



History

The pharmaceutical industry in Bangladesh has grown in the last two decades at a considerable rate. Like all other sectors in Bangladesh, the pharmaceutical industry was much neglected during Pakistan regime. Most multinational companies had their production facilities in West Pakistan. For several years after liberation, the government could not increase budgetary allocations for the health sector. Millions of people had little access to essential life saving medicines.

In 1981, there were 166 licensed pharmaceutical manufacturers in the country. But in spite of having 166 local pharmaceutical production units, the country had to spend nearly Tk 300 million on importing finished medicine products. With the promulgation of the Drug (Control) Ordinance of 1982 many medicinal products considered harmful, useless or unnecessary, which got removed from the market. In 2000, there were 261 unani, 161 Ayurveda, 76 homeopathic and biochemical licensed manufacturing units. They produced medicines worth Tk 1.2 billion in 2000. One of the major positive impacts of Drug (Control) Ordinance is the rapid development of local manufacturing capability.

With proper backward integration, quality research and skilled human resources, Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry has emerged as a world leader in producing off-patented generic medicine.



Export Promotion Bureau

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Pharmaceutical Products of Bangladesh

Quality ensured

The Bangladesh National Control Laboratory for medicinal products (NCL) has recently been recognized as compliant with WHO recommended standards of Good Practices for Pharmaceutical Quality Control Laboratories (GPPQCL).

Bangladesh has now one of the 55 laboratories, globally, on the WHO list of prequalified medicines quality control laboratories.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in Bangladesh

300 companies are currently functional, fulfilling 97% of local demand and exporting to more than 125 countries around the world.

Current Major export destinations at present

Total 132 countries including Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kenya, Kombodia, Myanmar, Mauritius, peru, Philippines, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, Yemen.



Mecine export & export growth in recent years

FY	Million US\$	Growth(%)
2015-16	83.94	
2016-17	88.75	5.73
2017-18	103.46	16.57
2018-19	129.95	25.60
2019-20	135.79	4.49