



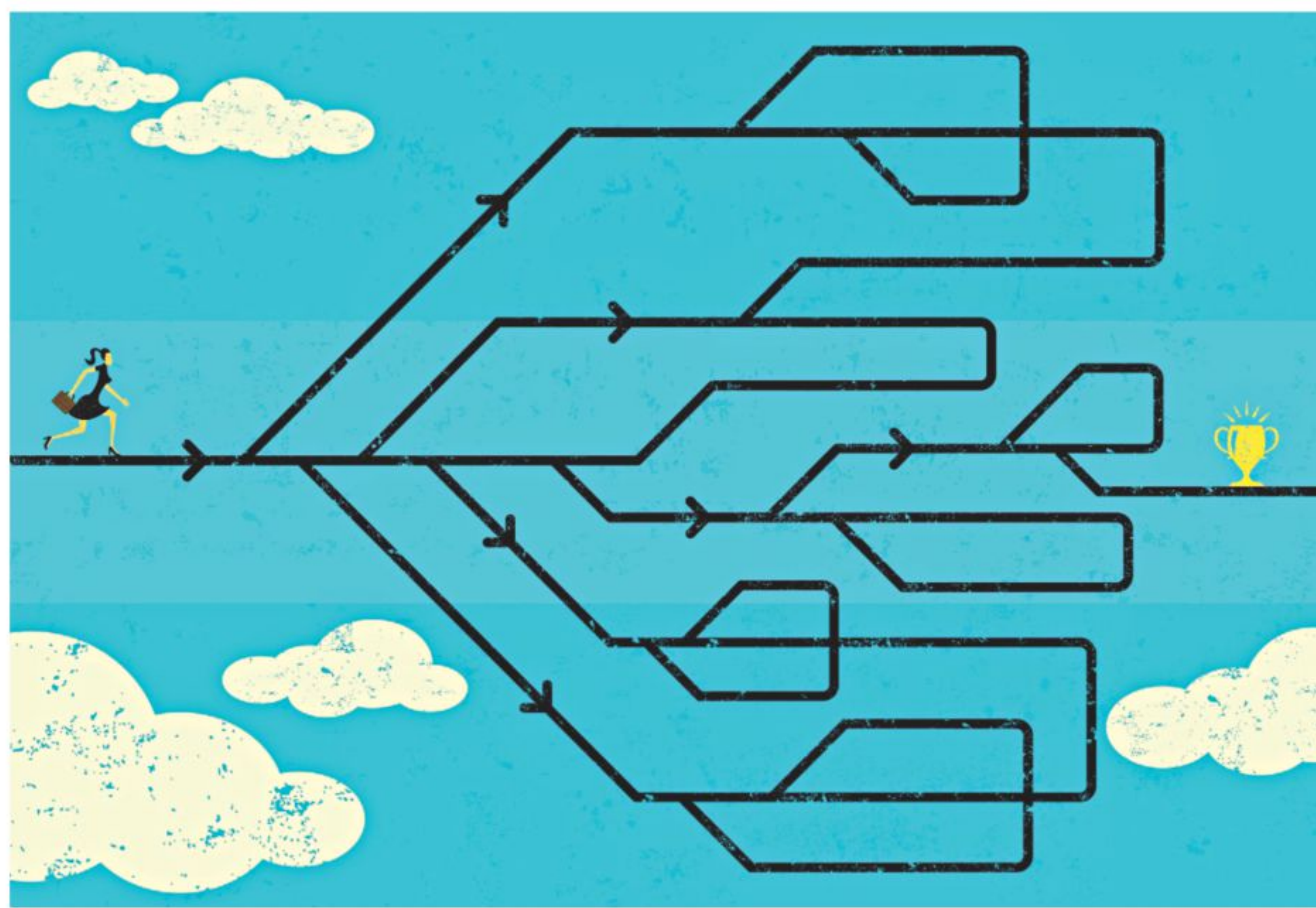
Education Policy

Excellent on paper

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Education policy in Bangladesh has always been an issue of much anticipation and as well as heated debate. All the governments, from the colonial era to the present day have tried to formulate and implement individual education policy that reflect their own ideals and vision regarding the nation's destiny. In 2010, Bangladesh got the first education policy that was made open to all for corrective and constructive opinion before final publication. Thus, the national education policy 2010, filled with pledges for reformations and progress, became the true embodiment of the nation's principles and conscience.

After Bangladesh's independence in 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ordered to form a national commission in 1972 to formulate an effective and progressive education policy for the newborn nation. Led by renowned scholar Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda, the commission published the first education



history and cultural heritages of Bangladesh. Considering this point, government decided to introduce a new subject called Bangladesh Studies. In this education policy, it has been made compulsory to teach Bengali, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Bangladesh Studies up to secondary level in all the educational institutions regardless of their medium of instruction. Ethics has been introduced to the textbooks of religious studies and these textbooks have been redesigned accordingly.

REFORMING MADRASSA EDUCATION AND SETTING UP COMMISSION ON QAWMI MADRASSAS

According to the policy Madrasa education was supposed to undergo a massive modification. It promised that curriculum of madrasa education will be redesigned in such a way so that its students can be integrated into all sectors of employment.

Scholarship, free textbooks, ICT education, library were also ensured in the policy. Moreover, in this policy government pledged to form the much awaited Qawmi Madrasa Commission to renovate this education system upon which still government has no control.

RESTRUCTURING THE EVALUATION AND EXAMINATION SYSTEM

This education policy made radical change in the examination and evaluation process. It introduced two public examinations after completing grade five and grade eight consecutively along with existing public examinations in grade ten and grade twelve. The policy also urged to apply creative question in the examinations to remove the practice of rote learning and students' dependency on guide books and coaching centres.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

To reduce unemployment, four-year bachelor degree was fixed in this policy as the acceptable higher educational qualification for most of the professions except for university teaching and researches that need special expertise on a particular discipline. Besides, universities were instructed to include three credits of compulsory English and ICT course in all the departments of the universities.

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policy of Bangladesh in 1974, which was finely tuned to the country's purely secular constitution. However, after the assassination of Sheikh Mujib the education policy was shelved forever and the country's education system continued to run with centuries old

ideals and infrastructure.

Later, with the change of the government, new education commissions and committees have been formed to introduce new education policies. From 1988 to 2010, the country got five fresh education policies, however, very few of those policies managed to bring any significant change and improvement in its education sector.

As declared in the election manifesto in 2008, Awami League led government formed an education commission to formulate a fresh education policy in 2009. Unlike the previous policies, this commission chaired by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, was tasked with the challenging job of formulating a policy in accordance with the first education policy prepared by Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda. After several modifications, the commission published the national education policy in 2010 which is still in effect.

The national education policy 2010 is considered as one of the best and most practical education policies ever formulated in Bangladesh. It has blended the liberalism of Kudrat-e-Khuda's policy with the aspirations of modern Bangladeshis very effectively. Besides, this policy introduced some radical modifications that, if

implemented, have the potential to bring in some significant qualitative changes in the education system of Bangladesh. Those ground-breaking steps promised in this policy are: **INTRODUCTION OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION**

In Bangladesh, there are thousands of kindergarten schools, however, before 2010 there was no policy how and what to teach these children of 4 to 6 years of age. In this policy one-year pre-primary education was made compulsory. The policy also promised that gradually the government will create post and specially equipped classrooms in every government primary schools for the pre primary classes.

UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION UP TO CLASS 8
In line with the first education policy, level of compulsory primary education in all streams (General, madrasa, vocational) was extended from class 5 to class 8. A common core curriculum for primary education was made compulsory for all the schools.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMPULSORY SUBJECTS
It has been a common allegation against many schools following international curricula that they do not teach their students about the

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