

## Innovation in education

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Class lectures were recorded and posted in the virtual classroom to facilitate student learning. Based on faculty feedback, NSU authority purchased a 'Digital graphic tablet' for all faculty members of the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences that helped faculty members teach maths and science-based courses. All classrooms have been equipped with devices for online teaching. In the later part of the COVID-19 pandemic (summer 2021), North South University introduced 'CANVAS', a powerful state-of-the-art Learning Management System (LMS), widely used by universities in the developed world. It can be used for both online and physical classroom settings. The adoption of 'CANVAS' is a significant leap for NSU towards modernising its teaching and learning ecosystem."

Similarly, BRAC University (BRACU) was also quick to move towards online learning as a result of the pandemic, however, they decided to develop their own platform, catering to the specific needs of their students.

Dr David Dowland, Registrar of BRAC University, said, "BRAC University went online at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. That prompt action avoided session jam and enabled students to make progress without interruption. The University created and launched its

own online learning platform, called buX, which was built on a platform developed by MIT and Harvard. buX enables students to learn from wherever they are, making learning interactive and lively. Some of the features of this platform include offline viewing, integrated assignments and grading, and user-friendliness. Moreover, BRACU is a part of the Open

When we asked why Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) decided to incorporate new instruments to facilitate students and their education, Rajib Bhowmick, Director of Media and Public Relations at IUB, responded, "The 4th Industrial Revolution is almost upon us. Bangladesh missed the first three revolutions, but we do not want to miss the train this time

the only frontiers adapted to move along the pursuit of education. In order for students to gain transferable skills in the real world, and be competitive on a global scale, many other instruments have been introduced in universities and other educational

this lab, final-year students will be able to practically learn stock trading under the supervision and guidance of experienced faculty members and executives from LankaBangla Finance Limited. Furthermore, there is a

full-fledged "Fabrication Lab" or Fab Lab at IUB, which is a digital laboratory where anyone can make almost anything, using digital design, 3D printers, laser cutting, and other advanced technologies," added Rajib Bhowmick, when speaking of the new frontiers IUB has implemented to facilitate their students.

The results of such changes are already being observed. According to 10 Minute School, they have connected to 25 million students through their digital platforms and social media channels. From their pool of learners from all across the country, 54 per cent of learners come from suburban and rural areas, allowing them to take the pursuit of education throughout Bangladesh, regardless of geographic barriers.

In today's socio-political climate, it is pertinent that individuals grow to become aware and capable citizens of the global village, and education is the means through which that can be achieved. Thus, the implementation and widespread usage of new technology and modes of education can truly enhance the future of our country and the lives of its people.

By Syed Afrin Tarannum  
Photo: Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)  
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Society University Network (OSUN), a prestigious international network of universities. This enables students to participate in online classes and activities with students from across the world."

He continued, "BRACU believes that blended learning - a mix of online and in-person learning - is a vital instrument in higher education."

While the world has moved on from much of the temporary conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain lessons and shifts should be carried forward for greater efficiency and development.

because the 4th Industrial Revolution will most definitely take us to the next level of prosperity. The government has taken various measures to create an environment conducive for the youth to harness the power of digital technologies. IUB also is a strong supporter of this thought and the various steps taken at IUB are meant to ensure that all our students emerge as globally competitive graduates. As one of the oldest and most respected private universities in the country, IUB adopted a policy for comprehensive digitalisation decades ago."

Online learning platforms are not

institutions around the country.

"Recently, IUB has introduced a revolutionary programme called "Coding for All," under which, every student, irrespective of their concentrations, is required to acquire basic computer coding skills. We are also almost ready to launch the Robotics and Internet of Things (RIoT) Lab where students and researchers will be able to work with state-of-the-art robotics and engineering. Currently, IUB is setting up the first-ever trading lab at the university level in Bangladesh in collaboration with LankaBangla Finance Limited. At

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