



19 October 2008



Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Bangladesh

Inauguration of UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School



Message

Bangladesh needs people with technical expertise in order to attract investment and to export skilled manpower abroad as well. UCEP is doing a good job in supplementing the Governments efforts for human resource development. Its approach to human resource development through general education combined with quality vocational training and Job placement is commendable.

I am happy to know that UCEP is opening a technical school in Sylhet. The objective being to provide quality vocational education to the underprivileged children of the region. I am aware that UCEP has already started its program in Sylhet by opening four integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Schools to feed this technical school with their students.

I appreciate UCEP for the excellent work that they are doing for the underprivileged children of the country. I am sure the efforts of UCEP will be as successful as its other programs in other regions of the country.

I also take this opportunity to thank our development partners for their generous support. I wish UCEP and the children being educated success.

Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman
Adviser, 15.10.2008



UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School

UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School is located at Bateshwar opposite to Jalalabad Cantonment, Sylhet. The school complex has been built at a cost of Taka 4.22 crore (approximately). The total land for the project is 0.8247 acre of which 15250 square feet has been used for construction of the picturesque school building. The operation of the technical school started in July 2008. The building has the option for vertical extension to accommodate larger number of students and open more trades in future.

The initial capacity of the technical school is 130 students in 2 shifts a day in 4 trades each of 12 months duration. A Divisional Coordinator along with the 7 divisional Office staff and 12 trainers are dedicated to ensure quality technical education. The trades of this technical school are Welding & Fabrication, Auto Mechanics, Tailoring & Industrial Sewing Operation and Electrical & Electronic Control. All have been selected following a market need assessment.

Earlier in July 2007 UCEP started 2 Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) schools in Sylhet which were increased to 4 in January 2008. As per UCEP model of education, the children will first be enrolled in the IGV Schools to complete Grade-VIII. On successful completion of the IGV Education, students will be enrolled in the technical school. In the third stage the technical school graduates will be provided employment support by the Employment & Field Service (EFS) Component of UCEP. UCEP will shortly introduce additional services for the students of Sylhet like SSC (Vocational) education under Bangladesh Technical Education Board; SME credit program for self-employment, overseas employment scheme etc.

UCEP- Creating Miracles for the Working Children

Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs, UCEP-Bangladesh is a leading national NGO working with the distressed urban working children. Starting in 1972 at the Dhaka University premises with only 60 students, it is now a hub of over 30 thousand working children striving to inculcate marketable skills and provide employment support service through general education and vocational training in close collaboration with industries and employers throughout Bangladesh.

The main objective of UCEP programs is to improve the socio-economic status of the urban poor and support industrial growth by generating skilled manpower. UCEP has global reputation for its unique model of human resource development. UCEP's success has enabled it to be listed twice in the UN ESCAP's "Compendium of Centers of Excellence in HRD Research and Training".

UCEP Programs: UCEP operates 43 Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Schools and 8 Technical School in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet Metropolitan Cities and in Gazipur District with an enrolment of over 31 thousand distressed working children with equal gender ration. UCEP also runs 2 technical School in Dhaka in partnership with Plan Bangladesh and 1 technical School at Fatulla, Narayanjani in partnership with the Directorate of Primary Education. UCEP model of education is well recognized at home and abroad and UCEP is the largest NGO in the country producing skilled manpower for the nation.

Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Education: UCEP IGV schools follow the curriculum of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) in an abridged form. They complete the curriculum and a class in 6 months instead of 1 year the usual time for a formal school. UCEP schools use the text books prescribed by the BOARD and also use its own complete basic education up to grade VIII before they go to the technical schools. Student Attendance and Dropout rates in UCEP general schools were 95.34% and 3.38% respectively in 2006-2007. UCEP General Education component launched SSC program under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) in 2005.

Technical Education: Upon completion of general school education, UCEP students pursue skills training in the technical schools. UCEP provides technical education in 16 trades through 8 technical Schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet. The trades of technical schools are based on the demand of the existing employment market. Attendances and dropout rates in the technical schools were 94.45% and 2.76% respectively. In 2005-2006 UCEP introduced SSC (Vocational) program under Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) in January 2005. The result of the latest batch of SSC (Voc) Students who appeared in the SSC (Voc) exams in 2008 was the best in the country as the success rate was over 97% of with 6 GPA-5 holder. UCEP has also launched Diploma in engineering sponsorship program for its graduates who successfully completed SSC (Vocational) and are willing to go for higher studies.

Employment and Field Service: Employment and Field service (EFS) Component of UCEP arranges on the job training for its technical school students and places its graduates in gainful jobs. EFS operates through labor market survey, linkage with employers, observance of the employer's day, meeting with the employers, observance of job hunting days/ weeks and follow-up visits to the employers and employed graduates.

Overseas Employment Scheme: UCEP launched its overseas employment scheme under the EFS Component in 2003 and has already placed 105 of its graduates in overseas employment. Overseas employment is the prioritized area of UCEP programs and the number is expected to increase manifold within the next couple of years.

UCEP SME Credit Program: UCEP introduced SME Credit Program in June 2005 for self employment of UCEP graduates. About 300 UCEP graduates are enjoying loan facilities under this program. The progress of the program is highly satisfactory and the recovery rate is 100%.

UCEP Multipurpose Cooperative Society: UCEP introduced Multipurpose Cooperative society for the stake holders in March 2006. The main objective of the Cooperative Society was to foster bondage and responsiveness to UCEP programs. The society will also be a potential source of personal and business loan for UCEP students and others concerned.

Achievement at a Glance:

Children Admitted in UCEP	: 1, 50, 616
Technical training Completed (since 1983)	: 32, 164
Placement in Jobs (Since 1991)	: 30, 792
Overseas Employment (Since 2003)	: 107

- Future Plan:**
- Establishing a Textile Institute
 - Establishing a welding Institute
 - Establishing a Nursing Institute and Hospital

Impact of UCEP Education:

- Breaking the vicious cycle of poverty of the urban poor.
- Children of UCEP graduates study in normal schools.
- Promotion of female education and women empowerment
- Replication of UCEP model by GOs and NGOs
- Contributing to achieve MDGs
- Change of attitude of employers towards working children
- Enhancing the level of technical workmanship in our industries.
- Children participating in national and international forums
- Protection of the Rights of the Child.
- Increasing Community awareness of health and hygiene
- UCEP students proving to be Agents of Change in the society

How UCEP is funded: UCEP programs are funded by Department for International Development (DFID), The Royal Danish Embassy (DANIDA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD). From the very beginning, UCEP Programs is privileged to get huge response from people of all walks of the society. A number of UCEP Schools are established on lands of the local donors. UCEP also get support from the government and the City Corporations of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi mainly through allotment of lands for establishing schools and training centers.

For further information please contact:

UCEP Bangladesh
Plot # 2 & 3, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Phone: PABX 800-811014-16



Message

I congratulate UCEP-Bangladesh on the inauguration of UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School. I am happy to know that with the establishment of this technical school, UCEP would have its presence in all the Divisional Headquarters of Bangladesh.

UCEP-Bangladesh is a well known name in the field of skill development training and is doing an excellent job of transforming the poverty stricken working children into skilled human resources. The service that UCEP provides is unique as it encompasses general education, technical training and job placement support. The newly introduced Integrated General & Vocational Education (IGVE) by UCEP is a new innovation in the field of general and technical education which may set new trends in the education system of Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh attaches a lot of importance to skill development. I hope UCEP will extend its operations even further and thus augment the efforts of the Government in alleviation of poverty and elimination of child labor.

I wish UCEP, Bangladesh all success.

Brigadier General M.A. Malek
Special Assistant to Chief Adviser
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
Add
Ministry of Social Welfare



Message

The formal opening of the UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School is yet another milestone for UCEP. With the establishment of this Technical School, UCEP has its presence in all the Divisional Head Quarters of Bangladesh. The establishment of this school has fulfilled the minimum requirement of a Technical School with four Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Schools as "Feeder Schools" when commencing operations in any new location.

With the expansion of UCEP Programs to Sylhet a large number of underprivileged working children in Sylhet will have the opportunities of a better life for themselves and their families. The graduates of this technical school like the graduates of other Technical Schools will play a vital role in the industrial growth of the region.

UCEP has come a long way from its modest start with only 60 students in 1972. The enrollment of students now stands at about 31,000 studying in 43 IGV schools and 8 Technical Schools. Our plans to have 9 more IGV schools and 2 more Technical Schools, to raise the total number to 52 IGV schools and the total to 10 Technical Schools by the end of 2010 is being implemented as per schedule.

The development and the growth of the programs have been possible due to the generous support of the Government, the Development Partners and the community at large. I express my gratitude to all concerned for the support for the expansion of UCEP programs in the country. I hope our initial steps in Sylhet will be followed by future expansion in the region.

I take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude and thanks to Mr. Hafiz Mazumdar, a member of the UCEP-Association and a renowned philanthropist for the substantial monetary contribution towards the purchase of the land for establishment of this Technical School.

I also request the philanthropists in the country to come forward to help UCEP to expand the educational activities.

A. G. M. Shamsul Kamal
Chairperson
UCEP Board of Governors



Message

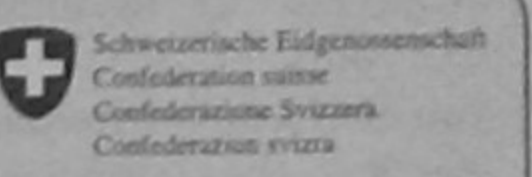
Bangladesh's potential and challenge are its people. For the country to further grow and develop, Bangladeshis people need skills as well as employment opportunities. In this context, UCEP has been playing a very important role since 1972, aiming to provide basic and technical vocational education and job placement to urban working children and adolescents. A highlight of UCEP is that it provides different alternatives to its beneficiaries. It provides education opportunities, through which the beneficiaries are seen to enter mainstream education, either in the general or in the technical stream. Having 98% job placement rate, UCEP has been successfully able to give a considerable number of disadvantaged children and youth from the streets and urban informal work a chance by placing them into meaningful employment within the country and abroad with appropriate high demand skills. It also provides micro credit support for those who opt for self employment.

Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) stresses on the importance of pro-poor economic growth as a key for poverty reduction. It emphasizes that basic and technical vocational education and relevant skills training are significant measures to improve the chances of the huge pool of unemployed or underemployed for significantly increasing their income, principally in the case of working children and adolescents who have not been able to access school or have dropped out and are already in an employable age.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a partner for development since Bangladesh's independence. SDC has been supporting the Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP) since the 1980s through a consortium with DFID, Denmark, Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, and previously Norway. In Bangladesh, priorities for SDC are to support the government and other national players to enhance employment and income opportunities for the disadvantaged and to strengthen local governance. The objective of SDC's development cooperation is to improve the living conditions of the most deprived people. In order to achieve this goal with maximum effectiveness and sustainable impact, SDC provides long term commitment to countries and agencies.

At present UCEP provides support to about 40 thousand urban working children and youth through its 43 Integrated General and Vocational Education (IGVE) school and 7 Technical Education schools in different parts of the country. I am convinced that UCEP's work in Sylhet will greatly contribute to the growth of education, skills development and employment opportunities for underprivileged children and adolescents and contribute to reduce poverty in the region which is known to be one of the underserved and less developed in the country.

Dr. Dora Rapold
Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh



Message from H.E. Mr. Einar Hebggaard Jensen
Ambassador
Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka

Message

It is a great pleasure for me to see that UCEP-Bangladesh is expanding its technical education capacity in the Sylhet Division for the underprivileged children by establishing a technical school in Sylhet. It is my firm belief that the new technical school in Sylhet will facilitate the students from the existing four general schools of UCEP in Sylhet city to gain further skills in vocational education.

I trust the new technical school and the general schools of Sylhet will continue to uphold the vision of UCEP to be a center of excellence in education like all other schools of UCEP across the country. I am confident that this additional technical school will facilitate the students to supplement to the need of skilled human resources in the region.

It has been a great pleasure for the Embassy of Denmark to be associated with UCEP in its efforts to improve the socio-economic condition of the working children and their families in Bangladesh.

Einar H. Jensen
Ambassador
Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka



DFID Department for International Development

Message

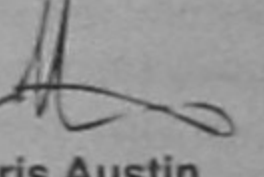
I congratulate the Underprivileged Children's Education programme (UCEP) on the inauguration of the Sylhet Technical School. Sylhet has particularly close ties with the UK and so today is a particular pleasure.

The UK and Bangladesh's relationship is strong and deep, and the UK is proud to be associated with the remarkable progress Bangladesh has made in recent years. There are still many development challenges ahead. But at the same time Bangladesh has led the way on many development issues. UCEP is a leading provider of skills education and a model of excellence which the UK has been happy to support including through special grants to ensure the building of new technical schools.

The skills young people will acquire in the Sylhet Technical School are relevant to the local and national labour needs. Students here will increase their opportunities to get better jobs, will raise the incomes of their families, and will contribute to overall economic growth and social confidence.

As a long standing partner of UCEP, the UK applauds the contribution it continues to make to the human development in Bangladesh. We send good wishes to those who teach here and to the young people who will study here. All of you will have an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to making Bangladesh an even more stable, prosperous and democratic country.

Chris Austin
Country Representative, DFID Bangladesh



Save the Children Sweden-Denmark

Message

Save the Children Sweden-Denmark works for a world which respects and values each child, listens to children where all children have hope and opportunity. Our vision is a world where all children's rights have been realized. UCEP Bangladesh is one of our development partners of Child Labour Thematic Program. UCEP is working at national level as well for advocating on relevant education for developing skilled manpower and hazardless child labour. UCEP also supports children in finding alternatives to non hazardous jobs through job placement, continuous assessment of the quality of skills training and children's self-employment opportunities. So I would like to take opportunity to thank UCEP Bangladesh for their efforts that helps children to enjoy their rights. I also congratulate UCEP to inaugurate UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School, which will create opportunity for underprivileged children to get Technical Education in Sylhet. I wish all the success for UCEP Bangladesh.

Niels Bentsen
Country Representative
Save the Children Sweden - Denmark



Message

The formal opening of UCEP-Hafiz Mazumdar Sylhet Technical School is a great occasion for UCEP. The establishment of the technical school in Sylhet along with the four Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Schools established earlier in July 2007 has set the stage in the Division for UCEP to provide opportunities to the underprivileged children of the region for a better future for themselves and their families.

The Sylhet Technical School will be providing skill development training to the students from the UCEP IGV schools and other schools of the region and will be subsequently placed in jobs by the UCEP Employment Field Service.

Since inception UCEP is providing a package service of general education, technical education and job placement support to thousands of underprivileged children of the country. It is an organization which is transforming the teeming millions of distressed children into productive human resources for the development of the country.

UCEP programs aims at gradual elimination of child labour leading to subsequent elimination of poverty from the society. The UCEP educational model has been acclaimed at home and abroad as a replicable model and a means of poverty alleviation. We urge the Government and the Development Partners to support the replication of the model throughout Bangladesh.

We are grateful to the Government of Bangladesh, our Development Partners and the community for the support to UCEP programs.

Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.)
Executive Director
UCEP - Bangladesh

We believe in UCEP'S Commitment to the Society

