

The job market for fresh university graduates

The job market in any field has always been competitive. For fresh university graduates who, in most cases, might lack work experience, finding employment becomes more challenging. While it is true that COVID-19 has changed the job making in introducing hybrid workplaces, increase in online businesses and such, the market still remains flooded with unemployed fresh graduates with inadequate employment opportunities.

Md Jamal Uddin, Director of Career Services of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), has been working for nearly a decade in aiding students to prepare for the job market after they graduate. He sheds light on the situation, saying –

“The market before and after COVID-19 are two different worlds. During the pandemic, there were some companies which merged or some which shut down. They faced challenges in generating revenue. Eventually most companies, instead of creating more employment opportunities, had to shrink down their workforce. However, the number of graduates still increased and they are unable to secure jobs”.

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says that with adequate preparation, students can find jobs and that there are jobs available in the market but students are not prepared for it. There is a gap between the industry and academia, and this gap has been there from the beginning.

A final-year student from a renowned public university currently majoring in Development Studies feels this gap, and says, “My university prepared me in terms of theories, approaches, and fulfilled the academic requirements. However, the real world is difficult.

The sector is changing, and funds are decreasing. It is all about networking which is not part of the curriculum. There is no internal recruitment for undergraduate students. No alumni mixers or any way to introduce students to recruiters who would help us understand what recruiters are looking for and work towards that.”

As a female, she further struggles with keeping up with the job market coming from a conservative family and other added societal pressure. Additionally, the intense curriculum

leaves barely enough time for students to properly explore their goals and ambitions.

“The department not only fails to prepare students but makes them lethargic and pulls them into a trap of chasing grades. The teachers are biased and it is really demoralising,” she states.

So, who is responsible for bridging this gap?

Md Jamal Uddin thoroughly believes that it is the responsibility of academic institutions to do so by introducing

opportunities for students to interact with corporate leaders and other individuals who are experienced in approaching the job market.

Md Jamal Uddin says, “The curriculum cannot solve everything. Academia is responsible to bridge this gap; by being innovative, to provide supplementary activities within the campus to prepare students. The fast-changing corporate world should be introduced at university levels from the get-go but in different capacities.

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