

OPINION

Faculty evaluation should be a must in all universities

AZRA HUMAYRA

Universities and colleges conduct faculty evaluations to gather feedback from students to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the faculty members and to ensure the delivery of quality education. The students are ensured anonymity in order to fill out evaluation forms according to their experiences after each semester or term. Feedback presented in a summarised report can then help teachers make appropriate improvements in their teaching methodologies and approach.

All universities in Bangladesh, whether public or private, should adopt faculty evaluations as standard practice. Dhaka University has recently implemented faculty evaluation, viewed as a significant step for its students' benefit. This gives the university a valuable opportunity to involve the students in the decision-making process by ensuring their satisfaction. This may pave the way for other public universities because faculty evaluation is still a foreign concept to the majority of public university students.

Due to the absence of transparency and a culture of fear, students often feel hesitant to express their concerns about the quality of education and treatment they receive. Faculty evaluations are conducted confidentially and the students can remain anonymous so they can evaluate the quality of the education they are receiving without the fear of being singled out by a teacher for leaving negative remarks.



ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN

Even as a standard practice, in some private universities, faculty evaluations have a limited impact on decision-making, and there are concerns about confidentiality when teachers warn students about the potential consequences of negative feedback. Therefore, the students are weary of the potential aftermath and give inaccurate feedback which ultimately defeats the purpose of faculty evaluations.

The primary purpose of attending a university is to acquire quality education from knowledgeable teachers, whose influence may extend to all facets of a student's life. The boundary between taking online courses and enrolling in a university becomes blurry if the latter does not offer excellent schooling. The value of a traditional university education is found in its dedication to providing top-notch instruction, scholarly resources, and a welcoming learning environment. However, if the institution doesn't fulfil these criteria, the advantages of going to a traditional university can be reduced.

Today, one-way evaluation is an antiquated technique to get the best education, hence faculty evaluation should be a staple in any university. The students' participation in conducting responsible evaluations will assist the university in fostering an enabling atmosphere for learning.

Azra Humayra is a student at Dhaka University.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Why making friends in university is more important than you think

RAFID KHANDAKER

University is what you make of it. You are provided freedom you haven't been given before, from choosing your own classes and timings to even having to live alone, away from family. Despite this, we as humans never stop being social creatures, and our need for community and support never fades. In fact, one could argue that it actually increases, due to the fact that along with the increase in freedom, there is also an increase in responsibility. To be suddenly thrust into the real world is an isolating and daunting experience for many, and we start to realise the importance of having people around us that we can lean on.

That's where friends come in. Now that we cannot rely on our parents, we are forced to go out into the world and find others for mutual support. It can be a daunting task, especially for those of us who are more introverted. However, it's important to realise that we're all in the same boat, and everyone else needs friends just as much as you do. That's why it's imperative that you

make the effort to get out of your shell and find likeminded people. This is easier than you might think, given how diverse student bodies usually are at universities. And once you do, prepare to make some of the most wonderful memories that you'll cherish for the rest of your life.

The benefits of having friends don't just stop there. There are more practical benefits as well, such as having study buddies, regular course-mates and of course, building a strong network. The importance of networking at university cannot be understated, as it might help you land jobs and opportunities you otherwise wouldn't, giving you a head-start in your career as well as

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setting you up for future collaboration. Some of the best ways to network is getting involved in on-campus extracurricular activities, such as joining clubs, becoming teaching assistants and research assistants, joining sports teams, etc.

University life is one of the most confusing yet transformative times a person can go through. Through all the chaos, it is our loved ones who offer us rays of sunshine to guide our path, and allow us to become our best selves through all the troubles and tribulations. You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with, so they can influence the trajectory of your education, career, and life. So be sure to choose them wisely.

Rafid is a student at North South University.