

GIS IS ON A MISSION

to become the nation's leading Cambridge curriculum school

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Ramesh Mudgal, the Principal of Glenrich International School (GIS), Satarkul is a highly accomplished education administrator who has played a pivotal role in driving the growth and success of schools in both the UAE and Bangladesh. Campus sat down for an interview with Mudgal where he talked about his experience, GIS, and Bangladesh's academic sector in general.

Campus (C): As the school's Principal, how would you describe the vision of Glenrich International School?

Ramesh Mudgal (R): I can't compare Glenrich with a 30-year-old school, especially in terms of results since we are yet to send our first cohort of students for IGCSE or A level exams. But our vision is to turn GIS into the nation's number one Cambridge curriculum school. We believe that as a new school, we are almost there.

If you ask me which was the most popular, most sought after, and most spoken about school in the last year, that would be Glenrich International School. Our student numbers have significantly increased this year. That's because what we delivered last year has been liked by almost every single parent whose child attended our school. So, in a way, we are already living our vision.

Having said that, we believe in continual improvement because, for us, excellence is not a destination; it's a journey. We want to continue on the path of excellence.



Our teachers here at GIS are very caring and always concerned about the well-being of our students. We say that academics and everything else can wait. First, a child should feel respected, valued, and safe. That's why everyone at GIS – the teachers, admin, and support staff – are trained on how they should interact with students and how they can support them. We also have a very well-defined child safety policy in place.

C: Could you please discuss a little about the curriculum at GIS?

R: The curriculum here is basically the Cambridge curriculum. Cambridge is an internationally recognised curriculum that gives you clear guidelines as to what the learning outcomes need to be for the students. That being said, we are not the only Cambridge school in the country. But then, how did Glenrich become so successful?

It is because academics are the bare minimum these days. If a guest visits your house, offering them water is

the first thing that you'll do. But what next? Are you going to give them pastries? Will you be serving them coffee? All these things take the experience of the guest to a completely different level.

GIS is a true 21st-century school. The education we offer here is a complete package. We provide top-notch scholastic education. Also, our focus on co-curricular activities makes the entire educational experience a memorable one for students.

C: How important do you think school-student relationships are for the development of students in the modern day?

R: Our teachers here at GIS are very caring and always concerned about the well-being of our students. We say that academics and everything else can wait. First, a child should feel respected, valued, and safe. That's why everyone at GIS – the teachers, admin, and support staff – are trained on how they should interact with students and how they can support them. We also have a very well-defined child safety policy in place.

Our students and parents have the freedom to approach the school anytime. In some schools, it is very difficult to get in touch with the principal. But, at GIS, it's completely different. Every parent has my email address and, if they write to me, I respond to them accordingly. So, we're very approachable. For us, our students always come first.

C: In ten years or so, where do you see GIS?

R: GIS started with one campus in this city and now it has two. We want to establish the Glenrich brand throughout Bangladesh. STS Group has the vision to take Glenrich to other cities like Sylhet and Chattogram — wherever there is a need for world-class education.

Ten years down the line, I can see GIS successfully thriving. This particular campus will be at full capacity and will be churning out world toppers in IGCSE and A level exams, and many of these toppers will be pursuing their higher studies in some of the top universities in Bangladesh and around the world. Some of our students will go on to become top entrepreneurs in Bangladesh and create hundreds of jobs.

When that day comes, I will feel very proud because these successful people were, at one point in time, students of GIS.

C: When schools are a bit 'unconventional', many parents in Bangladesh tend to be sceptical of them. How would you like to address their scepticism?

R: Parents have to be open to the idea that the world is no longer only focused on academics. We should not develop our children in such a limited, narrow capacity. The world is changing, and what was good 20 years ago is not good anymore. The definition of education has also changed, and modern education needs to prepare students for a new 21st-century environment. Parents need to accept this reality.

When you can explain to parents the value behind what you are doing, they accept it. And GIS is a visible example of this. There is hardly anything conventional here at Glenrich, but it is still growing because people believe in what we are doing.

Bangladesh has a very young population and a tremendous opportunity to make use of it. People here are hungry for success, and that's very important for a country that wants to transform its economy. Glenrich is excited to be a part of this journey, and we are contributing to the future successes of Bangladesh by offering a top-notch school education.