

## **Statement of Intent between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India on Education Cooperation**

The People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India:

Reaffirming that we are two close and friendly neighbours with historical, cultural and civilisational links and common aspirations rooted in our respective national experiences and sovereign and independent national priorities;

Conscious of the fact that both of us have a large and vibrant youth population whose education, welfare and empowerment is critical to meeting our national development objectives, and committed to the goal of "Education for All";

Convinced that education is a critical instrument for social and economic transformation, and that a well educated population adequately equipped with knowledge and skill is not only essential to support economic growth, but is also a precondition for growth to be inclusive since it is the educated and skilled person who can stand to benefit the most from the employment opportunities which growth provides;

Recalling the similarities in our focus on providing value based education, encouraging the spirit of enquiry and inspiring young minds to strive for knowledge and emphasis on job-oriented and need-based education, modernization of curriculum, ensuring teacher effectiveness, revitalizing technical and vocational education and training, and ensuring gender parity;

Recognizing the importance of information and communication technology in an inter-connected world;

Committed to improving the quality of education in our two countries through our respective flagship programmes;

Acknowledging our fruitful collaboration in the areas of education, research and innovation, and noting its contribution to the development of technologies, skills and knowledge-based societies in our two countries;

Welcoming the existing MOUs between our educational institutions, and the growing number of students in each other's countries at all levels;

Convinced that cooperation and sharing of experiences in the field of education will be to our mutual advantage;

Desirous of further strengthening this partnership through dialogue and cooperation;

Resolve to take the following initiatives in the field of education:

1. Establish a High Level India-Bangladesh Education Dialogue with representatives from government, academia, and business that would interact on a periodic basis to, inter alia:
  - Promote strategic institutional partnerships for further strengthening collaboration in the priority areas of education, including science and engineering, social sciences, and humanities.
  - Strengthen programmes for student and faculty enrichment and exchange, and development of leadership in academia at all levels;
  - Promote partnerships in the area of technical and vocational education, and skills enhancement to meet the contemporary needs of our countries;
  - Establishment of incubator for entrepreneurship;

- Facilitate internship and industrial training in each other's countries;
- Examine possibility of mutual recognition of degrees/educational qualifications;
- Provide mutual assistance in the fields of Information Technology, Computer Science, Mathematics and Science; and
- Encourage collaboration in research and development in the above areas.

2. Establish a Vice Chancellor's Round Table consisting of representatives of both countries to:

- Promote twining arrangements between Bangladesh and India institutions as per U.G.C. regulations of both countries;
- Promote exchange of research materials, publications, educational literature, teaching aids, demonstration material and information;
- Organisation of joint conferences, research programmes and seminars;
- Organisation of training programmes for educational administrators, trainers and teachers;
- Exchange of teachers, scholars, experts and students;
- Setting up Chairs on contemporary studies;

3. Cooperate in Technology Enabled and Distance Education methodologies and programme, including by connecting our students through online courses and E-libraries, and facilitation of institutional linkages between the Bangladesh Open University and the Indira Gandhi National Open University;

4. Develop partnerships in the field of vocational and technical education, including between Technical school & colleges, Polytechnic Institutes and

Technical Training Institutes in Bangladesh and Industrial Training Institutes in India;

5. Focus on and share best practices with regard to skill development, including facilitation of exchanges between National Skills Development Council in Bangladesh and the Skill Development Council of India;
6. Establish linkages between the International Mother Language Institute of Bangladesh with appropriate Institutes in India to jointly work towards the revitalization, documentation and enrichment of national languages, and cooperation in the area of linguistics in general;
7. Facilitate cooperation in the area of standard setting and quality assurance in the field of education, including dialogue between relevant organizations, such as NAAC and NBA in India and appropriate institutions in Bangladesh;
8. Further strengthen training and capacity building programmes, including under India's ITEC Programme, and sharing of best practices and experiences to promote development of human resources;
9. Encourage leadership development and scholarly achievement by formal support to study and research in the areas of science and technology, social sciences, and humanities.

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