

## Education reforms: Aligning curriculum with future job markets



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We need to equip students with the skills to navigate the digital landscape, use technology effectively, and critically evaluate online information. This includes teaching online safety, and responsible technology use.

Thirdly, there should be scope for practicing skills in educational institutions. For instance, there may be writing training centres in schools and universities, or public speaking platforms, that count towards final academic grading. Currently, grading is only contingent on academic performance and class performance, with minimal scope of encouragement for

extracurricular activities that helps build skills for future job employability.

In this process, the system should aim to instill a love of learning in students and provide them with the tools and resources to continue learning beyond formal education. This includes promoting online learning platforms, vocational training programs, and continuing education opportunities.

### STRENGTHENING TEACHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Teachers are the backbone of any education system. To implement these curricular reforms effectively, we need to invest in high-quality teacher training and

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professional development. Teachers need to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical approaches to deliver a 21st century education.

The first step needs to be providing training on new technologies. Teachers need to be proficient in using technology in the classroom and integrating it into their teaching practices. This includes training on digital tools, online learning platforms, and educational software.

The second step would be promoting innovative teaching methods, and we need to move away from traditional lecture-based teaching and embrace more interactive and engaging approaches. This includes training on project-based

learning, collaborative learning, and inquiry-based learning.

The second step is that industry-academia partnership needs to increase as well. This would help make education more in line with what the industries are looking for, or needs, to be more accurate. Collaboration between educational institutions and the private sector can help ensure that curricula are relevant to the needs of industry and that students are equipped with the skills that employers are looking for. This includes internships, apprenticeships, and joint research projects.

The third step is that students' feedback needs to be incorporated in the performance review of teachers. Although some private universities have this system in name, and recently some public universities are following suit; this needs to be a standard default practice. This would help make teachers be more accountable to their duties, and they would strive for development as well so that they can get better student feedback.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

A reimagining of the Bangladeshi education system is a priority at this point. While many reforms are being debated and undertaken, there should be no doubt that education needs to be a priority sector. In that line, there should also be no doubt that these priority factors should be in sync with global demands and standards as well.

But for that to become a reality, concerted efforts are essential from policymakers, educators, and the private sector to implement these reforms effectively and ensure that everyone has access to quality education. Because only with a reformed education sector can we imagine a Bangladesh that will be reformed for all.

As the number of unemployed graduates keeps on increasing, the time for action is now. We cannot afford to delay these critical reforms any longer, as the more the number of unemployed grows, the harder these efforts become.

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