

Bridging the gap: The struggle to modernise teacher training in Bangladesh

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The Upazila Resource Centres in every city are where teachers can get subject-wise training, and even training related to changes in the curriculum."

However, she also emphasised the need for systemic reforms for integrating technology into teacher training. "Teacher training is given in person through the training institutes. There needs to be changes in the whole process of teacher training. It needs to be restructured."

Suman Chakma, a teacher at Gulshan Model High School, shared his perspective on integrating technology into teacher training. "I received training at a training institute in Dhaka, where we used a computer lab to learn how to teach ICT-related subjects. However, regular online training sessions are not part of the process, which limits the scope of digital integration in teacher training," he explained.

Suman highlighted the proactive steps he has taken for professional growth saying, "For my professional development and curriculum design, I sometimes rely on platforms like Coursera and EdX to gain advanced skills and stay up to date with global educational practices. These platforms provide valuable resources that

help me improve my teaching methods and adapt to the evolving needs of students."

He believes there is untapped potential in edtech. "There is enormous potential to improve teacher training methods and develop edtech platforms that can make the training process more accessible, effective, and aligned with modern educational requirements. By integrating technology into teacher training, we can ensure that educators are better equipped to handle the challenges of today's classrooms."

The primary challenge in adopting edtech for teacher training in Bangladesh is the apparent disparity in infrastructure and digital literacy. While urban teachers increasingly embrace digital tools, rural educators lag due to inadequate internet facilities and a lack of familiarity with edtech.

The outdated National Education Policy of 2010 contributes significantly to the current shortcomings in Bangladesh's education system. Firstly, the policy failed to place adequate emphasis on the quality of teacher training, which is essential for ensuring effective teaching and learning. Additionally, the policy offered insufficient focus on inclusive education, failing to address the diverse needs of students



PHOTO: ORCHID CHANGMA

from various backgrounds. There is also a notable lack of a clear strategy for integrating technology into classrooms or teacher training, which limits the potential for modernising education.

The limited opportunities provided to teachers for professional development at the higher secondary level, exacerbated by the scarcity of specialised teacher training colleges, have left educators underprepared to teach students effectively. To address these issues, it is crucial to focus on updating the education policy to prioritise both teacher training and the integration of technology, ensuring that teachers are equipped with the necessary skills and resources to deliver quality education in the digital age.

The government, with the support of various organisations, is actively working towards establishing educational reforms and updating policies to address current challenges. Numerous edtech startups like 10 Minute School and Shikho are leveraging technology to enhance education and close the digital divide. However, one area that remains largely overlooked is teacher

training. While there is considerable potential for improvement, teacher training has not received the attention it deserves in these reform efforts. It is time that teacher training is prioritised and integrated into the broader educational reform agenda, ensuring that educators are adequately equipped to meet the evolving demands of the classroom.

As Bangladesh works on various reforms to drive progress, investing in educational reforms, especially in teacher training, should be of the highest priority. The quality of education is deeply tied to the quality of teachers. Without a highly skilled and well-trained teaching workforce, the standard of education will stagnate. Achieving the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, cannot be realised without equipping teachers with the necessary tools, knowledge, and pedagogical skills.

Allin Mohana Biswas is a contributor for The Daily Star.



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Milestone College

• EIIN: 108572

30 and 44 Garib-e-Newaz Avenue, Sector-II and Diabari (just 100 yards away from Metro rail Uttara North Station), Turag, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230.
www.milestonecollege.com, www.facebook.com/MilestoneCollegeUttara

- **Recognition of excellence:** Recognized as the best educational institution by the Dhaka Education Board in 2008 and International Standard Setter ISO 9001: 2015 certified.
- **A unique recognition:** Milestone College is recognized as a member school of The New York Academy of Sciences, the oldest scientific institution in the United States.
- **Glorious results:** During the merit list system, Total of 13 times in the Merit List of Dhaka Education Board and all over the country. The pass rate in each exam 99% to 100% and the rate of obtaining GPA-5 is also the highest.
- HSC, SSC, JSC and PEC Exam Results (Bangla Medium and English Version):

HSC	In 2024, Total of 3107 students participated in the exam. The pass rate was 100% and 2011 students achieved GPA-5. A total of 1963 students got GPA-5 from the science group. Achieved 10th and 7th place in the merit list of Dhaka Board in 2009 and 2014.
SSC	In 2024, Total of 1750 students participated in the SSC examination. The pass rate was 100% and 1298 students achieved GPA-5. In 2009, 2013 and 2014 achieved 5th, 10th and 4th place in the Dhaka Board merit list. According to the data, Milestone College is ranked first among the educational institutions in Dhaka city based on 100% pass rate in 2020.
JSC	In 2019, Total of 589 students achieved GPA-5 with 100% pass. In 2017, Total of 848 students achieved GPA-5 with 100% pass. In JSC, achieved 13th, 7th and 4th place in the Dhaka Board merit list in 2010, 2012 and 2013.
PEC	In 2019, Total of 1181 students participated in PEC. Total 1138 students achieved GPA-5 with 100% pass rate. The GPA-5 achievement rate is 96.36%. According to the merit list across the country, it achieved 4th place in 2011 and 2012 and 3rd place in 2013 and 2014.



(From left) Mohammad Ziaul Alam, Principal of Milestone College; He is an experienced educator and IT expert. Colonel Nurun Nabi (retd.), Adviser of Milestone School & College. Colonel Nurun Nabi- the name of a successful person in the education sector of Bangladesh. During his career, he served as the principal of Jhenidah and Faujdarhat Cadet College. Colonel Nurun Nabi was the founding principal of RAJUK Uttara Model College and Milestone School and College.

- **Special facilities:** There is separate hostel and transport facility for boys and girls students. Classes for boys and girls and Bangla Medium and English Version are held in separate buildings.
- **Management and Administration:** 475 Experienced and skilled teachers and officials [1 Ex- Principal and 1 Vice Principal of Cadet College, 1 Ex- Principal of Government College, 2 Colonel (retd.), 4 Lieutenant Colonel (retd.), 4 Major (retd.), 9 Associate Professor, 91 Assistant Professor and 362 Lecturer and Senior Teacher] are conducting teaching and administrative activities at various campuses of Milestone college.
- The college is run by MNRS Trust. In addition to the main campus in Uttara, there is a permanent campus of Milestone School and College located on 25 bighas of land in Diabari, Uttara (just 100 yards away from Metro Rail Uttara North Station). The vast campus with a large field for sports and overall security is conducting educational activities with 800 residential students.
- **Co-curricular Activities:** Milestone College has clubs based on various subjects including debate, science, quiz, English, recitation, music, cricket, football, handball, photography. There are branches of BNCC, Scouts and Girls Guides. The unique aspect of co-curricular activities held at Milestone College is the month-long sports competition held at the end of the academic year so that students get the opportunity to develop their latent along with their mental and physical development.
- Milestone School & College has no branch or campus out of Dhaka city except Gazipur.

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