



POST-RAIN BIKE MAINTENANCE

ITMAM BASHAR



Motorcycles may be one of the most convenient ways to blow past Dhaka's congested streets, but they are not exactly the best option during rainy days. Bangladesh is infamous for its floods which are almost every vehicle owner's nightmare. The water may submerge your motorbike causing damage, whether mild or severe. Floods may also negatively affect the bike's value, considering the damage it does. To protect yourself and your bike, be mindful of the road conditions when raining as the streets of Dhaka are full of potholes and open manholes. Look for a different route when you encounter a flooded area as the dangers outweigh the benefits. But if your motorcycle does experience flooding, here's the maintenance list of the key components to check afterwards.

Do not start your vehicle

When the water submerges your bike's exhaust pipe and engine, there is a chance that water has swept into the engine's combustion chamber, spark plugs and electrical systems. Starting the engine may severely damage the engine further by causing perhaps an electric short circuit, it may cause the water hammer and your connecting rod to bend. So, never start your bike in the middle of the flooding.

Disconnect the battery

It is wise to disconnect the battery at the terminals to prevent electrical grounding. This is important if the bike is new and full of auxiliary systems and sensors, as even when the bike is turned off, electricity is being supplied to such systems and sensors. If possible, remove the entire battery and let a professional mechanic assess it.

Replace/clean spark plugs

Wet spark plugs can create problems like corrosion, and if left for a long period, they may become more difficult to remove if mud has entered and solidified. Remove the spark plugs, clean them and leave them to dry. If the damage is noticeable, replace them with new ones. Try to kickstart your bike without the spark plugs to avoid electrical damage. Lastly, make sure to check the running coil has been placed properly before putting the spark plugs back in.

Braking system

Water may lock the braking systems, especially in motorbikes with drum brakes. When braking, the sharp



squealing noise during a ride is a sign that water is locking the systems out. The problem can be solved by drying it out, removing the drum and shoes and then lubricating the backing plate. Check your drum pads, as dry drum pads will harden and lose their performance.

For motorbikes with disc brakes, cleaning and drying them immediately is essential to avoid further problems. Check other components of the system like brake cables, brake levers, master cylinder and brake fluid. When you get out of the water, pump the brakes multiple times to ensure it works properly and all water is

drained or evaporated from the pumping due to generated heat.

Oil replacement

After going through a messy flood, the next thing to check is the motorbike's oil. There is a risk of dirty water mixing with the oil and damaging the bike internally. Simply check the oil's colour and if it's a milky colour, it means the water has mixed with the oil. This oil will not lubricate properly and cause engine components to wear out. It's best to drain or flush the oil and completely replace it with new oil.

Air filter

Make sure the air filter is completely dry



otherwise water may get sucked into the combustion chamber, which can also damage the engine internally. Ideally, it's best to replace the air filter to maintain its optimal functionality.

Get professional help

Despite all the maintenance tips, your best option is to get the bike fully serviced and checked by a professional mechanic or service centre. The professionals are trained for such things, they can inspect thoroughly and can even solve the problems that you may have missed out on. They are the best option to save your two-wheeler in the long run.

WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER IN YOUR UNDERGRAD

FAIJA TASFIA

If you are in your undergraduate years, you have definitely come across research papers. Well-written rigorous pages given to study by your faculty often intrigues the curious minds about how to craft one themselves. Knowing how to write a research paper is an essential skill students should have at their

Topic

The first step is choosing a topic. It is one of the most critical and frustrating parts. While choosing a topic, make sure you do proper research. Connecting with the subject is important. Mashaekh Hassan, an Anthropology major from BRAC University, chose Sylvia Plath, a literature-heavy topic for his research paper, even though the topic did not align with his major. He said, "I highly prefer people having an open mind regarding choosing a topic. It's essential to use research opportunities well and focus on gathering experience." An important thing to keep in mind is to be as specific as possible: narrow down your research to a specific field that caters to your undergrad concentration or your interests. Make sure you're not covering something that has already been extensively covered by many similar papers.

Mahima Ishrat, an

you're especially unsure about how to approach your thesis statement, go through existing research papers that cover similar topics and try to see how they approached the topic you're thinking of. Bring in unique points and develop an argument - which should be stated clearly in your thesis statement.

Research

While writing the paper, the most common issue you will face is finding authentic and relevant publications for the paper. Nuzaba Tasannum, an Environmental Science major from Asian University for Women, has worked on two research papers till now. She was confused when she started writing her first research paper. She said, "The main struggle was finding the suitable research papers, recent enough to match with the research area for the literature sections and references of my review paper." Finding the right topic will eventually lead you

work. Citations follow precise formatting rules, with many available citation formats. Two of the most common ones are the APA (American Psychological Association) style referencing - popular in psychology, science, and education - and MLA (Modern Language Association) - used in the field of humanities. There is also the Chicago style that is often used in history, business and fine arts fields. Go with the standard format according to the field that your research project falls in. Be sure to consult a teacher or a senior if you're unsure.

Review

It goes without saying but proofread constantly. The best thing is to let your peers and seniors read your paper and offer you honest suggestions to improve your paper. One major problem that pops up when publishing papers is predatory publishers. They entice students by getting their papers published in exchange for a fee.

Maliha Kabir, majoring in Bioinformatics and Biotechnology at Asian University for

Women, believes this rarely does any good. She adds, "If you publish in this kind of journal, all of your hard work and efforts will get invalidated." Moreover, a student can never improve their skills as these predatory journals do not publish on a quality basis. "This is why I believe," further states Maliha, "you need to have a review committee who will tell you where you lack and need to improve. People who already have experience in writing and publishing papers will make the best candidate." The importance of a peer-reviewed journal cannot be overlooked, as it adds quality, depth and much-needed clarity to the research and the topic.

You should look for opportunities to work under researchers at your university. There you will gain first-hand experience working on research papers. Moreover, you will learn about various aspects of working on a research paper. All in all, writing a research paper is pretty easy. Just make sure to give time in selecting your topic and be attentive to the topic demanded throughout the paper. Don't fall under the pressure of not being able to finish on time. Keep working until you feel confident about your paper, and your paper will reward you in the process.



disposal, more so if their degree completion requires the submission of a thesis paper. Even though most of us deal with review articles, we often lack expertise in writing a paper based on original research. Here are some basic tips and insights to keep in mind when crafting your own research paper during your undergraduate years.

Economics major from East Delta University,

wrote her paper on Blockchain technology, which refers to the process of tracking and recording transactions in business through a digitised ledger. Mahima always found the worlds of technology and business fascinating. She believes that as the business world is becoming increasingly dynamic, it is essential to introduce new technologies that will improve operations and experiences and help gain a competitive edge. According to Mahima, you can write a good paper if you truly believe in the idea.

Thesis statement

Curating the thesis statement is an essential part of the paper. The statement summarises what the paper is about. The thesis sets the paper's main idea. Your thesis statement should be able to set expectations for the readers so much so that they go into the paper. Normally, a thesis statement is written at the last line of your introductory paragraph, but this method might differ based on your subject and/or concentration. If

to a plethora of sources which

you can get information from - just be sure to narrow it down so you can conduct more thorough research. When Mahima worked on her paper regarding blockchain technology, she faced the same issue. The topic was new, so her study area in the hospitality sector and blockchain technology lacked research. She added, "I searched other domains of the service industry for pertinent data, including the banking business and supply chain sector since they had good research." Remember to cite your sources when you put the material in your paper, or else your research will lack the reliable support it needs to back up your presented argument. Some good places to start looking for research papers are JSTOR and Google Scholar.

Format

Citations play an essential role in adding credibility to the paper. You are also making the information easily accessible for your readers so they can check up on the sources as well. Be absolutely aware of the fact that without proper citation, your paper is counted as a plagiarised