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# Matching university education with contemporary needs

While, admittedly, resources can be scarce, there is a need for a slow yet steady paradigm shift to incorporate industry exposure into the learning process.

Abdul Wohab, Professor in Sociology at North South University, shared his thoughts. "In Bangladesh particularly, there is a lack of synchronisation between industry and university—regardless of it being public or private. Hands-on experience, partnerships, and other forms of collaboration between universities and relevant companies are becoming more and more important as our society moves to a new generation. On top of this, the education provided has to be holistic and modern in terms of content," says Abdul Wohab.

Moving further, Dr. Wohab highlighted newly emerging majors as prime examples where the courses are designed to incorporate industry exposure along with applications of the theory

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being taught. According to Dr. Wohab, North South University with its most recently introduced major in Media and Journalism attempts to do just that. However, even aside from North South University, Media and Journalism bachelor's degrees offered by other universities such as University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh offer similarly holistic approaches in their programs. Part of the reason here is the fresh approach the authority has in regards to these majors. However, such an outlook must be shared amongst other departments as well.

But of course, the topic of newly emerging majors in Bangladesh brings up a world of new issues to cover. Starting from accreditation to ensuring course content is relevant and includes industrial exposure as part of the learning outcome, everything must be maintained. A



**With increasing industry demands for hands-on knowledge, it is becoming more and more redundant to arm students with purely theoretical knowledge.**

PHOTO: **JOSHUA HOEHNE**

major with outdated course offerings will be of help to nobody. As such, United International University's offering of a Bachelor's degree in Data Science is another example of a newly introduced major that holds tremendous potential. As the field of Data Science is booming at unprecedented rates globally, the need arises for graduates from Bangladesh to develop the field of Data Science locally in a way where it may be comparable to the rest of the world.

Dr. Swakkhar Shatabda, Professor and

Director of the Data Science program in UIU, added his voice. "Across Bangladesh, there are over 100 universities currently offering degrees in Computer Science. This came from a need for digitisation. Today, however, we are moving further beyond that. We need machine learning and artificial intelligence in a lot of the work being done, be it in government sectors or corporations," he says.