reporting quarter with the decrease of 12.08% from the previous quarter.

Highlights of the School Banking, June 2023:

- *No. of Banks Operating School Banking Accounts: 59*
- *Total no. of School Banking Accounts: 4,299,937*
- *Total Amount of Deposits: BDT 21,960.00 million.*
- *45.03% of Total Accounts are in the Urban Area and 54.97% are in the Rural Area.*
- *Male Students are holding 51.10% and Female Students are holding 48.90% of total No. of Accounts.*
- *The PCBs have the largest share of 71% in opening SBAs*

⁵BRPD Circular Letter No.12/2010.

⁶GBCSRD Circular No.7/2013.

⁷FID Circular Letter No.02/2018.

3.2 Region-wise Distribution of School Banking Activities

As of March 2024, banks have opened 4,299,937 SBAs so far. 54.97% of the total SBAs are in the rural areas. The number of SBAs has increased by 1.65% in the urban areas and increased by 2.61% in the rural areas in the reporting quarter indicating a higher growth in the rural areas than that of the urban areas.

Division wise, Dhaka has the largest share of 22.57% SBAs containing 40.99% of the total deposits. Chattogram follows Dhaka with 20.22% share of the total SBAs and 23.75% of the total deposits. Figure 10 and 11 illustrate the division wise distribution of SBAs and deposits held in those accounts.

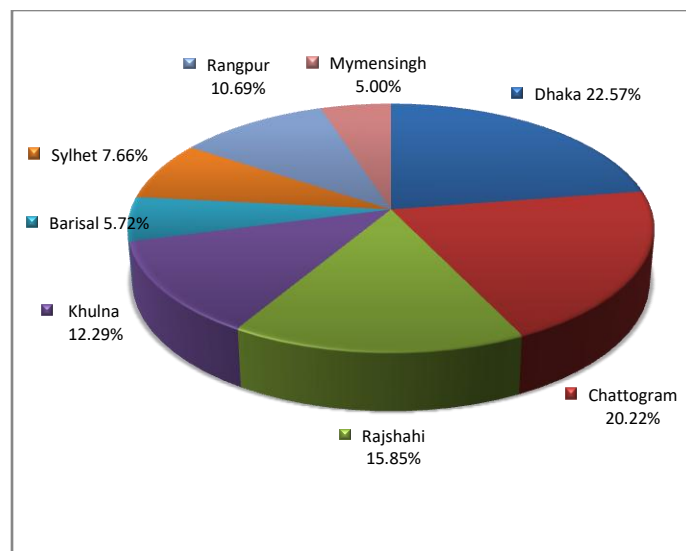


Figure 10: Division-wise School Banking Accounts

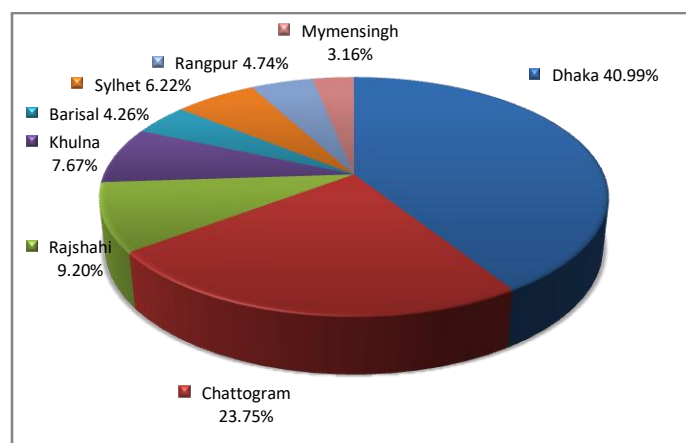


Figure 11: Division-wise School Banking Deposits

Dhaka Division

Total no. of Accounts: 970,343

Total amount of Deposits: BDT 9,002.41 million.

Chattogram Division

Total no. of Accounts: 869,597

Total amount of Deposits: BDT 5,214.98 million.

Rajshahi Division

Total no. of Accounts: 681,462

Total amount of Deposits: BDT 2,020.82 million.

3.3 Gender-wise School Banking Activities

Gender distribution of SBAs is slightly inclined to the male students with 51.10% of the total SBAs. Female students hold 48.90% share of the total accounts. The number of male-owned and female-owned account have been increased by 2.18% and 1.98% respectively in the reporting quarter compared to those of the previous quarter. The amount of deposit in male-owned

accounts has decreased by 11.12% and also the amount of deposit in female-owned accounts decreased by 13.23% in the reporting quarter compared to the previous quarter.

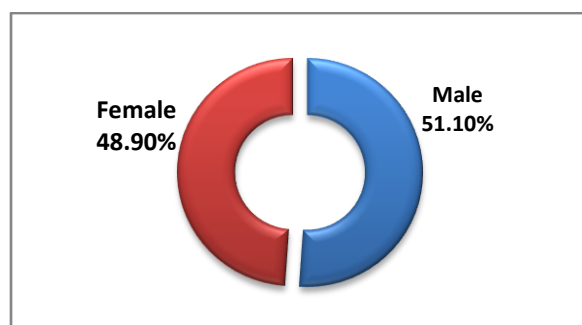


Figure 12: Gender-wise School Banking Accounts

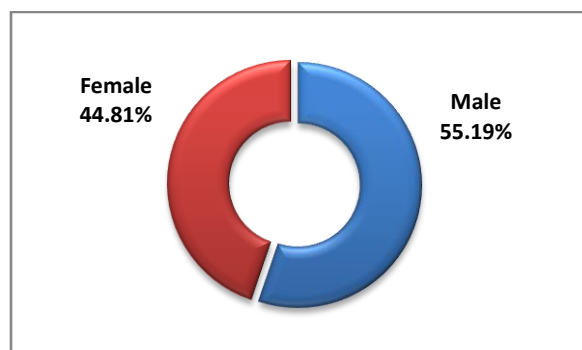


Figure 13: Gender-wise School Banking Deposits

3.4 Banks' Performance on School Banking Accounts and Deposits

The PCBs have the largest share in the accumulation of SBAs and deposits. They have opened 71% of the total School Banking accounts and held 78.72% of the overall School Banking deposit amounting to BDT 17,286.01 million during the reporting quarter. The number of accounts with the PCBs has increased by 1.19% and the amount of deposits has decreased by 3.75% compared to the previous quarter.

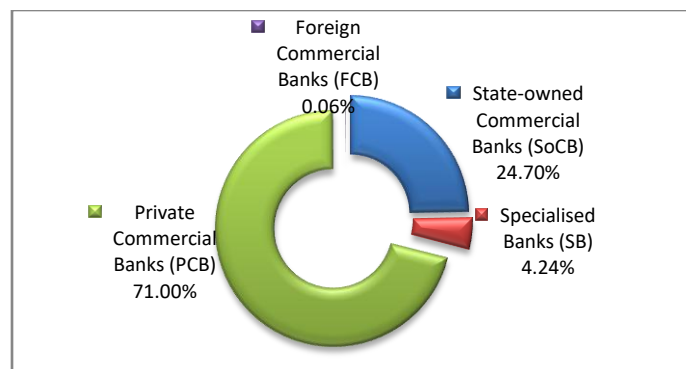


Figure 14: Banks' Performance on Opening School Banking Accounts

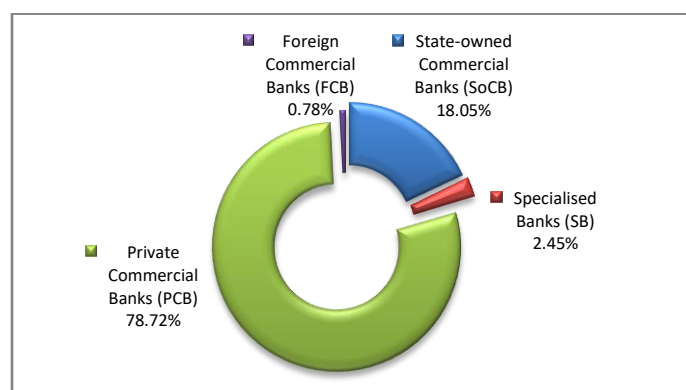


Figure 15: Banks' Performance on School Banking Deposits

The SoCBs rank next to the PCBs with 24.70% of the total accounts and 18.05% of the total deposits. The number of accounts opened by the SoCBs has increased by 3.74% and the collection of deposits has decreased by 34.07% in the reporting quarter. SBs have opened 4.24% of the total School Banking accounts and held deposit of BDT 538.89 million. 7 out of 9 FCBs operating in Bangladesh have offered School Banking facilities. The number of accounts opened by the FCBs is 0.06%. Figure 14 and 15 illustrate banks' category-wise performance in terms of SBAs and deposits held with those accounts respectively.

3.5 Top 5 Banks in School Banking Activities

Top 5 banks have opened 57.87% of total number of SBAs. Among the top 5 banks, Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC has ranked the top in School Banking activities with opening of 981,346 accounts covering 22.82% of the total accounts as well as accumulating BDT 5,093.90 million deposits with a share of 23.20% of total deposits in SBAs. Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC holds the second highest position with 15.73% of the total SBAs. Among the SoCBs, Agrani Bank PLC, Sonali Bank PLC and Rupali Bank PLC retain their position in the top 5 performers of School Banking Activities.

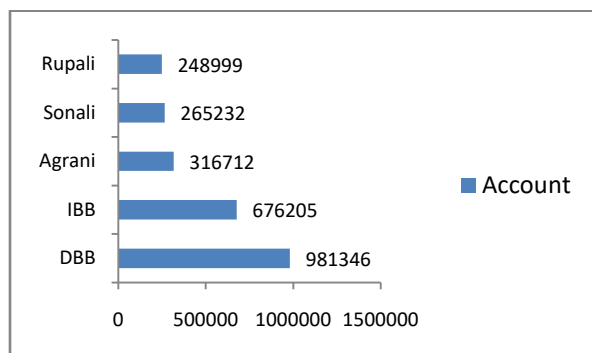


Figure 16: Top Performing 5 Banks in Opening SBAs

3.6 Conversion of School Banking Accounts to General Savings A/Cs

SBAs can be converted to general savings accounts when students turn to 18 years of age. A significant portion of SBAs has been converted to

general savings accounts after the students reached 18 years. In the reporting quarter, the number of accounts belongs to 18years+ students was 1,319,765 and 1,096,820 of them (approximately 83.10%) have been converted to general savings accounts.

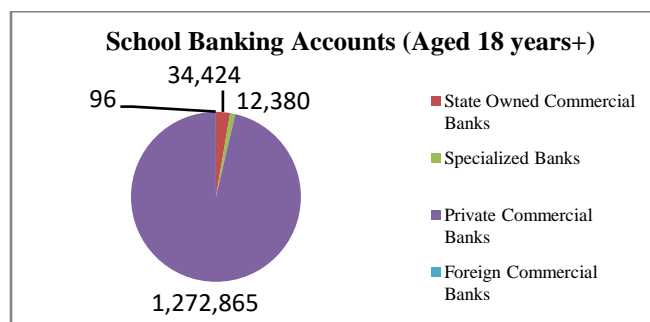


Figure 17: School Banking Accounts (Aged 18 years+)

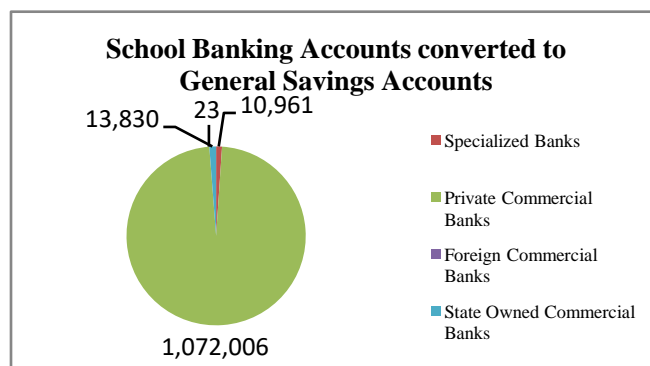


Figure 18: School Banking Accounts converted to General Savings Accounts

Chapter 4: Banking Services for Street Urchins and Working Children

BB has advised banks⁸ to provide financial services to street urchins and working children to secure their hard earned money and help them to develop a saving habit. Children who do not have parents or legal guardians can open accounts with the designated banks with the help of a registered Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). The NGOs involved in this process are fully responsible for the account operation and for the welfare of the account holders. No fees are charged for these accounts. Table 18 in the appendix A shows an overview of the banking services for SUAs during the reporting quarter.

As of March 2024, 19 banks have opened 39,628 street urchin accounts through 53 NGOs. The total amount of deposits in these accounts reaches BDT 5.02 million at the end of the reporting quarter. In the reporting quarter number of accounts for street urchins has increased by 4.86% over the previous quarter.

Agrani Bank PLC has ranked the top among the banks in opening Street Urchins and Working Children accounts. It has opened 34,849 accounts up to March 2024. Social Islami Bank PLC has become the top bank in collecting deposits in these accounts with a total deposit of BDT 2.10 million at the end of this quarter.

⁸BRPD Circular No.05/2014

Chapter 5: Recommendations

No-Frill Accounts have been considered as one of the most effective ways to expand financial inclusion to the underserved segment of population. Yet, the growth in No-Frill Accounts needs to be accelerated in order to achieve the goal of National Financial Inclusion Strategies-Bangladesh (NFIS-B) where it is targeted to confirm bank accounts for all adults by 2026. To achieve the target, some recommendations are as follows:

5.1. Banks should continue the ongoing financial literacy campaign as well as school banking initiatives to enhance financial inclusion.

5.2. Banks should encourage their agents to open No-Frill Accounts for the underserved population.

5.3. Banks should give special attention to maintain the accounts of the street urchins properly to provide them solid financial base.

Appendices

Appendix A: Tables

Table 1: Cumulative figures of Different Components of Tk. 10/50/100 A/Cs excluding SBAs & SUAs

(As on 31 March, 2024)

Components		Total Number of the Accounts and Deposits		Accounts used for Govt. subsidy/salary		BDT 2 billion and BDT 5 billion Refinance Scheme/Others		Foreign Remittance	
		Cumulative number of Accounts	Cumulative amount of Deposits (BDT in million)	Cumulative number of Accounts	Cumulative amount of Deposits (BDT in million)	Cumulative number of Accounts	Amount of lending under the scheme (BDT in million)	Cumulative number of Accounts	Amount of Remittance (BDT in million)
1	Farmers	10,402,457	6,638.17	2,878,461	576.20	35,804	3,686.924	141,240	5,886.12
2	Extreme poor	3,478,498	2,409.94	924,640	994.08	13,034	3,147.175	3,014	120.20
3	Freedom fighters	348,847	8,957.34	143,841	3,711.64	63	23.4	420	40.92
4	Social Safety net allowance	10,054,034	15,397.40	2,539,332	7,150.04	4,409	13.25	2,370	194.21
5	Food & livelihood security	175,462	271.97	14,181	13.38	-	-	295	5.90
6	Poor rehabilitation under Ministry of Religious Affairs	4,261	36.43	349	0.3	-	-	261	5.30
7	City corporation workers	15,007	80.57	6	0.000587	-	-	1	0.03
8	RMG workers	971,587	3,394.92	29,396	204.72	-	-	603	33.55
9	Leather Industry workers	2,117	21.07	55	0.000207	-	-	-	0.00
10	National Service Program	65,890	306.86	29,651	110.18	-	-	14	0.30
11	Small Life Insurance Program	140,252	396.77	4,662	3.7	-	-	661	63.52
12	Physically challenged persons	636,356	1,244.24	229,926	607.9	18,525	0.9	280	0.20
13	Others	969,093	8,757.42	165,427	283.07	9,272	773.165	10,712	520.58
Total		27,263,861	47,913.10	6,959,927	13,655.21	81,107	7,644.81	159,871	6,870.82

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Table 2: Growth of Tk. 10/50/100 Accounts

Components	March' 23	Dec' 23	March' 24	% change Q-Q*	% change Y-Y**
Farmers	10,022,973	10,362,703	10,402,457	0.38%	3.79%
Extreme poor	3,564,735	3,483,876	3,478,498	-0.15%	-2.42%
Freedom fighters	328,080	348,037	348,847	0.23%	6.33%
Social Safety Net	9,943,288	9,866,287	10,054,034	1.90%	1.11%
RMG Workers	803,346	939,207	971,587	3.45%	20.94%
Others	1,876,714	1,983,450	2,008,438	1.26%	7.02%
Total	26,539,136	26,983,560	27,263,861	1.04%	2.73%

*Quarter **Year

Table 3: Growth of Deposits in No-Frill Accounts

Deposits	March' 23 (BDT in million)	Dec' 23 (BDT in million)	March' 24 (BDT in million)	% change Q-Q*	% change Y-Y**
Farmers	5,893.25	5,924.06	6,638.17	12.05%	12.64%
Extreme poor	2,126.47	2,359.54	2,409.94	2.14%	13.33%
Freedom fighters	9,674.22	8,631.62	8,957.34	3.77%	-7.41%
Social Safety net allowance	8,818.68	15,026.14	15,397.40	2.47%	74.60%
RMG Workers	2,654.53	2,815.79	3,394.92	20.57%	27.89%
Others	7,025.71	10,900.25	11,115.33	1.97%	58.21%
Total	36,192.86	45,657.40	47,913.10	4.94%	32.38%

*Quarter **Year

Table 4: Cumulative Amount of Deposits in No-Frill Accounts for the Farmers

Quarter	Cumulative Number of Accounts for Farmers	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)
December 2021	9,883,878	5,113.70
March 2022	9,903,233	5,123.50
June 2022	9,820,699	5,693.30
September 2022	9,883,689	6,023.23
December 2022	9,906,824	5,632.33
March 2023	10,022,973	5,893.25
June 2023	10,277,837	6,568.90
September 2023	10,322,285	6,834.16
December 2023	10,362,703	5,924.06
March 2024	10,402,457	6,638.17

Table 5: Cumulative Amount of Deposits in No-Frill Accounts for the Extreme Poor

Quarter	Cumulative Number of Extreme Poor Accounts	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)
December 2021	3,486,814	2,290.00
March 2022	3,464,579	1,929.00
June 2022	3,261,400	2,013.70
September 2022	3,554,128	1,973.88
December 2022	3,537,995	2,147.00
March 2023	3,564,735	2,126.47
June 2023	3,594,852	2,221.59
September 2023	3,561,354	2,346.47
December 2023	3,483,876	2,359.54
March 2024	3,478,498	2,409.94

Table 6: Cumulative Amount of Deposits in No-Frill Accounts for the Freedom Fighters

Quarter	Cumulative Number of Accounts for Freedom Fighters	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)
December 2021	286,975	7,853.10
March 2022	289,469	7,214.70
June 2022	322,198	9,634.70
September 2022	322,676	9,565.26
December 2022	322,914	10,390.85
March 2023	328,080	9,674.22
June 2023	333,121	10,310.32
September 2023	347,202	10,089.40
December 2023	348,037	8,631.62
March 2024	348,847	8,957.34

Table 7: Cumulative Amount of Deposits in No-Frill Accounts for the Beneficiaries of SSN Programs

Quarter	Cumulative Number of SSN Accounts	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)
December 2021	9,197,404	8,098.00
March 2022	9,377,837	7,642.80
June 2022	9,706,621	9,681.80
September 2022	9,721,529	8,606.97
December 2022	9,762,870	8,773.54
March 2023	9,943,288	8,818.68
June 2023	10,018,808	11,172.46
September 2023	9,994,603	9,066.80
December 2023	9,866,287	15,026.14
March 2024	10,054,034	15,397.40

Table 8: Cumulative Amount of Deposits in No-Frill Accounts for RMG Workers

Quarter	Cumulative Number of Accounts	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)
December 2021	575,664	2,298.50
March 2022	620,342	2,344.70
June 2022	649,820	2,686.90
September 2022	698,057	2,475.04
December 2022	792,048	2,556.11
March 2023	803,346	2,654.53
June 2023	873,503	3,300.86
September 2023	903,753	3,003.05
December 2023	939,207	2,815.79
March 2024	971,587	3,394.92

Table 9: Bank Category-wise No-Frill Accounts except SBAs & SUAs

Category of Banks	No. of Accounts	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)
State Owned Commercial Banks (SoCB)	14,370,409	32,974.04
Specialized Banks (SB)	6,740,080	1,201.80
Private Commercial Banks (PCB)	6,153,302	13,734.09
Foreign Commercial Banks (FCB)	70	3.17
Total	27,263,861	47,913.10

Table 10: Top 5 Banks Based on Number of Accounts and Amount of Deposits

Top 5 Banks (Based on Number of Accounts)				Top 5 Banks Based on Deposits in BDT (million)			
SL	Bank Name	Account	Percentage	SL	Bank Name	Deposit	Percentage
1	Sonali Bank PLC	6,556,853	24.05%	1	Agrani Bank PLC	20,430.50	42.64%
2	Bangladesh Krishi Bank	4,452,214	16.33%	2	Sonali Bank PLC	11,904.90	24.85%
3	Agrani Bank PLC	4,208,982	15.44%	3	Bank Asia PLC	3,928.32	8.20%
4	Bank Asia PLC	3,551,782	13.03%	4	Global Islami Bank PLC	1,943.12	4.06%
5	Janata Bank PLC	2,806,336	10.29%	5	Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC	1,840.30	3.84%
	Total	21,576,167	79.14%		Total	40,047.14	83.58%

Table 11: Area-wise School Banking Accounts and Deposits

	Rural		Urban		Total
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	
Number of Accounts	2,363,524	54.97%	1,936,413	45.03%	4,299,937
Amount of Deposits (BDT. in million)	6,146.51	27.99%	15,813.49	72.01%	21,960.00

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Table 12: Regional Distribution of School Banking Accounts and Amount of Deposits

Division	Number of Accounts	Percentage	Amount of Deposits (BDT in million)	Percentage
Dhaka	970,343	22.57%	9,002.41	40.99%
Chattogram	869,597	20.22%	5,214.98	23.75%
Rajshahi	681,462	15.85%	2,020.82	9.20%
Khulna	528,306	12.29%	1,684.49	7.67%
Barisal	246,089	5.72%	935.25	4.26%
Sylhet	329,237	7.66%	1,366.70	6.22%
Rangpur	459,873	10.69%	1,040.49	4.74%
Mymensingh	215,030	5.00%	694.86	3.16%
Total	4,299,937	100.00%	21,960.00	100.00%

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Table 13: Gender-wise School Banking Accounts and Deposits

	Male		Female		Total
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	
Number of Accounts	2,197,462	51.10%	2,102,475	48.90%	4,299,937
Amount of Deposit (BDT in million)	12,119.43	55.19%	9,840.57	44.81%	21,960.00

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Table 14: Bank Category-wise School Banking Accounts and Deposits

Types of Banks	March-2024			
	School Banking Account	Percentage	Deposit in million (BDT)	Percentage
State-owned Commercial Banks	1,061,995	24.70%	3,963.43	18.05%
Specialized Banks	182,314	4.24%	538.89	2.45%
Private Commercial Banks	3,052,921	71%	17,286.01	78.72%
Foreign Commercial Banks	2,707	0.06%	171.67	0.78%
Total	4,299,937	100%	21,960.00	100%

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Table 15: Banks' Performance on Opening School Banking Accounts in the Last few Quarters

Types of Banks	March'23	June'23	Sep'23	Dec'23	March'24	Growth Q TO Q*	Growth Y TO Y**
State-owned Commercial Banks	906,603	946,323	963,799	1,023,749	1,061,995	3.74%	17.14%
Specialized Banks	164,226	165,877	165,646	168,712	182,314	8.06%	11.01%
Private Commercial Banks	2,801,834	2,851,892	2,912,776	3,017,140	3,052,921	1.19%	8.96%
Foreign Commercial Banks	2,695	2,720	2,733	2,702	2,707	0.19%	0.45%
Total	3,875,358	3,966,812	4,044,954	4,212,303	4,299,937	2.08%	10.96%

* Quarter **Year

Table 16: Top 5 Banks' Performance in Opening School Banking Accounts and Deposits Collection

Top 5 Banks (Number of Accounts)				Top 5 Banks (Amount of Deposits)			
Sl	Bank Name	Accounts	% of Total Accounts	Sl	Bank Name	Deposits (BDT in million)	% of Total Deposits
1	Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC	981,346	22.82%	1	Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC	5,093.90	23.20%
2	Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC	676,205	15.73%	2	Eastern Bank PLC	1,706.90	7.77%
3	Agrani Bank PLC	316,712	7.37%	3	Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC	1,701.30	7.75%
4	Sonali Bank PLC	265,232	6.17%	4	Sonali Bank PLC	1,304.30	5.94%
5	Rupali Bank PLC	248,999	5.79%	5	Janata Bank PLC	1,169.75	5.33%
Total		2,488,494	57.87%	Total		10,976.15	49.98%

Table 17: Bank Category-wise School Banking Accounts Holders (aged 18years+)

Category of Banks	School Banking Accounts (aged 18years+)	School Banking Accounts converted to General Savings Accounts
State Owned Commercial Banks	34,424	13,830
Specialized Banks	12,380	10,961
Private Commercial Banks	1,272,865	1072006
Foreign Commercial Banks	96	23
Total	1,319,765	1,096,820

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Table 18: Bank Accounts opened in the name of Street Urchins and Working Children

Sl.	Name of the Bank	Cumulative Number of Accounts	Cumulative amount of deposits (BDT in thousand)
1	Sonali Bank PLC	46	9.10
2	Agrani Bank PLC	34849	359.87
3	Janata Bank PLC	193	271.60
4	Rupali Bank PLC	933	826.13
5	Bangladesh Development Bank PLC	185	13.19
6	Bangladesh Krishi Bank	160	32.00
7	Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC	153	183.00
8	Bank Asia PLC	233	183.27
9	Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC	20	105.88
10	Mercantile Bank PLC	229	188.51
11	Mutual Trust Bank PLC	45	1.83
12	National Bank Limited	19	14.00
13	One Bank PLC	228	197.35
14	Prime Bank PLC	39	2.00
15	Pubali Bank PLC	544	300.00
16	Social Islami Bank PLC	1299	2100.00
17	The City Bank PLC	147	100.00
18	Trust Bank Limited	267	100.00
19	Uttara Bank PLC	39	31.00
Total		39,628	5,018.72

(Source: Data collected from Scheduled Banks and Compiled by FID, BB)

Appendix B: BB Circulars used as References in this report

Date	Circular No.	Title
17-01-2010	BRPD Circular No.-01/2010	Regarding the Opening of the Accounts for Farmers.
08-09-2010	BRPD Circular No.-29/2010	Bank Accounts for the Extreme Poor
02-11-2010	BRPD Circular Letter No.-12/2010	School Banking Accounts
11-04-2011	BRPD Circular No.-04/2011	Bank Accounts for the Freedom Fighters
19-06-2011	BRPD Circular No.-05/2011	Bank Accounts for Beneficiaries under Social Safety Net Program
03-08-2015	FID Circular No.-02/2015	Opening Bank Accounts for the Dwellers of Angorpota -Dohogram and Newly Included 111 Enclaves in Bangladesh
18-06-2015	GBCSRD Circular Letter No.-07/2015	Regarding Opening 10 Taka Accounts for Small/ Marginal/ Landless/ Natural Disaster affected Farmers and Small or Micro Traders
17-12-2018	FID Circular Letter No.-02/2018	Conversion of the School Banking Accounts into General Savings Accounts

Appendix C: Initial Deposits for Opening No-Frill Accounts

	Type of No-Frill Accounts	Reference	Initial Deposits (Tk.)
1	Farmers	BRPD-01/2010	10/-
2	Extreme poor	BRPD-29/2010	10/-
3	Freedom fighters	BRPD-04/2011	10/-
4	Social Safety net allowance	BRPD-05/2011	10/-
5	Food & livelihood security	BRPD-17/2012	10/-
6	Poor rehabilitation under Ministry of Religious Affairs	GBCSRD-01/2013	10/-
7	City corporation cleaning workers	GBCSRD-03/2013	10/-
8	RMG workers	GBCSRD-05/2013	100/-
9	Leather Industry workers	GBCSRD-06/2013	100/-
10	National Service Program	BRPD-17/2010	50/-
11	Small Life Insurance Program	BRPD-08/2011	100/-
12	Blind/Physically challenged persons	GBCSRD-01/2015	10/-
13	Beneficiaries of Hindu Welfare Trust	BRPD-07/2011	10/-
14	School Banking	GBCSRD-07/2013	100/-
15	Street Urchin and Working Children	BRPD-05/2014	10/-
16	Former habitant of Sit-mahal Areas (Enclaves)	FID-02/2015	10/-
17	Others Categories (Not included in the above categories)	Banks' Discretion	10/50/100/-

Appendix D: Financial Literacy and Digital Financial Inclusion for TK. 10/50/100 Accounts

Bangladesh Bank has taken diverse financial literacy initiatives since 2014 to bring the larger portion of financially excluded population under formal financial services. Financial literacy website (<https://finlit.bb.org.bd>) has been launched in December 2022. Six animated video contents and a number of learning materials have been published on the website for educating mass people about financial activities. BB has collaborated the National Curriculum and Text Book Board to include a chapter on Financial Literacy in the secondary level and the relevant authority has included a chapter in all classes of the secondary level (Class 6, 7, 8 & 9). Besides, a chapter with financial literacy content has already been included in the curriculum of class 3(Three) at primary level. Banks have already started Financial Literacy Programs across the country under the guidelines of Bangladesh Bank. To create saving tendency and financial awareness among the young students, banks have started School Banking Conferences at district level across the country under the guidance of Bangladesh Bank. In addition, banks are advised to use innovative tools, like brochures, info-graphics, advertisements (virtual/printed), live chatbots etc. and appropriate media, like workshops, websites, financial literacy corners, social media etc. to reach the targeted people efficiently. BB also encourages banks to arrange open loan disbursement program under the refinance schemes for Tk. 10/50/100 account holders. Financial literacy campaigns are aligned with these programs to ensure `Access to Finance` for this segment of people. The idea is, once become financially literate, the low income individuals are more likely to avoid borrowing beyond their repayment capacity (over-indebtedness), resulting in lower credit risk in the financial system. Open disbursement programme of credit for the marginalized people is one of the key processes to inspire banks to participate in the refinance scheme.

Secondly, No-Frill Accounts have been proved to be effective in providing access to formal banking services for the low income population at a lower cost. However, due to limited outreach of banking network, there is a big challenge to expand these services especially in the rural areas. In this context, digital financial inclusion initiatives such as internet banking, mobile financial services as well as agent banking can play significant role to take the financial services to the doorsteps of the targeted population. All these financial inclusion initiatives will upgrade the living standard of the previously underserved population of the country which will contribute significantly to our economic growth.