

**Learning to Create Job**  
*A New Approach to Higher Education in Bangladesh  
Through  
Daffodil International University*

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***Abstract**—At present there are 34 public universities and more than 76 private universities in Bangladesh. Each year a large number of students graduate from these universities but the number of employment opportunity is very limited in Bangladesh. Besides that, most universities has curriculum that does not comply with the industry need. Some universities recently took initiative to develop their curriculum according to the industry need or at least included some extracurricular activities to develop awareness among their students about job requirements. However, this is no solution to the limitation of employment rather it is creating more competition for getting Jobs. To mitigate this problem, Daffodil International University for the first time ever in Bangladesh has taken a step further to develop both Industrial and entrepreneurial skills among its students. From developing course curriculum to creating suitable environment for its students, Daffodil International University is taking every step possible to enhance the educational system in favor of getting and creating Job. Daffodil International University has already set up effective business club and a business incubator in its premise. Besides that Daffodil International University with partner Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched Entrepreneurship & Innovation Expo in 2013 aiming to create two thousand new and young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. These initiatives have already taken effects creating massive movement and awareness throughout the country.*

*Key words*—Higher Education, Learning, Entrepreneurship, Job.

**Introduction:**

Entrepreneurship is universally recognized as critical resource in the economic development process of a country. Entrepreneurs will continue to play a dominant role in the economic growth

particularly industrial growth during the 21<sup>st</sup> century for entrepreneurship development as essential qualities such as, innovativeness, risk-taking, perceiving economic opportunities, strong commitment, vision etc. is available among a good number of educated and young people of the country. Given the opportunities and with needed support they can be emerged as future winning entrepreneurs. Bangladesh is the land of opportunities and the citizens here are moderate, embassies, risk taker and love to transform opportunities into development of the country. A huge number of citizens are the milestone or revolutionary device for effective economic growth through exploring entrepreneurial opportunities by establishing business. With the announcements of the national targets, the government has expressed its determination to achieve near to double digit growth by 2021, wherein the role of private sector has been acknowledged greatly. Many educated young people enter into business arena with a dream to become a millionaire within a short possible time but when they enter into the reality, they find a lot of difficulties in carrying out the business due to lack of guidelines and knowledge. Most educational institutions are not yet concerned about courses on entrepreneurship development especially in Bangladesh. It is high time that educational institutions come forward to develop entrepreneurship and provide necessary knowledge and support to the students to become entrepreneurs.

### **Present Scenario of Higher Education in Bangladesh:**

Currently the educational institutions are getting concerned about developing entrepreneurship but still very far from what needs to be done. Most universities are still practicing traditional lecture based teaching methods and with traditional courses that does not help much with skill development. When a student graduate and try to do something themselves they mostly find themselves puzzled as they lack the knowledge and skill necessary to do something of their own. They also struggle finding a job suitable for them for the same reason. Besides that the Job market here is very little compared to the large number of student graduate each year from different universities. Following factors are putting up a barrier against effective higher education in Bangladesh:

- Policies and practices are not up to the mark
- Lack of research on teaching
- Poverty and illiteracy chain

- Consciousness of the parents
- Lack of logistic support and favorable environment
- Political unrests
- Lack of supports to student projects

### **Ways to break through:**

To break through the present scenario some measures are to be taken immediately. The government, educators and academicians need to come forward to develop policies and practices of the education system in Bangladesh according to the present need and crisis. Teachers of all level should be made concern about continuously developing their teaching methods blending them with the latest technologies available. Education system should be skill based, practical and encouraging for the students to be entrepreneurs so that they can contribute the economy of the country and also help recovering from mass unemployment which will ultimately contribute to uplift the general mass above the poverty line. With the improving economy, the literacy rate will increase too. This will counter the poverty and illiteracy chain. Public and private, both sectors should work together to ensure proper logistic support and environment for the students. Political unrest is unpredictable and, therefore, is the hardest to tackle. However, technology these days can easily create alternate ways to make the educational institutions functional in any situation which should be taken into serious consideration. Students should be given proper opportunity and support to work in innovative and time demanding practical projects so that they can learn to work and create work from their student life.

### **Solutions taken in to measures:**

Daffodil International University (DIU), which is recognized as one of the top most universities in Bangladesh, has realized the necessity of reforming educational system and curriculum to keep pace with the global trend. At the same time the university wishes to contribute to the economic growth of the country. Therefore, to mitigate the problems above and to make a breakthrough, DIU has already taken some steps:

### **Countrywide Movement to Create Entrepreneur:**

DIU has emphasized in developing entrepreneurs. To do so, DIU with partnership with Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has started a movement called “Entrepreneurship & Innovation Expo”. The prime objective of this movement is to create a countrywide hype through creating two thousand (2000) young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh which will ultimately be a continuous process.

### **Establishing Business Incubator:**

To guide students and equip them with all the knowledge and resources to be a successful entrepreneur, Daffodil International University has already started a business incubator. The broad objective of the business incubator is to inspire, motivate, guide and instruct the students to become successful entrepreneurs.

### **Teacher Training Program:**

For newly recruited teachers, DIU regularly arrange a training program where they are made aware of the present situation and needs of the students. There are also given instructions and guidelines so that they can transform students as capable and skilled entrepreneurs. Teachers are also equipped with some learning tools to make their lessons interactive and practical like Learning Feedback System, forum, blog etc.



Figure: Partial view of Learning Feedback System in Daffodil International University.

**Motivational Sessions for Students:**

The university also arranges regular motivational sessions for students so that they can be aware of the change they need. Through these sessions, the students are made self driven, innovative, conscious, respectful and ethical.

**One Student, One Laptop Project:**

Only knowledge is not enough to make the students into entrepreneurs. Students also need to be equipped with technology. With this view, DIU has implemented a project named "One Student, One Laptop" under which project already four thousand students of DIU has received their free high configuration laptops. The university also encourages students to use their laptop creatively and effectively through different projects and competitions.

**Transforming Academic Curriculum:**

DIU has already taken steps to modify and transform its academic curriculum according to global trend and market demand. To value ethics and developing effective lifestyle among students, DIU has added a new course called "Art of Effective Living". DIU also continuously introduces new courses like Entrepreneurship Development so that students can learn to be self employed and create job opportunity for others.

**Initiating of Project Fair & Business Festival:**

To encourage the creativity of the students, DIU has been organizing project Fair and Business Festival regularly where students display their innovation and ideas. Students performing outstandingly well even get the chance and support to implement their projects and ideas into reality in DIU.

**Mastery Based Teaching and learning:**

DIU is also moving into mastery based teaching from lecture based teaching gradually. DIU believes that only lectures are not enough to bring out the maximum potentiality of the students. They require additional guidance through different interactive activities. Students in DIU have access to a complete digital library which itself have affiliation with other reputed libraries from around the world, they have a powerful forum and blog to venture different alleys of knowledge

according to their hunger for knowledge. They have interactive tools to discuss with one another and even with the teacher if they face any problem.

### **Conclusion:**

DIU through the above discussed activities and techniques tries to harness the true potential of the students so that when they graduate from the university they do not face any problem going through all the challenges the world has stored for them. DIU believes that the prime objective of teaching should be to make the students innovative and self established. Only then the students can be considered as assets for the country and not burden. Therefore, mastery based, interactive, effective and practical teaching is a must.

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