IN this fast competitive world we are greatly in need of quality graduates who can lead this country towards development. Job market is not an easy thing to deal with these days. The moment one gets into professional world he/she must be ready to take challenges and to prove their quality.

These days, in job market branding is a big issue. At times job providers do select their employees based on this. Which university are you from? This question is asked everywhere; the question is why?

Brands do ensure a minimum quality of education along with proper exposure. In undergrad level I think the education should include basic studies on different sectors and specialized knowledge on major of study. Here, one student should get proper idea on the major. In most of the subjects in undergrad level research is hardly needed but practical field work should be a must. Here a university should ensure quality graduates who are graduating on time and joining their field of work with the knowledge of what to do and when to do. University plays an important role to that. I have been a student of BRAC university and I have observed some positive practices that is done in some of the leading private universities including BRACU, NSU, IUB, AIUB and EWU. The practice is to encourage their students in co-curricular activities that help them to grow self-confidence and develop professional attitude. I hardly see this practice in most of the public universities.

Research work is not only limited to public universities anymore. If anyone conducts a proper research, he will easily know different private universities are now publishing a number of research papers as well.

How many people have heard about student politics in private universities? Is it the fault of public university students as they do not have to pay tuitions since the government pays for it? Or is it a fault of some other group who do pay a large amount of money for their education?

Campus is a blessing to the public universities for sure. Many of the private universities cannot ensure that facility but many of the universities do have proper lab facilities and time to time field visits. For example, students of BRAC university do have many field trips round the year. If I talk about lab facility, NSU has one of the most resourceful architectural model making workshops in the country. Even if we talk about library facilities, BRAC University and University of Asia Pacific have resourceful collection dedicated for students of architecture and any architecture students from different universities can go and use them.

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THE idea that the word university invokes in my mind is a place where minds are cultivated with universal ideas. From this corner of thoughts university becomes the most productive institution of a country, producing a group of graduates who are equipped with the best learning to partake in the strenuous struggle of life. Every activity of a university, from academic to others, is supposed to center round its main goal.

But this is an age of 'practicality'; things 'ideal' are 'too ideal' these days. The notion of university is also changed to suit the need of time. Today university has become a place to provide degrees to students so that they can run after lucrative jobs. Either we are overburdened with nasty politics or we are in a rat race to complete graduation in the least possible time, no matter whether the skills are developed or not. Since degree is the thing that matters most, an engineer never minds calling himself a 'graduate' without having any practical knowledge of machineries. Most of our universities cannot provide necessary lab facilities to students. In many cases, things remain too theoretical to the students. An obscurity in necessary knowledge results in bad performance in the industry.

Research is something Greek or Latin in most universities. Our participation in world's research arena in not even worth mentioning in most disciplines. It doesn't require you to be a rocket scientist to see that students are not interested in fundamental science anymore. Why is this happening? Today's society teaches its members to run after money and going for Physics doesn't serve that purpose. When curious minds evaporate, the nation has lost all hopes.

Most of the graduates from pure and applied science and engineering do not prefer to be here. If the universities offered ample opportunities for research work many of them would have changed their decisions. Scientific research is something very crucial for a developing country like ours. Think about China, technological advancement has made them giants in the world economy. Even our neighboring country India is developing very fast. India's IT sector is something that anyone can be envious of.

So I also believe that we have to upgrade our existing universities to meet world standards. The dream of a rising nation will never be implemented if we fail to create worthy generation to lead it.

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