



Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Bangladesh

Inauguration of UCEP Rangpur Technical School

31 May 2011



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

17 Jaishtha 1418
31 May 2011

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that UCEP-Bangladesh, Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs, is going to inaugurate 'UCEP-Rangpur Technical School' in Rangpur on 31 May 2011 to provide technical education for the underprivileged children of the society.

Bangladesh is committed to upholding the rights and dignity of our children. Collective endeavour, I believe, is of paramount importance to ensure the well-being of the common mass particularly the impoverished section. I urge all concerned government, non-government and philanthropic organisations to extend their all-out cooperation in rooting poverty and illiteracy out from the society. I am confident that the establishment of 'UCEP-Rangpur Technical School' would surely make a contribution towards enlightening the underprivileged children of the northern region of the country.

I wish the endeavour of UCEP-Bangladesh a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Z Rahaman
Md. Zillur Rahman

At the moment the capacity of the technical school is 230 students in 2 shifts a day. There are 4 trades each of 12 months duration. The trades of the technical school are Welding & Fabrication, Industrial Electrical and Electronic Control, Auto Mechanics and Tailoring and Industrial Sewing Operation. All trades have been selected following job market demands.

The technical school takes in students from 4 UCEP Integrated General and Vocational (IGV) Schools which are also known as feeder schools. At full capacity with more buildings and trades the technical school will be taking in students from 6 to 7 UCEP feeder schools.

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 40 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 producing 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 Programs transform underprivileged children into skilled human resources through a package service of 4½ years of general and basic technical education in the UCEP - Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Schools, 1 year of technical education in UCEP Technical Schools followed by job placement by the UCEP Employment and Field Services (EFS). Besides the educational and skills programs, UCEP also works with partner NGOs in different divisions and districts on Child and Woman Rights through an advocacy program. This program is an unique inclusion in the activities of UCEP. The main objective of this program is to raise the voice of the children against all sorts of abuse, exploitation and discrimination affecting their lives so that they can grow in a society free from all social evils. The most encouraging part of this program is that the children themselves are the advocates and do advocacy for their rights. The other side of the program is the Woman Rights where women are being made aware to raise their voice against oppression and suppression in order to establish a society for their social and economic emancipation. With the Child Rights advocacy program parents, guardians and employers are motivated to send working children to school. It also prevents child labour, child abuse, early marriage and other social evils through advocacy and awareness building.

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 40,000 distressed working children with equal gender ratio. UCEP also runs one Technical School at Fatullah, Narayanganj in partnership with the Directorate of Primary Education, Government of Bangladesh. UCEP Bangladesh is the largest NGO producing skilled manpower for the nation.

Integrated General & Vocational (IGV) Education

The UCEP IGV Schools lay the foundation of the skills training to its students by providing an integrated general and vocational education. The working children between the age of 11+ and 12+ having little or no education are admitted in grade I in the schools. The children are provided basics of technical education and adequate general education up to grade VIII for four years and pre-technical education for six months for preparing them for skills training in Technical Schools.

In the IGV Schools for the general education, the national curriculum is followed in an abridged form with the textbooks prescribed by the National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB). For the basics of technical education including computer literacy, the curriculum which is followed is formulated by UCEP with its own additional books. The students complete each grade in 6 months instead of 1 year the usual time required in a formal school.

Technical Education

Upon completion of integrated general & vocational education, UCEP students pursue skills training in 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 job market.

UCEP introduced SSC (Vocational) program under Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) for the brighter students from January 2005. In the SSC vocational examination of 2011 UCEP schools secured top positions with 97% success rate. According to the pass rate UCEP Mirpur Technical School Dhaka, A K Khan-UCEP Kalurghat Technical School Chittagong, UCEP Rajshahi Technical School and UCEP Mohsin Khulna Technical School secured the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th positions respectively among all the technical schools of the country.

For the brighter students who successfully complete SSC (Vocational) UCEP provides financial support for pursuing Diploma in Engineering courses in Public Polytechnic Institutes.

Employment and Field Service

Employment and Field Services (EFS) 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.

Child and Woman Rights Advocacy (CWRA) Program

UCEP is implementing a unique program on 'Advocacy of Child and Woman Rights'. 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 human rights as well as child rights in the communities has been enhanced. From January 2011, the advocacy on Woman Rights has been included in the program. Alongside the children the women too are being motivated to raise their voices against discrimination and social deprivation. The program is aimed at bringing in social and economic development and emancipation of women.

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 Credit for Self Employment (CSE) Program

UCEP CSE program was introduced as an opportunity for UCEP graduates who had gained experience through jobs and would like to start their own enterprises for self employment. This program is in partnership with the autonomous funding agency PKSF. About 647 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 satisfactory.

UCEP Associates Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.

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 are presently funded by Department for International Development (DFID), The Royal Danish Embassy (DANIDA), Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) and Embassy of the 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.

Educational Program Statistics at a Glance

Integrated General & Vocational School	: 52	Children Admitted in UCEP Institutions (Since 1972)	: 181,654
Technical Schools	: 10	Technical Training Completed (Since 1983)	: 42,760
- Number of Trades	: 17	Placed in jobs (Since 1991)	: 39,534
Enrollment	: 40,000	Overseas Employment in Middle East (Since 2003)	: 116
Ratio Boys: Girls	: 50:50	SSC (Voc) Graduates (Since 2007)	: 560
Attendance Rate	: 84%+	Diploma in Engineering Students (Since 2007)	: 250
Dropout Rate	: Less than 4%	Children sent to school (since 2004)	: 3,75,460
Employment Rate	: 95%	Child trafficking prevented (since 2004)	: 3,780
Income raised after graduation (on joining)	: 350%	Early marriage prevented (since 2004)	: 5,745
Teaching Staff	: 1184	People made aware on Child Rights Issue (Since 2004)	: 520,000
Cost per child per year for the complete course of 5½ years	: BDT 21,834 per year	Children Admitted in UCEP Institutions (Since 1972)	: 181,654

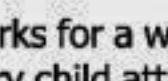


Save the Children
Sweden - Denmark

Message

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 programmes 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 improve the socio-economic conditions of the urban poor working children through providing integrated general and vocational education, technical education and employment support service. UCEP is working to protect child labourers from economic exploitation and to transform them from child labour to skilled human resource through economical and social empowerment. So I would like to take the opportunity to thank UCEP Bangladesh for their continuous efforts that help children to enjoy their rights and to become skilled citizens of the country. I also congratulate UCEP on the inauguration of UCEP-Rangpur Technical School which will create opportunity for underprivileged children of Rangpur to get Technical Education. This new technical school at Rangpur will contribute to achieve UCEP's vision as well as Save the Children Sweden Denmark's goal. I wish all the success for UCEP Bangladesh.

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Country Director
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