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How online education is bridging the job disparity in Bangladesh

ABIR HOSSAIN

Education is perhaps the most tangible manifestation of enlightenment. The process of learning isn't merely to learn information in isolation from textbooks. It extends far beyond that, and when such a privilege is granted to everyone, the world becomes a more beautiful place. But the fact that the gift of learning remains a privilege is an issue. Even though the right to education is a fundamental human right, parts of the Bangladeshi population are still deprived from being able to access quality education. This, in turn, leads to the same fraction of the population continuing to struggle in terms of employment. And if this vicious cycle continues to persist, can they ever expect to attain a better quality of life?

As gruelling as these questions may be, they should have answers. The source of these solutions should come from people who are actually granted the privilege of education, and more so, from those in positions of power and influence. While we might be left to wonder what exactly the latter have done – if anything at all – steps are being taken to eradicate the gap. To alleviate this difference in education and employability, online education is proving to be a saving grace.

With online education, not only does essential schooling become more accessible but other forms of education, such as learning a soft skill, become far more easier. Nonetheless, online education itself cannot be the only solution. According to DataReportal, there were 66.94 million internet users in Bangladesh at the start of 2023, when internet penetration stood at 38.9 per cent. To ensure that the effects of online education pack enough of an impact, wider access to the internet must be assured.



With online learning, there are platforms offering courses tailored to accelerate one's progress in the corporate world.

PHOTO: CHRIS MONTGOMERY

Sakib Bin Rashid, Content Consultant at 10 Minute School talks about the hurdles his team continues to face in the realm of online education. "10 Minute School has access to a lot of students who reside outside Dhaka. Almost half of our users are from outside the capital. We frequently come across a lot of individuals from lower income groups and receive requests to further lower the prices,"

he said. "People's lives aren't easy. Even when purchasing education material, they need to make sure that they are cutting costs."

Despite the challenges that remain, online education has had a positive impact. It, of course, increases accessibility and in the process, eliminates significant barriers.

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PATHWAYS FOR PROMISE

Empowering Women Through Education

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Asian University for Women have been collaborating since 2016 with the vision to provide women from the garment industry with higher education, leadership development, and social equality. The Pathways for Promise Program aims to empower women, promote equality, and drive positive social change.

Be a Part of Change

Calling upon our member garment factories to be a part of this revolutionary change.

For details, email at:
suman.chatterjee@auw.edu.bd



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