




Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Bangladesh

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Inauguration of UCEP-Gazipur Technical School

30 September 2010



রাজপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
ঢাকা।
30 September 2010

Message


I welcome the Initiative of Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Bangladesh to inaugurate UCEP-Gazipur Technical School at Gazipur on 30 September 2010.

I have been informed that UCEP is promoting human resources development through various vocational and technical education. I wish the Technical School at Gazipur would also create technically sound personnel to contribute the development process of our country.

I wish the UCEP a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.


Rahman
Md. Zillur Rahman



UCEP-Gazipur Technical School

UCEP Gazipur Technical School is located at North Shalna, Gazipur on Dhaka mymensingh highway 60 kilometers from Dhaka. The school complex has been built on 1 acre land of which 21,550 square feet has been used for construction of the picturesque school building. The operation of the Gazipur Technical School was started in July 2009 in its temporary location in Kashimpur and it was shifted to its new constructed building at north Shalna, Gazipur on 1 July 2010. 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 230 students in 2 shifts a day in 4 trades of 6-12 months duration. The trades of the technical school are Welding & Fabrication, Industrial Electrical & Electronic Control, Tailoring & Industrial Sewing Operation and Industrial Wool Knitting Operation. All trades have been selected following job market demands.



Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.
Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh


Message

It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate UCEP Bangladesh for inaugurating UCEP Gazipur technical school at Gazipur.

UCEP-Bangladesh is well known for their endeavours in transforming underprivileged children into skilled workforce in Bangladesh. Its approach to human resource development through integrated general and vocational education combined with technical training and job placement support is praiseworthy. The Government of Bangladesh attaches a lot of importance to skill development training. We hope UCEP-Bangladesh will extend its operations even further and thus help in alleviation of poverty and elimination of child labor.

I wish UCEP - Bangladesh all success.

Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.
Minister



UCEP-Bangladesh

Message

Ubaidr Rob Ph.D.
Chairperson
UCEP Board of Governors

The formal opening of the UCEP Gazipur Technical School is yet another milestone for UCEP. The establishment of this technical school heralds the move of UCEP programs to the district level after having established its operations in all the divisional headquarters of Bangladesh.

With the expansion of UCEP programs to Gazipur a large number of working children of the industrial zone of Tongi and Gazipur will have the opportunities for a better life for themselves and their families. The graduates of this technical school like the graduates of the other UCEP technical schools will play a vital role in the industrial growth of the country.

UCEP has come a long way from its modest start with only 60 students in 1972. The enrolment of students now stands at over 37,000 in 52 Integrated General Vocational (IGV) schools and 10 technical schools under UCEP programs.

The Government of Bangladesh has identified skill development training as a means of alleviating poverty and gradual elimination of child labor in the country. UCEP has been working in this direction from the very start and has been successful in changing the socio-economic conditions of thousands of underprivileged children and their families in Bangladesh.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Bangladesh, our Development Partners and local philanthropists for the generous support to UCEP programs since its inception.

Ubaidr Rob Ph.D.

UCEP Transforming Underprivileged Children into Productive Human Resource

Introduction

Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Bangladesh is a leading national NGO working for the gradual elimination of child labour and poverty in the society. Founded in 1972 by Mr. Lindsay Allan Cheyne a great social worker from New Zealand it started its operation in Dhaka with only 60 students. UCEP is now a hub of about 37 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 ensure human rights and good governance with a view 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 get listed twice in the UN ESCAP's 'Compendium of Centers of Excellence in HRD Research and Training'.

UCEP Programs

UCEP operates 52 Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Schools and 10 Technical Schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet and Rangpur Metropolitan Cities and in Gazipur District with an enrolment of about 37 thousand distressed working children with equal gender ratio. UCEP also runs 2 technical schools in Dhaka in partnership with PLAN-Bangladesh and 1 technical I School at Fatulla, Narayanganj in partnership with the Directorate of Primary Education, Government of Bangladesh. The 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. The various components and activities of the programs are given below.

Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Education

UCEP IGV schools follow the national curriculum in an abridged form along with basics of technical education and complete each grade in 6 months instead of 1 year the usual time required in a formal school. UCEP schools use the textbooks prescribed by the National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB) along with its own additional books up to grade VIII before they go to the technical schools. UCEP has introduced Computer classes from grade I onwards from the year 2009.

Technical Education

Upon completion of IGV school education, UCEP students pursue skills training in the UCEP technical schools. UCEP provides technical education in 17 trades through 10 technical schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, Rangpur and Gazipur. The trades of technical schools are based on the demand of the existing employment market. UCEP introduced SSC (Vocational) program under Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) in January 2005. UCEP has also launched Diploma in Engineering Sponsorship program for its graduates who successfully complete SSC (Vocational) and are willing to go for higher studies.

Employment and Field Services

Employment and Field Services (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. Over 95% of the UCEP graduates are placed in jobs within 6 months of their graduation.

Program on Advocacy of Child Rights

UCEP is implementing a unique mainstream program on 'Advocacy of Child Rights named 'Let Children Speak (LCS)'. The main objective of the program is to reach out to underprivileged children outside the UCEP educational program and make them aware of CRC and motivate them to go to schools. The program is being implemented in 10 districts through 24 partner NGOs. Through this program thousands of children have been motivated to go to school, child abuse has been reduced and the awareness of child rights in the communities has been enhanced.

Overseas Employment Scheme for the Middle East

UCEP launched its overseas employment scheme under the EFS Component in 2003 and has already placed 116 of its graduates in employment in the Middle East. Overseas employment is another area of UCEP programs which helps the families come out of poverty in a short time.

UCEP SME /ME Credit Program


UCEP introduced SME /ME Credit Program in June 2005 for self employment of UCEP graduates with funds from a semi-government funding agency. About 585 UCEP graduates are enjoying loan facilities under this program and have set up small or medium enterprises which also employ fresh UCEP graduates. The progress of the program and the recovery rate is highly satisfactory.

UCEP Associates Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.

UCEP introduced Multipurpose Cooperative society for its stake holders in March 2006. The main objective of the Cooperative Society is to foster bondage and responsiveness to UCEP programs and to provide former UCEP students opportunities to contribute to the development of UCEP. The society is also becoming a potential source of personal and business loans for UCEP students and their families.

Funding of UCEP Programs

UCEP programs is presently funded by Department for International Development (DFID), The Royal Danish Embassy (DANIDA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) and Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN). A number of UCEP schools are established on lands donated by local donors. UCEP also gets support from the Government and the City Corporations of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Tongi and Rangpur mainly through allotment of lands for establishing schools and training centers.



British High Commission
Dhaka

UKaid
United Kingdom
Department for International Development

Chris Austin
Country Representative
DFID Bangladesh


Message

I congratulate The Under Privileged Children's Project on the inauguration of the Gazipur Technical School. This is appropriately situated near Tongi, one of the important industrial hubs of Bangladesh where there is a growing demand for skilled workers. The UK is pleased to join others in celebrating UCEP's success in providing quality education and employment for some of the poorest children in Bangladesh. UCEP's Board, its teachers and staff and especially its students are making a significant contribution to skills development in the country. It is exciting to see the latest expansion of this work in the Gazipur Technical School.

The UK's development programme is focused on supporting Bangladesh's ambition to become a middle income country and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and thereby provide greater opportunities, living standards and security for all. This year we will spend £150 million per year (about 1,620 Crore Taka) supporting improved quality and availability of primary education and basic health care, improved nutrition especially for children, job creation and an improved investment climate, increased resilience to climate change, and stronger governance.

UCEP is a flagship programme terms of results and value for money, and we are delighted to be supporting its efforts to provide opportunities for children who would otherwise have little hope and no future. I have seen for myself how this has transformed the lives of individual children and their families. May I wish the new UCEP Gazipur Technical School every success.

Chris Austin



Message

Svend Olling
Ambassador
Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka


It gives me great pleasure to congratulate UCEP-Bangladesh for increasing the technical education capacity in Gazipur. It makes another stride in the field of technical education for the underprivileged children by establishing a state-of-the-art technical school in the periphery of Dhaka.

The Embassy of Denmark is happy to be associated with UCEP in its efforts to improve the socio-economic condition of the working children and their families.

I trust that this additional technical school in Gazipur will be able to absorb the students from the existing general schools of UCEP in Dhaka. I am confident that the new technical school in Gazipur and the general schools of Dhaka will continue to uphold the rich tradition of UCEP and be a center of excellence in education like all other schools of UCEP across the country. I believe that it will not only benefit the students and their families but will also cater to the needs of skilled human resources to the industries of Bangladesh.

I wish UCEP all the success.

Svend Olling
Ambassador
Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Message

At the occasion of the Inauguration of the UCEP Gazipur Technical School, I am pleased to congratulate the Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP) for its continuing efforts to provide skills-based and market oriented education and employment support for the underprivileged children and adolescents, especially in the urban areas of Bangladesh.

Urban poverty is one of the main development concerns in the country and is now a national priority as well as an important issue for development partners. The situation and conditions of children and adolescents within the urban areas who have to depend on the informal sector for their livelihood is socially and economically unacceptable. On the one hand, the existing resources and services within the country are limited in capacity, quality and relevance to cater to their needs and on the other hand, the inadequate skills and qualifications of these children and adolescents prevent them to access the available services. How to effectively reach these disadvantaged groups, how to increase their skills and earning potentials, how to enable them to become actors in the country's development efforts as equal citizens, how to strengthen the existing system to be able to provide equal opportunities have for long been a concern of all relevant stakeholders.

Bangladesh's National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction stresses 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.


Aiming to provide basic and technical vocational education and job placement to urban working children and adolescents, UCEP has been playing a crucial role since 1972. Catering to the needs of about 40,000 children and adolescents, UCEP now has 52 general schools and 10 technical schools in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, Rangpur Divisions and in Gazipur District.

It is my pleasure to see the expansion of UCEP's program in Gazipur as I believe that this initiative will greatly contribute to the growth of education and skills development as well as employment opportunities for the underprivileged children and adolescents in the region.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is proud to have supported UCEP since 1980 and to see today that it has grown into one of the most reputed technical service providers in the area of vocational and technical skills development and is able to address effectively the issues of child rights and poverty reduction. I wish UCEP further success in its endeavours.

Dr. Urs Herren
Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh

Educational Program Statistics at a Glance			
Integrated General and Vocational Schools	: 52	Cost per student per year for Technical Education	: BDT 30,000/ \$430
Technical Schools	: 10	Package Cost per student per year (IGV+TE)	: BDT 13,000/ \$186
Number of Trades	: 17	Teaching Staff	: 1088
Enrollment	: 37,000	Achievements since 1972 to date	
Ratio Boys: Girls	: 50:50	Children Admitted in UCEP institutions	: 176,305
Attendance Rate	: 94%+	Technical training Completed (Since 1983)	: 40,694
Dropout Rate	: Less than 4%	Overseas Employment in Middle East (Since 2003)	: 116
Employment Rate	: 95%	SSC (Voc) Graduates (Since 2007)	: 560
Income raised after graduation (on joining)	: 350%	Diploma in Engineering Students (Since 2007)	: 155
Cost per student per year for IGV Education	: BDT 9,000/ \$130	People made aware on Child Rights Issue (Since 2004)	: 520,000



Message

Kingdom of Netherlands

It is my great pleasure to congratulate UCEP on the occasion of the inauguration of the UCEP Gazipur Technical School. The inauguration of this new school is a very important event for students and their families, teachers, trainers and supporting staff as well as for the UCEP management and Board of Governors. The school will provide new opportunities for its students to explore, to learn and to practice new skills, paving the way for employment opportunities upon completion of the training programmes. In short, the school will provide perspectives for a better future for many, many young people.

The school adds a new chapter to UCEP's life history that started some 40 years ago. An extraordinary life history indeed, of extraordinary people with a vision, mission and the endurance that is needed to make a difference in the lives of so many people.


The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is honoured and pleased to supporting UCEP to implement its strategic plan for further increasing the number of schools, strengthening the linkages with the private sector and developing its own fund raising capacity. Bangladesh needs more UCEP-schools for preparing its young women and men to get a job or to start their own business. The transition of Bangladesh to a middle-income country status will depend to a large extent on their successes.

The International Skills Development Conference of last week here in Dhaka emphasized again the strategic importance of developing a more responsive, open and flexible system of formal and non-formal skills development. Presentations from the region clearly demonstrated the overriding importance of a very strong involvement of the private sector in developing and shaping a functional, viable and manageable system of skills development.

It is my hope and expectation that UCEP together with government and the private sector will succeed in further strengthening and improving skills training in Bangladesh. The Gazipur Technical School will contribute to the achievement of these important objectives.

I wish UCEP and the Gazipur Technical School in particular all success in their endeavours to provide skills training and employment opportunities for urban underprivileged children and youth!

Alphons Hennekens
Ambassador



Message

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

The inauguration of the UCEP-Gazipur Technical School is a historic event for UCEP -Bangladesh. UCEP is working for the elimination of child labour by providing education, skills development training and job placement support to the working children. UCEP program was extended to the District of Gazipur in January 2009 with the establishment of five Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Schools while the Technical School was started in July 2009 in its temporary location at Kashimpur.

The inauguration of the Gazipur Technical School in its own campus today marks the completion of establishment of all components required for the implementation of UCEP programs in any new area of operation. The new Technical School will go a long way to fulfill the needs of the industrial belts of Gazipur and Tongi. The school will be a beacon of hope in the area for a better life for the poor underprivileged children and their families.


UCEP has expanded its programs rapidly in the recent years with the generous financial support of our Development Partners. It now covers all the divisions of Bangladesh and the district of Gazipur.

Since inception in 1972, the UCEP model of education has been acclaimed as a successful model for poverty alleviation. The model which is flexible to meet the requirements of the time is transforming the teeming millions of distressed children into productive human resources for the development of the country.

We appeal to the Government of Bangladesh and the Development Partners to support the replication of the model throughout Bangladesh to supplement the efforts of the government to eradicate poverty and gradually eliminate child labour.

We thank the Government of Bangladesh, our Development Partners and local philanthropists for the continuous support to UCEP. We hope this support will continue in future for the success of our combined efforts to transform the country into poverty free Bangladesh.

Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.)



Message

Save the Children
Sweden-Denmark

Save the Children Sweden-Denmark works for a world which respects and values each child. Our vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Education and Youth Employment: Child Labour is one of the thematic programs of Save the Children Sweden Denmark. The goal of the Education and Youth Employment (EYE) program is to transform child labourers to empowered citizens by targeting children who are vulnerable to economic exploitation. UCEP Bangladesh is one of our partners in the Education and Youth Employment Program. UCEP is working at national level to raise the socio economic conditions of the urban poor and is providing education and technical skills to underprivileged children. UCEP is working to protect child labourers from economic exploitation and to empower them economically and socially which will help them strengthen their personal and professional skills. So I would like to take the opportunity to thank UCEP Bangladesh for their efforts that help children enjoy their rights and to become skilled citizens of the country. I also congratulate UCEP on the inauguration of UCEP Gazipur Technical School which will create opportunity for underprivileged children to get Technical Education in Gazipur. This new technical school at Gazipur will contribute to achieve UCEP's vision as well as Save the Children Sweden Denmark's goal. I wish UCEP Bangladesh a lot of success in the future.

Birgit Lundbak
Country Director
Save the Children Sweden-Denmark

