

Can the youth revive democracy IN BANGLADESH?

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The youth, as key drivers of inclusivity, are critically examining the current state of democracy in our country. For them, it is less a triumph than a test—a moment of possibility, shadowed by the weight of history.

RESTORING DEMOCRACY AND PEOPLE'S FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT

Interviews with students and observations from social media highlight diverse perspectives on the state of democracy. While some voiced concerns about uncertainty and challenges ahead, many shared a sense of hope and confidence in the potential for positive change.

Some people think that the interim government can successfully win back the public's faith in the system. Nabila Rakib, majoring in electronics and communication engineering at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), says, "As a student and a young citizen of Bangladesh, I believe the interim government has a unique opportunity to restore faith in the democratic process.



cannot have a fully functional democracy with so much poverty, inequality, and class discrimination."

The fates of the working class have long remained static, untouched by the revolving doors of political power. Yet, with the arrival of the interim government, there exists a rare opening—a chance to rewrite the narratives of the marginalised and finally address the inequities that have endured across administrations.

For the youth, democracy is not merely about elections—it's about dismantling systemic barriers, amplifying marginalised voices, and ensuring fairness transcends rhetoric. The task ahead is monumental: restoring faith in governance by building a nation where inclusivity is not an aspiration but a lived reality. As the country grapples with its past and uncertain present, this moment could define not just a government's legacy but the trajectory of a nation striving for equity, justice, and hope.

DEMOCRATIC INCLUSIVITY AND GENDER MINORITIES

A commonly understood definition of a democratic nation is one where the power of governance is vested in the people. In reality, democracy goes beyond the election of government, but rather, it is a system of governance that is for the people, by the people. Democracy can't be chalked down to the rule of the majority, a truly democratic nation would include and create a safe space for minorities and marginalised groups. Gender minorities are one of the most cornered communities, and in order to materialise the inclusive society the youth dreams of, their voices must be heeded.

An inclusive government is necessary in order to ensure the rights and safety of everyone in the country, which was a sentiment echoed by the public during its formation. Advisers representing the interests of minorities and marginalised groups were deemed to be of great



This is a chance to set a positive example by prioritising inclusivity and fairness. This generation looks forward to a government that prioritises the nation over individual political agendas, ensuring that democracy works for everyone, not just a select few."

"An inclusive and democratic nation is not possible without the elimination of every type of discrimination regarding ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic classes," states Rakibul Mobin, a former student of the Department of Economics at Dhaka University. The call for an inclusive nation grows louder in Rakibul's words—a vision where every citizen feels seen, heard, and meaningfully included in the democratic process. It's an aspiration not just for representation, but for a deeper, more

equitable participation in shaping the country's future.

Nabila points out that the strengthening of law enforcement and the swift, decisive addressing of the rising crime rate must be prioritised by the state. She emphasises that these efforts should be grounded in inclusivity, ensuring that all communities feel protected and represented, especially during this period of escalating instability. She also strongly believes that all citizens are entitled to equal protection of law, not just the powerful class.

Rakibul talks about eliminating class discrimination to ensure inclusivity. He says, "The system of oppressing the working class and marginalised people needs to be stopped with proper regulations and institutions. A country

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