



OPINION
COMFORT, RELIABILITY, AND SAFETY, WHY PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES NEED MORE BUSES

ABIR HOSSAIN

One thing I admire about my institution – Brac University – is its student transport service. I have used it a handful of times and am yet to be disappointed.

The bus fare is BDT 90 to the university from any destination and vice-versa, which is quite reasonable compared to other transportation modes. Local bus services, while cheaper, don't offer the same level of reliability, comfort, and safety. The university bus service also maintains proper timing.

Availing the services of local buses, on the other hand, is a gamble. Ride-sharing apps and CNGs, while more reliable and comfortable, are



PHOTOS:
ORCHID CHAKMA

which are somewhat inconvenient for me as well as many others. The timings for students to board the bus from campus also have two timings. Introducing a couple of new timings to and from campus would've benefitted the students.

While I am pleasantly surprised by the quality of BracU's transportation services, what I am more shocked by is that not all private universities offer such a service.

Travelling in Dhaka is a harrowing experience and for students, it is no easier. Considering the sheer amount of stress most students are under, the added pressure of having to figure out how to commute to and from university sounds overwhelming. Commuting to certain areas, like Bashundhara Residential Area, is even more inconvenient. So, is the onus not on the institution to help its students overcome this hurdle?

University transport service is a great initiative for students and something that most private universities should try to implement.

Abir Hossain is a sub-editor at Campus.

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not feasible for daily use in terms of cost.

University buses are safer as well. My female friends who avail of this service also feel the same. Since the bus is not accessible to outsiders and have other female students inside, they feel safe and comfortable.

Of course, the service is far from perfect. There are too few buses not making enough trips across the routes they offer. There are two timings for students to be picked up, both of

CAREER

Is MBA necessary AFTER BBA?

NOUSHIN NURI

The purpose of an MBA is more than just learning. It sets one ahead in the workplace. Or does it?

It's common for business graduates to enrol in a job right after completing their BBA. Though entry level jobs do not ask for an MBA, senior positions often require further qualifications.

Mosharraf Khan Yaafi, COO at PFEC Global, says, "I did my MBA in the late 2000s. Back then, top management used to think someone needs a Masters' degree to be able to handle top tier positions."

But a lot has changed since.

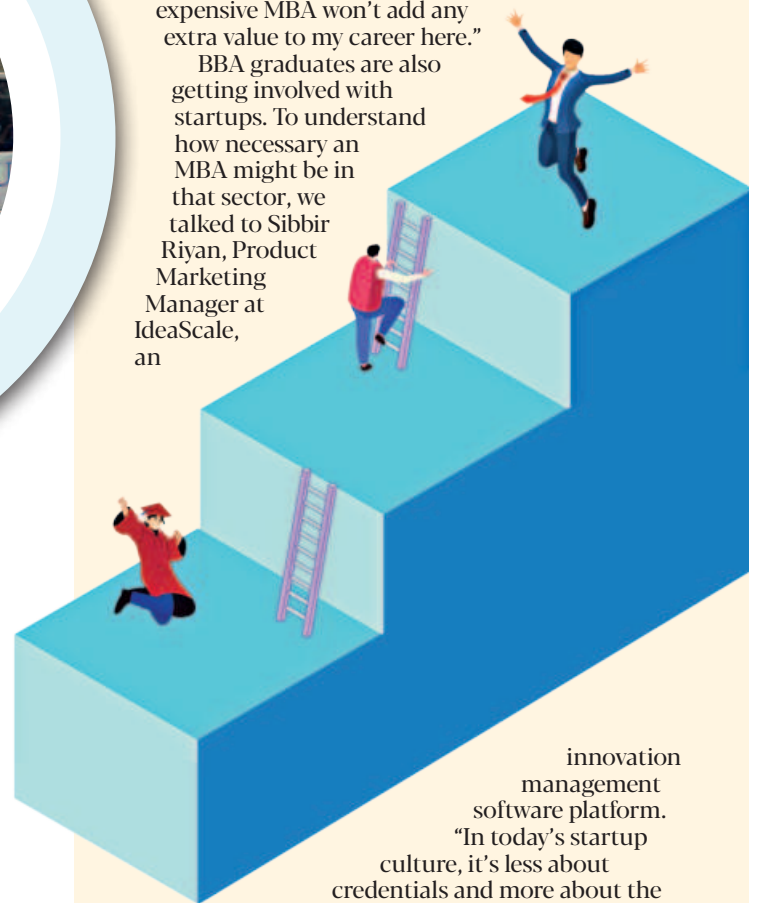
From his years of experience in the corporate sector, Yaafi tells us, "Strong analytical skills, firm decision-making capacity, sharpness, maturity, business acumen, and the ability to demonstrate knowledge and skill matter more than a postgraduate degree."

After BBA, opting for professional certifications instead of MBA is also worth considering.

Nusrat Sharmin Moutusi, Senior Finance Business Partner at Unilever, got the Associated Chartered Accountants (ACA) certification from ICAEW after her BBA.

When asked if she plans to do an MBA, she replied, "I have returned from the UK to Bangladesh to stay in the country. An expensive MBA won't add any extra value to my career here."

BBA graduates are also getting involved with startups. To understand how necessary an MBA might be in that sector, we talked to Sibbir Riyan, Product Marketing Manager at IdeaScale, an



innovation management software platform.

"In today's startup culture, it's less about credentials and more about the raw display of skills and delivering successful projects," he said.

For someone wondering if they should get an MBA, the most important question is: what is the best fit for their career trajectory? The answer might be an MBA, some other professional certification, a specialised Master's or even just a BBA degree.

Noushin Nuri is a student of the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka.