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NEXT STEP

Connecting yourself to research opportunities beyond borders

Opportunities to pursue independent research in this country are quite rare. Lacking in structural and monetary support for academic activities, educational institutions here are not very helpful for students who wish to conduct independent research in their chosen fields. Research firms are rare, and often don't grant liberty to students working for them owing to their unidirectional approach to research. However, it's not always feasible for students to conduct research in a foreign land, even if opportunities and sources available there are better. Here are a few easy methods that can help you build effective connections abroad when it comes to research opportunities.

CITATION

If you are a published researcher, increasing citations should be one of your top-most priorities. Citations by peers in your field from foreign universities will carry great weight. You can use these citations as references if you approach an investor or firm, both local and global, for funding your research. You can e-mail an abstract of your paper to students and faculty members who are working in similar fields and request them for citation. Sometimes it's hard to connect yourself with other researchers concerned with your field. However, websites like ORCID and Elsevier are designed to create networks between authors of scientific papers with a similar focus. Elsevier also stores information and references from ongoing researches in the North American region, which you can use to support your study.

FORMATTING YOUR JOURNAL

When you are sending your paper to foreign programs, it's important to ensure that your paper is formatted correctly. The standard varies from region to region. It may create problems if you are using the same format for all programs, but it's also going to be time-consuming if you have to look for a new format every time you send your paper to a different country. Websites like Typeset can help you in this regard as they store over 100,000 verified formats to choose from for researchers. You can also use this website to connect to peers and customise your citation style.

RESEARCH CONCENTRATION

Determining research concentrations can be a daunting task. Students often find themselves wondering whether a particular issue they want to address through a study is a worthy cause or not. There is also the risk of conducting work on existing



researches. A way to tackle this problem is by surveying the current status of contents of your intended document. There are multiple academies dedicated to helping you navigate through this. For example, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) is one such initiative that has an algorithm to track and analyse topics of research by various scientists. You can use its database to discover topics that may interest you and connect you to an ongoing research program that has been verified by the national academy.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Apply to fellowship programs of universities and global research firms if you want to experience a work environment. For applying to fellowships, you need some basic credentials. You have to be a full-time student who completed some mandatory courses in science. You will need a reference letter, along with a recommendation from someone you worked under. Faculty evaluations are accepted as well if it's from a faculty

member you worked with on a research project. Universities and firms highly encourage students to start writing a paper before applying, even if the paper is not published. This helps them understand what your interests are and what style you like to follow when it comes to scientific investigation. Big firms like CERN take in online applicants every year as interns, who can apply for fellowships after completion of their internship. They also take direct fellows, but those positions are usually reserved for graduate students. You can use ProFellow Academy's website to find out about potential fellowship opportunities online. It has a strong alumni network that constantly updates its database with emerging positions and helps its members in applying successfully to these positions.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Enrolling at study abroad programs that offer research scholarships to students will allow you to generate funding for your intended research along with an enriching academic experience. DAAD,

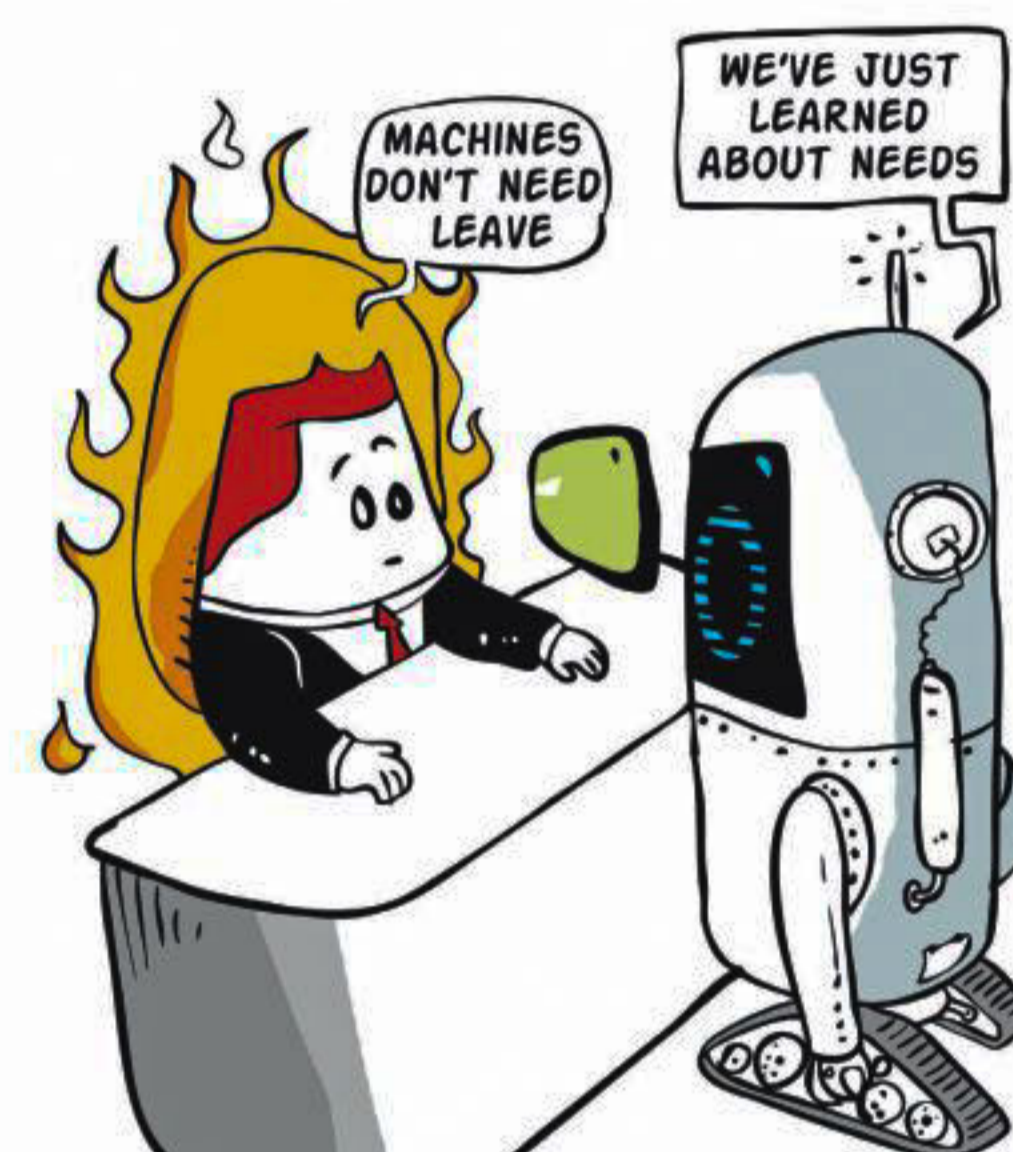
the German Academic Exchange Service, offers numerous grants and scholarship opportunities to both undergraduates and post-doctoral students. You can find information regarding paid internships, funding for your research studies and scholarships for study abroad programs through their center located in Dhanmondi residential area, Dhaka. NAFSA, Association of International Educators, is an organisation that connects these study abroad programs and interested faculty members with students looking for professional resources. Connect 123 is a useful website as well for this purpose, even though they aren't exclusively tailored to research opportunities.

NOSHIN SAIYARA

Noshin Saiyara is an aspiring conservationist who is deluded into thinking that she can save the planet from dying. Reach her at nsaiyara12gmail.com to bring her back to reality.

THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY



Career in public health

In recent times, public health is a very familiar subject that has achieved a good reputation globally. However, this discipline has not received much attention in academia in our country, in spite of its importance here as an over-populated, third world country.

As the first of its kind in Bangladesh, the department of public health & informatics started its journey at the undergraduate level in Jahangirnagar University on 21 December 2011. Besides, there are several private universities in the country that provide Master's degree on public health affairs.

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury preventions, and

institute. It is mainly managed by public health experts. Besides, there is a demand for public health graduates in various international organisations including UNDP, UNFPA and ICDDR. There is a great demand for public health experts in international NGOs.

There are many graduates working at international voluntary organisations and UN agencies both home and abroad. The public health students are representing the top-level of various non-government organisations in the country. Public health degrees are currently being preferred in various projects of WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, USAID, etc. International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs) such as ICDDR, Save the Children, FHI-360, IDRC have been employed in this subject. Bangladeshi degree holders have the opportunity to work on various projects under John Hopkins University and WaterAid. Students of public health management are getting fellowships from various organisations including the United Nations. Overall, there is now a widespread demand for public health experts.

In the department of health and family planning, public health graduates have to meet the demands of doctors. But if the number of public health graduates increases, they will be able to perform this responsibility better. Besides, there is a public employment opportunity for public health graduates under the public health engineering department, environment, nutrition planning and other ministries. Lastly, if you want to present your country to the world court, you can definitely do that through a public health education and research on your country.

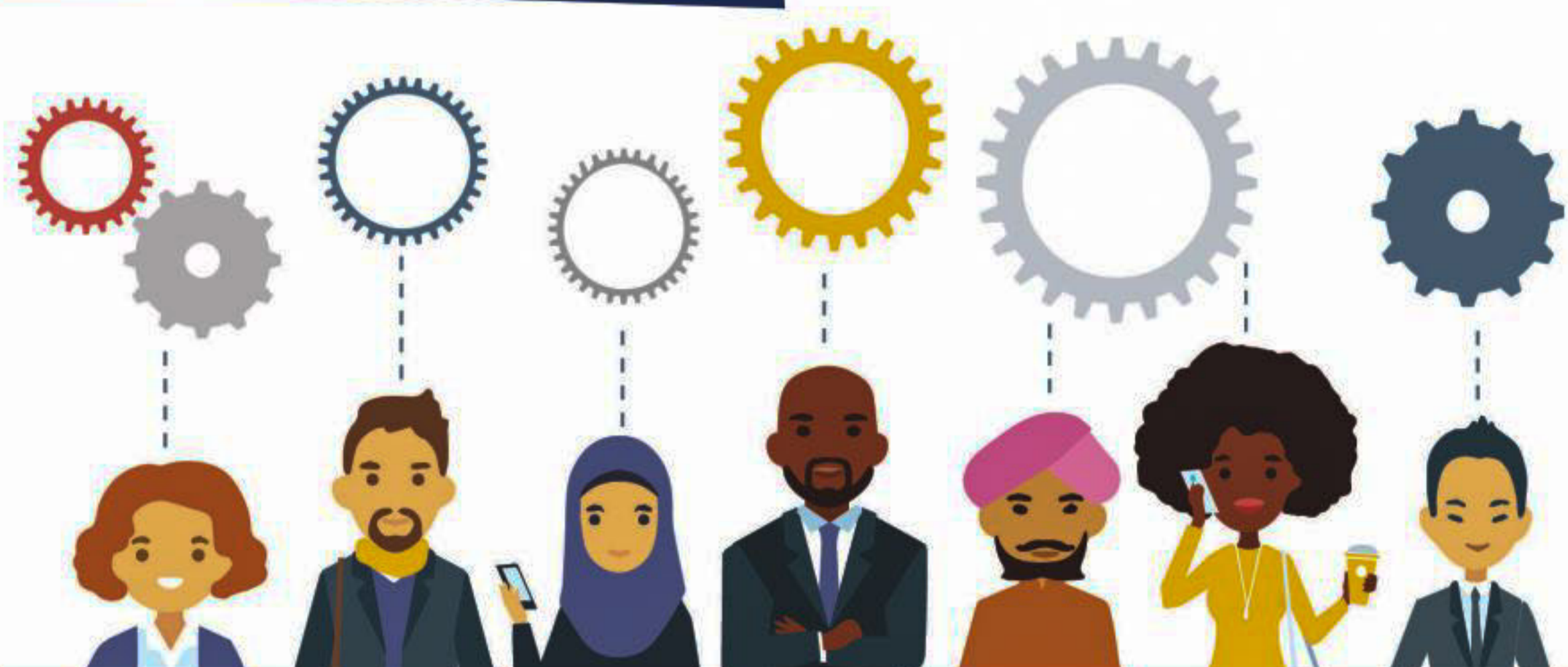
If you really want to read public health in the future, best time to start is from the undergrad level. Since undergrad programs for public health have been introduced in Jahangirnagar University for the first time in Bangladesh, your first target may be the department of public health and informatics in this university. It can be a good option if you want to study public health at an affordable cost in a public university.

TANZIM SHARIF

The writer is a student of the department of public health and informatics in Jahangirnagar University.

Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.



3 SIMPLE HABITS TO IMPROVE YOUR CRITICAL THINKING

1 QUESTION ASSUMPTIONS

Start by deciphering when to question assumptions. The rule of thumb is to question assumptions when the stakes are high. For example, when undertaking long term strategies, it's important to ask basic questions of what makes the strategy bullet-proof. Another way is to consider alternatives, which will help you develop new perspectives that tweak your thinking.

2 REASON THROUGH LOGIC

Don't over-generalise or draw conclusions based on insufficient evidence. It's important to pay attention to the "chain" of logic for every argument. Ensure that the argument is supported by evidence at every point. Also make sure that every individual piece of evidence adds up to produce a coherent conclusion. Be aware of common fallacies such as "post hoc" thinking.

3 SEEK OUT DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT AND COLLABORATION

Belonging to a minority doesn't ensure immunity from groupthink. However, diversity does bring about the ability to think differently and solicit different points of view. When everyone in a room thinks similarly, we become rigid thinkers, unwilling to change our beliefs based on new information. Thus, it's crucial to step outside your personal bubble in order to de-polarise your views.

ILLUSTRATION: SYEDA ADIBA ARIF

SOURCE: HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW



detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases. In a nutshell, public health is concerned with protecting the health of the entire population. The population can be as small as a local neighbourhood, or as big as the entire country or an entire region of the world. Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or repeating through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research, in contrast to clinical professionals like doctors and nurses, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured.

In addition to the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNFPA, UNDP and UN agencies are focusing on research in public health. World Health Organisation (WHO) is the world's largest public health