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Alongside ensuring education and skill for our population, we must also give them a healthy dose of awareness about the need to verify anything and everything on the internet.

A recent study by the Oxford Internet Institute (OII), shows that Bangladesh has the second-largest supplier of online labourers, with a labour share of 16 percent.

VISUAL: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Where is Bangladesh's freelance market headed?

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They realised that if their education system focused on students learning to chase traditional desk jobs, then there would be a shortage of jobs in the long run. So, they shifted their curriculum from a knowledge-based one to a skill-oriented one."

"When we are able to implement skilled education and appropriate training, our population will shift their line of thought and stop aiming for traditional jobs. That will not only help curb unemployment, but will also help the population become more skilled," she added.

Asked about the issue regarding tax on freelancers, she clarified, "Freelancers do not have to pay tax. Your freelancing income is tax free, and if you want to ensure that, then you should go become a government registered freelancer by signing up on freelancers.gov.bd."

One major challenge in regards to freelancing that we have not spoken about yet is the risk of scamming. With the growing popularity of freelancing, more and more bad players are entering the market. Scroll through popular social media sites and you will come across numerous sponsored



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

One of the biggest challenges surrounding the freelancing market seems to be a lack of information.

posts offering opportunities to earn money that seem too good to be true.

Often, the catch will be that you will have to put in a small amount of money to start off and that amount will triple or quadruple overnight. Sadly, when something seems too good to be true, it usually is. There have been countless new reports and lawsuits filed over scams like these, where people initially invest a small amount to begin with. They are given some return, but then are immediately told to invest a significant sum to maximise profits. Having already made some gains, people

fail to see the exploitation.

Alongside ensuring education and skill for our population, we must also give them a healthy dose of awareness about the need to verify anything and everything on the internet.

The advent of AI and similar tools mean that freelancers cannot just sit idly by and stick to the status quo. If Bangladesh wants to continue its trajectory of growth as a prospective freelancing haven, then those engaged in the industry have to actively adapt and add skills to their resume that will help sustain their employability.

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