# The Art of Recitation

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If anyone wants to feel the heart of Dhaka University (DU) s/he must visit its Teacher-Student Centre, popularly known as the TSC. Students and teachers from all the departments gather here not only to have an *adda* but also to nourish their intellectual and artistic instinct.

Sumayea Zara and some of her friends from the Sociology department of DU are not merely chatting; rather their rhythmic voice tells us that they are doing something special. Actually Sumayea is reciting a poem and her friends are listening to her. When asked about it, Sumayea says, "Here we are practicing for our weekly recitation class. We all are students of a poetry recitation group called Dhaka Shawrokalpon."

TSC is home to around 28 cultural organisations that offer different courses on poetry recitation and presentation. Some of these groups are over a decade old. Many DU students have chosen recitation as their favourite pastime. Besides them, interested participants from across Dhaka gather at the TSC at weekends to participate in these courses.

Kazi Shahriar, who is also Sumayea's friend, says, "I participate in these classes because I love poetry and I love to recite poetry accurately. It helps me to feel the message from the heart and I also believe reciting poetry is one of the best forms of art."

The art of poetry recitation is quite popular in Bengali culture, and as the epicentre of our art and culture, the DU has been patronising these poetry



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Recitation class at TSC.

Open air recitation class of Dhaka Shawrokalpon at the TSC courtyard.

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