PREPARING FOR THE FU

Private universities and the evolving job market

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Private universities in Bangladesh are increasingly tailoring their courses and curricula to align with the demands of the job market, emphasizing practical orientation. This approach has garnered appreciation from parents, students, and leaders across various sectors such as commerce, business, agriculture, and manufacturing-key employers of these students.

This trend is reflected in the latest data from the University Grants Commission (UGC). In private universities, a substantial 43.90 percent of students are enrolled in engineering and technology programs, while 22.00 percent are in commerce, both of which are highly geared

Agricultural University. It has had a has evolved with technological tremendous impact on our agricultural sector and continuously works towards innovation in this field," shares Prof. Qumrul Ahsan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP).

Emphasizing the importance of strong communication, IT, language proficiency, and presentation skills further equips students with advantages in the competitive job market. Some private universities have introduced a new model of connecting business leaders with students for $guidance, aligning with \, industry \, needs$ and successfully enhancing student placements in the job sector.

"Here at East West University, our strategy could be described as both 'inside out' and 'outside in.' By 'inside,' we mean within the university, and by

advancements and globalization, now prioritizing skills over qualifications. Institutions like BRAC University are adapting by integrating techfocused, entrepreneurial, and global perspectives into their curriculum to better prepare students," shared officials from BRAC University. education, А

comprehensive coupled with counseling and

showcasing student performance, with along strategic relationships

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towards the job market. In contrast, only 3.49 percent of students pursue social sciences, and 11.07 percent are in arts and humanities, fields with perceived limited job prospects.

As Bangladesh advances towards becoming a middle-income country, there is a growing need for universities to become more dynamic. This underscores the crucial connection between universities and industry. Consequently, private universities are actively fostering collaboration with industries, aiming to enhance their students' career prospects.

"The best example of collaboration among universities, industry, and government is the Bangladesh

'outside,' we refer to the industry or job market. What this entails is alighing what we teach in the classroom with the needs of the industry. To achieve this, we engage in academic research with industry partners, gaining contextual knowledge that we bring back into the classroom-this is what we call 'outside in,'" explains Prof. Shams Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of East West University.

"Academic courses at BRAC University are designed to equip students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills relevant to their career choices. The market iob





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