



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

SDG Activity Report on

SDG 4: Quality Education



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

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SDG 4: Quality Education

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University Activities

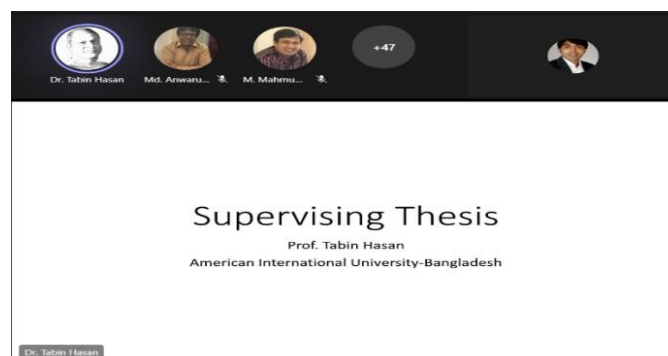
Lecture on How to Conduct Research

On October 7, 2021, the Department of Computer Science, AIUB organized the 3rd Session of the Computing Lecture Series. The session was conducted through online platform MS Teams at 2:00PM. The aim of the Computing Lecture series is to share and discuss research works of faculty members of computer science within the department in order to stay up to date with the current research trends. In addition, this type of event assists early-stage researchers and young faculty members of the department particularly, so that they can engage themselves with the experienced researchers of the department to better organize and structure their research activities.

In this 3rd session, the research talk was presented by Prof. Dr. Tabin Hasan (Head, Graduate Program, Dept. of Computer Science). Prof. Dr. Tabin Hasan has extensive knowledge and experience on research works, especially in the field of Human Computer Interaction. As an experienced researcher, he presented his research talk on “How to Conduct Research”. During the presentation, Prof. Dr. Tabin Hasan mainly focused on the research methodologies for supervising a research-based thesis in a proper manner. In support of this research talk, Prof. Dr. Tabin Hasan discussed different examples and shared his experience to illustrate the presented topic.

There was a lively discussion session after the presentation where faculty members actively participated with their thoughts and views on “How to Conduct Research”, particularly in the direction of different research methodologies and approaches for supervising a research-based thesis.

The event was graced by the presence of Associate Professor Mr. Mashioor Rahman (Associate Dean, FST) and Prof. Dr. Dip Nandi (Director, FST). On behalf of Computer Science Department, the session was moderated by Dr. Akinul Islam Jony (Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science).



AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES), Organized a webinar titled “Supply Chain as a Career Field for Engineers”

AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES) organized a webinar titled “Supply Chain as a Career Field for Engineers” on October 06, 2021. The program began at 7 PM with around 100 participants attending via the online platform Zoom. The purpose of this webinar was to familiarize the students with supply chain management and logistics strategy.

Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Siddique Hossain (*Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, ACES*) commenced the webinar by acknowledging the impact of the digital revolution on the supply chain industry. He went on to suggest that in order to be a successful supply chain manager, students must be technologically savvy. He encouraged students to develop their knowledge in machine learning and artificial intelligence in order to expand their opportunities in supply chain management. Mr. Rifat I Rahim (*Deputy Manager - SnOP Planning Supply Chain Department, Marico Bangladesh Ltd.*) began his speech by appreciating everyone for inviting him to share his expertise as an engineer in the field of Supply Chain Management. Afterwards he introduced sales and operation procedure of Marico Bangladesh Ltd. He demonstrated the manufacturing and distribution of different products. He exhibited the steps and different functions of the supply chain. He emphasized the importance of choosing supply chain management as a career path for engineers. Finally, a short Q&A session was held where the speaker answered the queries of the participants. Following that Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Siddique Hossain (*Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, ACES*) thanked our honorable speaker for his well explained and thought-provoking remarks. He advised students to evaluate their strengths, skill, opportunities, and risks in order to identify the right career route for the future. After that, he presented the virtual crest of appreciation to our honorable speaker.

The webinar was graced by the presence of Mr. Kazi Firoz Ahmed (*Senior Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, AIUB*), Mr. Md. Khurshed Alam (*Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, AIUB*), Mr. Abir Ahmed (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Motivator, ACES*), Mr. Abul Hasnat (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) and Mr. Mohammad Zohurul Islam (*Senior Lecturer, Department of EEE, AIUB*).



Faculty of Engineering (FE) organized a webinar on “How to efficiently extract information from lab manuals and assist students”


A webinar titled "How to efficiently extract information from lab manuals and assist students" was organized by the Faculty of Engineering, AIUB on September 23, 2021 on Microsoft Teams online platform. The speaker of the webinar was Mr. Shuvra Saha (Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, AIUB). Mr. Nafiz Ahmed Chisty (Associate Professor & Head In-Charge, Department of EEE) acted as the moderator and host for the webinar. The target audience for this webinar was mainly Laboratory Staffs of FE, AIUB.

The speaker of the webinar, Mr. Shuvra Saha, started his session by discussing the basic structure of lab manuals. First, he introduced the different sections comprising a lab manual and briefly explained the function of each. Next, he covered the contents of Theory and Methodology section where he stressed the importance of understanding the underlying theoretical concepts and showed examples of circuits (for experiment focused labs) and algorithms (for simulation focused labs) that may be a part of it. The Apparatus and Precaution sections were given extra focus due to the lab assistants having a greater involvement with them. The speaker believed that it is very important that lab assistants recognize the circuit symbols of different types of transistors and are familiar with the usage of IC datasheets. To avoid damage to equipment and ICs, assistants need to inform the students of the safety instructions and provide guidance regarding matters such as oscilloscope calibration and power supply limits. He pointed out that the experimental procedure section may be the area where the students need help the most and identified the Report and Discussion sections as ones that are mostly the students' responsibility. Later, he explained the open-ended labs to the audience, showing how it was different from normal lab work in the way its manual does not contain detailed working instructions. It is comprised of only objective and specific tasks to encourage the development of designing capability and creativity of students.

The session included a brief interactive question answer session between the laboratory staff in the audience and the organizers. Mr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (Associate Professor and Head, Department of CoE) provided the closing remarks by thanking Faculty of Engineering and the speaker for the informative session and encouraging laboratory personnel to take initiative in developing their skills with the goal of continuous improvement. The session was graced by the presence of Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (Professor and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan (Professor and Director, Faculty of Engineering), Ms. Nowshin Alam (Assistant Professor, Dept. of EEE) and Mr. Sujun Howlader (Assistant Professor, Dept. of EEE).

You are viewing Nafiz Ahmed Chisty's screen View Options

Webinar on
“How to efficiently extract information from lab manuals and assist students”

Speaker

Mr. Shuvra Saha
 Assistant Professor,
 Dept. of EEE, FE, AIUB

TIME & DATE
 Starts at 04.30 PM
 23th September, 2021

AIUB Faculty of Engineering FE
 AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BANGLADESH

Participants Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps



American International University-Bangladesh



**Webinar
On**

Extracting Information from Lab Manuals

Presented by

Mr. Shuvra Saha

Assistant Professor
 Faculty of Engineering
 American International University- Bangladesh

23 Sep 2021



Faculty of Engineering (FE) organized a webinar titled “Government/International Project Funding”

A webinar titled "Government/International Project Funding" was organized by the Faculty of Engineering, AIUB on September 30, 2021, Thursday. The webinar was held from 11:00 AM-12:30PM on Zoom online platform. The speaker of the webinar was Mr. Mohsinul Bari Shakir (Chief Executive Officer, Aqualink Bangladesh Limited, Director, Sigmind.ai), Dr. Saad Hasan (Associate Professor, School of Business and Economics, United International University, Bangladesh) and Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin (Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, AIUB). Dr. M Tanseer Ali (Associate Professor, Dept. of EEE) acted as the moderator for the webinar. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (Professor and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) inaugurated the session by discussing the usefulness of the initiative, identifying the factors that play a part in securing funding and emphasized the importance of research engagement and attention to detail.

The first speaker of the webinar, Mr. Mohsinul Bari Shakir, started his session by stating the necessity to come up with an idea that will benefit people and explained how he and his friends established a company that created small and medium scale embedded IoT products. He also shared their collaboration with Sigmind.ai at Singapore where they made GPU enabled embedded IoT devices that worked with the live feed of CCTV and IP cameras, as well as their current expansion of business at Korea and participation in K-Startup Grand Challenge at Seoul, Korea. The next speaker, Dr. Saad Hasan shared a very educational presentation on the notable local and international funding opportunities. First, he shared his academic and professional experience with both engineering and business management, and followed up with an overview of the research funding opportunities offered by the European Commission, namely Horizon Europe. He also shared information about other sources, such as KGF that places increased focus on IoT based agriculture and proof of concept, 2030 Water Resource Group (WRG) who frequently arrange competitions aiming for the improvement of water resources and require design plans, and IDCOL with a focus on rural area focused implementation and a history of providing research grants to university-based research teams. The last speaker, Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin, shared his personal experience with turning their idea of a solar-powered multimedia classroom developed as undergraduates into a commercially viable product and acquiring funding from YGAP, UNESCO and the Australian government. Regarding preparing application packages for funding, he recommended the audience to distinguish their solution by addressing a particular problem clearly and carefully draft the proposal by contacting the organizers whenever more information is necessary to improve the application.

Once the talk ended, a brief question-answer session took place where topics like the ethical standards for utilizing funding money and the process of becoming part of a consortium were discussed. Prof. Rahman provided the closing remarks by thanking the speakers for the informative session and encouraging the audience, especially the faculty members of FE to

rethink and improve their research and proposal writing approach. He mentioned how AIUB's new research policy supports the institution's researchers, but emphasized finding external funding as the end goal.

Webinar on Government/International Project Funding



Mr. Mohsinul Bari Shakir
Chief Executive Officer,
Aqualink Bangladesh Limited,
Director, Sigmind.ai



Dr. Saad Hasan
Associate Professor,
School of Business and Economics,
United International University



Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of EEE, FE, AIUB

TIME & DATE

Starts at 11:00 AM

30th September, 2021

PLATFORM

ZOOM



ORGANIZED BY




AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH
WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED

European Commission Research Funding





Beneficiary's contracted amount EUR million

[Funding Link](#)

- **Horizon Europe** is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a [budget of 95.5 EUR billion \(Until 2027\)](#)
- Preceded by Horizon2020: 80 EUR Billion (2014-2020)
- Preceded by Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) EUR 51 billion (2007-2013)

Total Research Project Funding (Horizon 2020 & FP7): 78.3 EUR Million for projects involving Bangladesh Based Project Partner
Bangladesh Based Partner Allocation: 5.03 EUR Million

"Bangladesh research organisations and individual researchers would need to engage to avail Horizon 2020 funds"- Ransje Teerink"- EU ambassador in Bangladesh

"Bangladesh researchers could start engaging with the Horizon 2020"- Konstantinos Vadikas, Minister Counsellor of the EU delegation in Bangladesh (in 2018)





Talking Dr. Saad Hasan

ESAB AIUB unit face successfully organized a workshop on "An Important Step to get Success in Career -LinkedIn"

On 2nd October 2021, the ESAB AIUB unit face successfully organized a workshop on "An Important Step to get Success in Career -LinkedIn" with the students of AIUB through the Google meet platform. The main focus of this workshop was on how to utilize LinkedIn to connect with people in the same field and remain in touch with old and new colleagues. In addition, the session provides an overview of LinkedIn for job searches and recruiting, as well as a fantastic method to keep up with industry news, improve your professional reputation, and raise the brand's exposure. The keynote instructor was Mohammad Gias Uddin (RMG Professional, Four H Group, Founder, Skill Canvas). MD Golam Mortuja and Sumaiya Kabir were the hosts of the workshop who inaugurated the workshop. AIUB students, ESAB members, and volunteers were present throughout the entire workshop and enjoyed the event.

The main program started at 7.30 pm with the National Anthem, and the national flag of our country was displayed with it. Then, some details of the work of ESAB AIUB UF and a short video of what ESAB has done so far were displayed. Then with a brief description of the workshop, the keynote speaker Mr. Mohammad Gias Uddin was requested to present his talk. He presented a basic idea about LinkedIn, how LinkedIn affects the job market, how to create a specific profile through LinkedIn, how to find a job, and much more. For instance, by showcasing one's unique professional narrative via experience, skills, and education, a complete LinkedIn profile may help to connect with numerous opportunities. LinkedIn may also be used to plan offline events, join groups, publish articles, share photographs and videos, and much more. This workshop has provided insight into these challenges. At the end of the entire workshop, there was a Q&A session through which the participants were able to present their questions and the Honorable Speaker answered those questions.



Faculty of Engineering (FE) organized a webinar on Project Management

A webinar titled "Project Management" was organized by the Faculty of Engineering, AIUB on September 26, 2021, Sunday. The webinar was held from 7:30 PM - 8:40 PM on Microsoft Teams online platform. The speaker of the webinar was Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin (Assistant Professor, Department of EEE). Mr. Nafiz Ahmed Chisty (Associate Professor & Head In-Charge, Department of EEE) acted as the moderator for the webinar. The target audience for this webinar was the Faculty members of FE and AIUB students working on their Capstone Projects.

The speaker of the webinar, Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin, started his session by welcoming the audience and sharing his career history. He introduced the basic elements of project management and defined the project cycle as having a birds-eye view of the project and efficient segregation of the project tasks. Next, he explained the parameters of SWOT analysis with examples of past capstone projects. Following this, he identified the breaking down of tasks, checklist preparation and faithfulness to deadlines as significant factors that contribute to team performance and encouraged the practice of maintaining meeting notes. Finally, he offered tips on integrating short-term deadlines into an example workflow and recognized the capstone project book chapters as good project planning guidelines. Furthermore, he warned against common mistakes in project management observed among students, such as replicating ideas from the internet without proper research or comprehension of the underlying theory and programming algorithm. How projects affect students' prospects both academically and professionally was also discussed. In the final part of the presentation, Dr. Arefin gave an overview of collaborative productivity tools integrated with Microsoft Teams like Trello and Calendar, visually presented ideal and wrong workload distributions over the project period and discussed the importance of KPI in Agile project management.

Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (Professor and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering) provided the closing remarks by thanking the speaker for the informative session and encouraging the students to pay more attention to project planning and proper resources. He identified project management as a skill obtainable through effort and urged the students to find inspiration from past successful alumni. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan (Professor and Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) co-hosted the event.



The poster for the "Webinar on Project Management" features a blue and white geometric background. At the top, the title "Webinar on Project Management" is displayed in white text on a dark blue banner. Below this, a circular profile picture of Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin is shown next to his name and title: "Dr. Mir Mohammad Nazmul Arefin, Assistant Professor, Dept. of EEE, FE, AIUB". To the right, a "Speaker" label is present. The "TIME & DATE" section indicates the event "Starts at 07.30 PM" on "26th September, 2021". The "PLATFORM" section shows a QR code and the word "Zoom". Logos for the Faculty of Engineering (FE) and AIUB are included, along with the text "AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED".

English Webinar on Conducting research on literary studies

Department of English of AIUB, organized a Webinar on "Conducting research on literary studies" on Thursday, 30 September 2021 at 11 am online. Conducting research is of immense importance for the faculty members at universities. Ms. Nazua Idris who is currently studying as a PhD scholar at Washington University was the key note speaker at the webinar. Mr. Hamidul Haque, the Head of the Dept. of English, gave the welcoming speech in the webinar. Mr. Hamidul Haque said that research paper development is a common phenomenon in the scholarly field of Applied Linguistics but application of research methodology in literary studies is very rare. So, he hoped this webinar would be of immense encouragement as well as be effective for the faculties and the students of the Department of English at AIUB. The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, AIUB Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam also gave a very inspiring speech in the webinar before the presentation started. Through a very vibrant presentation, Ms. Nazua Idris could very successfully reach the expected outcome of the occasion by explaining myriad aspects of conducting research as well as publishing research papers in reputed journals of literary studies. The speaker quite clearly explained that the motto of her presentation was to fulfill the demand of both the faculties and the students of the Department of English. She mentioned the concern of the faculty members to be publishing in literary journals whereas the students are thinking about how to conduct research in literary studies for their academic requirements. So, she focused on the research process in literary studies, how to collect resource materials to be used as the theoretical base and background study support for the paper, how to find resources to send paper to literary journals, and how to find reliable journals to send papers.

The speaker also notified that the more people read, the more they can learn about the conventions of literary research and can get familiar with the new ideas that are coming up in the current conventions of literary research. She has also shared some reference literature and research materials with the faculties of AIUB. Ms. Nazua went through a very subtle as well as detailed approach by narrating the step-by-step process of a literary research such as from selecting a topic to collecting relevant scholarly papers on the topic to reading the papers and finding resources like journals of universities to publish the literary articles. The lecture also focused on the sources of different types of secondary data to be used in literary research papers. At the end of the presentation by the key speaker, there was a question answer session when the participants took part. Ms. Jerin Alam, Professor, Dept. of English, Dhaka University participated in the discussion. Overall, the students and the teachers of the Dept. of English, AIUB were highly benefited by the webinar to go on with more motivational underpinnings of doing scholarly research and publishing their papers in different journals. All the faculty members and the students of the Dept. of English, AIUB were present in the webinar online. Ms. Tasnia Tarannum a faculty member of the Dept. of English, AIUB moderated the webinar. The coordinator of the seminar and workshop sub-committee of English department AIUB, Mr. Asif Kamal organized the webinar.

AutoSave AIUB Webinar_September 30 (1)

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1 Conducting Research in Literary Studies
Nazua Idris
PhD Student in Literary Studies
Washington State University

2 Discussion Topics
Finding Research Area/Topic: Where to Begin?
Reading Resources
Writing Ideas
Writing for Grad Applications/Scholarly Audience
Preparing the Manuscript
Finding Journals

3 Finding Research Area/Topic: Where to Begin!
Exploring Interdisciplinary Themes
Activating the "Canon"
Reading Scholarly Articles & Books
Reading Critical Papers (Cont. & Journal)
Looking for Special Interest Groups/Publishers
Exploring Academic Social Media Platforms
Attending Conferences

4 Some Tips on How to Find Information About Current Research
In addition to reading recently published research articles, the following tips will help you find and stay current. Whenever in the area of your research interests:
For an interdisciplinary research interest or become one in a regular basis:
While reading conference and research symposiums for studies you are interested in, try to find out what is going on in the field. Sometimes, there are opportunities, people have been investigating and publishing their work. You may also find out the current research in your field or the direction of your field. The research presented in the field research has not been completely explored. You will

Slide 1 of 24 English (United States)

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Participants: Hamidul Haque, Nazua Idris, Asif Kamal, Tasnia Tarannum

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11 Writing for Grad Application and/or Scholarly Audience

12 Assignment vs. Writing Sample vs. Conference Paper vs. Publication Manuscript

13 Review of a Good Writing Sample/Publication Manuscript

Slide 11 of 24 English (United States)

Activate Windows
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Participants: Hamidul Haque, Nazua Idris, Asif Kamal, Tasnia Tarannum

You are viewing Nazua Idris' screen

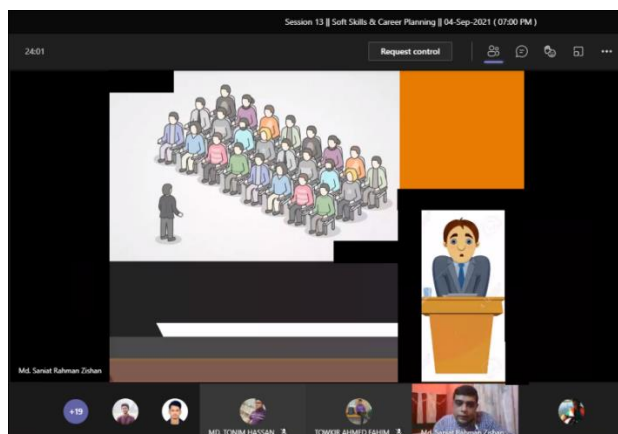
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZED A TECHNICAL SESSION TITLED “SOFT SKILLS AND CAREER PLANNING”

On September 4, 2021, Faculty of Engineering organized a technical session titled “Soft Skills and Career Planning” for the EEE interns of “Physical Plant and Infrastructure (Electrical) Division, AIUB”. The program began at 07:00 PM at online platform Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this session was to introduce interns with knowledge required for understanding and applying soft skill and brainstorm for career planning. Mr. Rethwan Faiz (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) inaugurated the session by welcoming the speaker and the interns.

Afterwards, Mr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (*Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of CoE, AIUB*) started his speech with a brief introduction of himself and told the interns about the necessity of having the soft skills to develop professional communication. Then Mr. Zishan gave an insight on the way to success by being a team player rather than working solo. He emphasized on having a positive attitude and time management when working in the corporate world. Mr. Zishan gave the intern an idea about the management of conflicts and decision making in a workspace. He gave the interns a systematic approach on how to make decision regarding career after graduation.

Finally, Mr. Biswajit Banik Pathik (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) expressed his gratitude towards the speaker in his closing remarks. Mr. Rethwan Faiz (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) acted as the moderator for this session.

The webinar was graced by the presence of Mr. Kawshik Shikder (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) and Mr. Abir Ahmed (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*)



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZED A TECHNICAL SESSION TITLED “EXCEL DATABASE MANAGEMENT”

On September 5, 2021, Faculty of Engineering organized a technical session titled “Excel Database Management” for the newly joined EEE interns of “Physical Plant and Infrastructure (Electrical) Division, AIUB”. The program began at 07:00 PM at online platform Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this session was to introduce interns with skills required for data management with the use of Microsoft Excel application. Mr. Biswajit Banik Pathik (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) inaugurated the session by welcoming the speaker and the interns.

Afterwards, Mr. Abir Ahmed (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) started his speech with a brief introduction of himself and told the interns about the necessity of having skills to manage data in an organization. Then Mr. Ahmed gave a hands-on experience to the interns with the Microsoft Excel application. He showed the interns how mass data can be managed most efficiently and effectively.

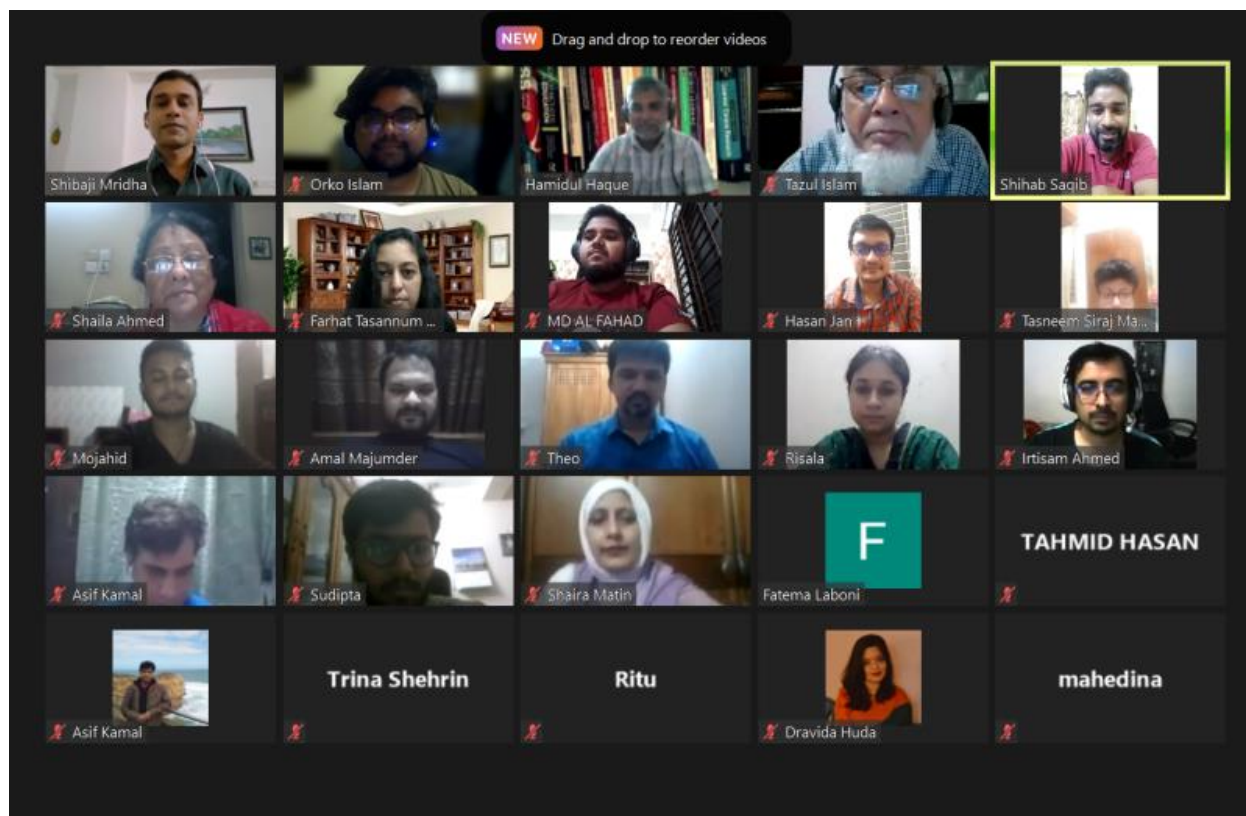
Finally, Mr. Biswajit Banik Pathik (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) expressed his gratitude towards the speaker in his closing remarks. Mr. Rethwan Faiz (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) acted as the moderator for this session.

The webinar was graced by the presence of Mr. Kawshik Shikder (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*)

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams meeting window titled "Meeting in General". The main content is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "Workbook: Excel Database Management - Book1". The spreadsheet contains a database with columns for Fruit, Month, Sales, Salesman, and various fruit types (Banana, Apple, Pear, Kiwi, Strawberry). The data is organized into a grid with rows for different months and salesmen. The Teams interface shows a list of participants on the right, including presenters and attendees. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the time 8:22 PM on 05-Sep-21.

Webinar on Literature and the Environment: Greening Tertiary Education in Bangladesh

The Department of English at American International University-Bangladesh organized an in-house webinar titled "LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: GREENING TERTIARY EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH" at 7:30 PM on July 29, 2021. Shibaji Mridha, an Assistant Professor of Department of English was the speaker in the webinar. Professor Tasnim Siraj Mahbub, an eminent scholar of the Department of Applied Linguistics and ELT, Dhaka University was present on the occasion. The opening speech was delivered by Mr. Hamidul Haque, Head of the Department of English, AIUB. The Honorable Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, AIUB, Professor Dr. Tazul Islam who was also present on the occasion delivered a very inspirational welcoming speech. The speaker Mr. Shibaji Mridha started the webinar with a touchy video clip on the theme of an entangled relationship of all of us with Mother Nature and importance of being aware of this relationship to save our existence. In the webinar, the speaker presented an overview of ecocriticism/ environmental humanities and talked about its expansive interdisciplinary scope. He briefly discussed the present status of ecocritical study in Bangladeshi tertiary education and provided recommendations regarding its future scope in Bangladeshi context. The speaker basically focused on our ethical responsibility towards the environment and ecosystem. He also shared a sample paper written by himself on ecocriticism. The ability of the humans to change the fate of the environment of the earth was implied in the speech with vivid suggestions. The concept of humans as a very self-interested species is the basic implication of ecocriticism. The love and respect of humans towards other species in the environment is essential for the humans to lead a safe life. Mr Shibaji referred to *Animal Farm*, *Maahesh*, *Heart of Darkness* and many more literary pieces that focus on the human's exploitation of natural resources and animals. One of the themes of the webinar, "Environmental Racism" focuses on mainstream negligence to people of color which is relevant in Bangladeshi context because although we are not racially divided society, we have social inequality prevalent in the integral steps and parts of our society. Rana plaza tragedy or Fulbaria tragedy in Dinajpur are all the disasters to environment as well as humans which occurred only because of the material interest of the humans. Environmental Justice and environmental racism as a third wave of ecocriticism with reference to the materiality as an opponent of the natural system was elaborately discussed. The idea that nature is not beyond us, it is around us where humans act and play and this theme has been the content of ecocriticism and environmental thinkers and writers of USA, UK and other parts of the world. This was also the point of awareness that developed among the audience after attending the webinar. Teachers and students of Department of English, AIUB were present among the audience. The coordinator of the "Seminar, Workshop and Outreach" sub-committee and Associate Professor of English Department, Mr. Asif Kamal organized and Assistant Professor Mr. Shihab Sakib moderated the webinar.



What this talk is all about!

- to give an overview of ecocriticism/environmental humanities and its expansive interdisciplinary scope
- to briefly discuss the present status of ecocritical study in Bangladeshi tertiary education
- to recommend some future scopes in Bangladeshi context
- to present a sample paper informed by an ecocritical lens



A TECHNICAL SESSION TITLED “PRACTICAL ISSUES FOR ENGINEERS” FOR EEE INTERN STUDENTS

On July 27, 2021, Internship Committee of Faculty of Engineering organized a technical session titled “Practical Issues for Engineers” for the interns of “Physical Plant and Infrastructure (Electrical) Division, AIUB”. The program began at 07:30 PM at online platform Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this session was to get the interns acquainted with issues related to an engineering project often faced by engineers in field.

Mr. Chowdhury Akram Hossain (Senior Assistant Professor and Special Assistant of OSA, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) conducted the session with his intriguing speech to the interns where he highlighted the concerns related to implementation of engineering designs. He emphasized on cofactors concerning a design and bold initiatives undertaken for its completion. He highlighted on how projects on attaining reality must go through sequences of minor steps of perfection. He ended his speech with suggestions to interns on how they should monitor the progress of a project rather than waiting to see the outcome. Finally, Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (*Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) expressed his gratitude towards the speaker in his closing remarks. Mr. Biswajit Banik Pathik (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) acted as the moderator for this session.

The session was graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB), Mr. Rethwan Faiz (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB), Mr. Kawshik Shikder (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) and Mr. Abir Ahmed (Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB).



AN ONLINE WORKSHOP TITLED "OUTCOME BASED TEACHING-LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT: ADDRESSING COMPLEX ENGINEERING PROBLEMS AND COMPLEX ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES"

The Faculty of Engineering at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organized an online workshop entitled as "Outcome Based Teaching-Learning and Assessment: Addressing Complex Engineering Problems and Complex Engineering Activities" on July 10, 2021 from 07:30 PM to 09:30 PM. The workshop was held in Zoom online platform and moderated by Mr. Tawsif Ibne Alam, Assistant Professor and Special Assistant, Dept. of EEE, AIUB.

The welcome speech was given by Dr. ABM Siddique Hossain (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) where he recognized OBE as the best pedagogy in stem education and discussed the journey of AIUB in adopting OBE. The entire workshop was conducted by Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak (Professor and Former Head, Dept. of EEE, Independent University Bangladesh). The speaker began his talk with an example-oriented explanation of Program Outcome (PO) Mapping to Psychomotor, Affective and Cognitive domains of Bloom's taxonomy. Addressing and achieving techniques of CO, PO and KPA were discussed along with plans for course wise inspirational and motivational CO and PO statement development. Next, he shared strategies to achieve OBE for specific domains using different assessment techniques such as assignment, open-ended lab, course project and capstone project. He gave tips for standard assessment rubric formulation for different types of assessment and to upgrade maximum number of students from remember to creative stage. Finally, Prof. Razzak used examples for different types of assessment question to discuss methods of addressing and designing complex engineering problem in different level courses. The most focus was put into explaining how complex engineering problems can be addressed through final year capstone project based on program outcomes, bloom's domain and knowledge profile criterion.

The moderator then invited the audience to participate in a question answer session, during which Prof. Razzak further elaborated on the advantages, challenges and effective strategies for online teaching-learning and assessment. The workshop was concluded by Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (Professor and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB). In his closing speech, Prof. Rahman emphasized the future aspects of OBE implementation in universities and thanked Prof. Razzak for the informative session, especially for the problem based and example-oriented approach of his explanation. He also acknowledged the FE faculty members for their efforts in implementing OBE. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan (Professor and Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB), Mr. Nafiz Ahmed Chisty (Associate Professor and Head In-Charge, Dept. of EEE, AIUB), Mr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of CoE, AIUB), Mr. Chowdhury Akram Hossain (Senior Assistant Professor and Special Assistant of OSA, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) were also present at the event.

REC You are viewing Prof. Abdur Razzak's screen REC View Options

Understanding OBE

Talking: Prof. Abdur Razzak

OBE
Target oriented
Student focused
Skill based

OBC
Complete document for achieving the skill targets

OBTL
How to deliver to achieve the skill targets

OBA
How to measure the achievement

Prof. Abdur Razzak OBE: Addressing complex engineering problems & activities Page 3/38

REC

Nowshin Alam

WORKSHOP ON Outcome Based Teaching-Learning and Assessment Addressing Complex Engineering Problems and Complex Engineering Activities

Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak
Professor
Dept. of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

TIME & DATE
Starts at 1:30 PM
10th July, 2021

Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman

Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan

Prof. Abdur Razzak

Susmita Afroz

Sujan Howlader

Md. Ashif Islam Oni

Abir Ahmed

Tawfik

A WEBINAR TITLED “ONLINE TEACHING PEDAGOGY”

A webinar titled “Online Teaching Pedagogy” was organized by the Faculty of Engineering, AIUB on July 08, 2021, Thursday. The webinar was held from 7:30 PM- 9:40 PM on Microsoft Teams platform. The speaker of the webinar was Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin, P.Eng, Associate Professor and Head (PG), Dept. of EEE, FE, AIUB. The members of the Faculty of Engineering (Dept. of EEE/CoE/IPE) were the target audience of this webinar. Mr. Tawsif Ibne Alam (Assistant Professor and Special Assistant, Department of EEE, AIUB) acted as the moderator for this session.

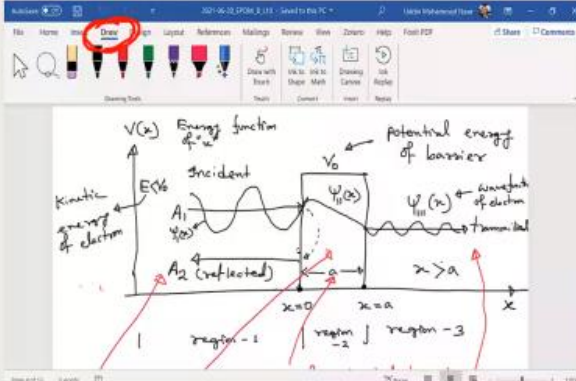
Dr. ABM Siddique Hossain (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) inaugurated the webinar by defining pedagogy as the method or practice of teaching. He thanked the Faculty of Engineering members for their efforts in assimilating with the online teaching process and encouraged them to strive for continuous improvement. Following that, speaker of the webinar Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin started his session by discussing strategies to prevent students from cheating, copying, and adopting any kind of unfair means. Additionally, he shared methods to make online lectures more interactive and for keeping students more involved during classes. He recommended using different question patterns to reduce the probability of plagiarism. Some useful policies that may help teachers to provide effective teaching and facilitate fair grade distribution were highlighted, and it was recommended that a specific guideline for assignments is provided to students beforehand to generate answer scripts that cannot be replicated easily.

The session ended with an interactive question answer session between the Faculty of Engineering members in the audience and the organizers. Multiple teachers shared their experiences in online teaching and recommended policies for question design, plagiarism control and time management for MCQ, viva and other assessment. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (Professor and Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) provided the closing remarks by thanking Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin for the informative session, encouraging the faculty members to be empathetic without being overly complaisant, and stressing upon the importance of being fair, punctual and respectful in communicating with students. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan (Professor and Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB), Mr. Nafiz Ahmed Chisty (Associate Professor and Head In-Charge, Dept. of EEE, AIUB), Mr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of CoE, AIUB), Mr. Chowdhury Akram Hossain (Senior Assistant Professor and Special Assistant of OSA, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB) were also present at the event.

21:40 Request control

Digital Writing pad

- Use Microsoft 365 Word or power point for easy draw tools (Provided by AIUB)



- Please do not readout slides to students. Make it interactive.
- Writing will keep students active.
- Will encourage them to take notes.
- You may share the slide with writing on it to students as pdf file at the end of lecture.

Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin, P.Eng. AIUB Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin, P.Eng., FIEB, SMIEEE Online Teaching Pedagogy 3

Webinar titled "Online Teaching Pedagogy"

02:17:02



Prof. Dr. ABM Siddique Hussain Dr. Md. Abdul Rahman Dr. Md. Rafat Hossain

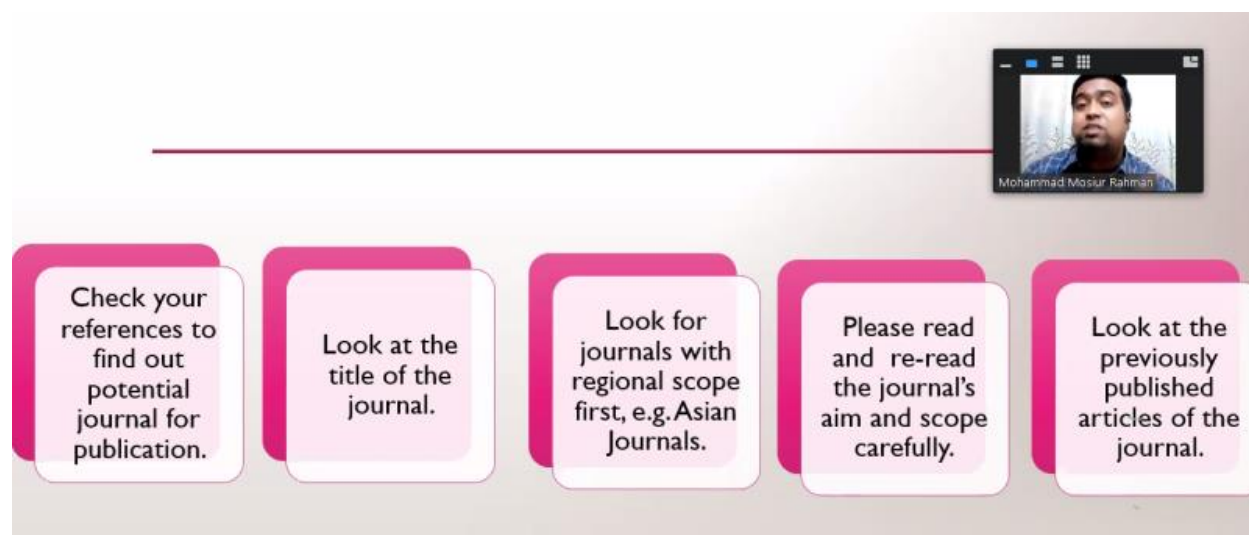
Abir Ahmed Noreen Alam Bidwasat Sami Dattab

Nafiz Ahmed Chisty Tameef Ibrah Alam Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin, P.Eng.

25°C Haze 9:41 PM 2021-07-08

Webinar on Writing and Publishing in SCOPUS/ Web of Science Indexed Journals

A webinar on Writing and Publishing in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Focusing on SCOPUS/ Web of Science Indexed Journals was organized by the Department of English, AIUB on 6th June at 4 pm on Zoom where the key presenter was Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, a PhD fellow at University Sains Malaysia and an alumnus of Department of English, AIUB. Mr. Mosiur discussed some potential ways of getting access to SCOPUS journals to find relevant literature for research papers. He recommended academic research works to be converted to research paper and books according to the depth and level of the research contents. He discussed some tricks of searching cited references on research topics easily and using them safely in a research paper without causing any controversy and hence being accepted in world class journals. He mentioned some of the top journals that the students and faculties of the department may target for publishing their articles in. From the webinar, the audience also learnt about identifying journals with relevant scope. It was a long discussion with myriad pinpoints on research work and publishing opportunities for the tertiary level teachers. In a way, it was a very effective pathway for the aspiring research article writers among the faculties of the Department of English at AIUB. The Associate Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. ABM Rahmatullah and the Head of the Department of English, Mr. M Hamidul Haque were present along with the teachers and students among the audience. The coordinator of the “Seminar, Workshop and Outreach” sub-committee and Associate Professor of English Department, Mr. Asif Kamal organized and moderated the webinar.



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING ORGANIZED A WEBINAR TITLED “ROAD TO SUCCESS”

On 27th of May 2021, Faculty of Engineering organized a webinar titled “Road to Success” which was supported by AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES). Focusing on “CV Engineering” & “Engineering Pathway from Internship to Professionals”, the program began at 6:00 PM. with the participation of around 185 students through an online platform Zoom. Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Siddique Hossain (*Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, ACES*) commenced the webinar by highlighting that Bangladesh can assemble a skilled workforce if industry executives step forward to collaborate with universities and train the fresh graduates.

Afterwards, Md. Ziaul Haque Bhuiyan (*Chief of Staff, ShopUp Consultant, Doctorkoi Smart*) started his speech by highlighting the gap between the industrial and academic partnership in Bangladesh. Later, he urged the students to utilize the semester breaks in gaining experience in different commercial organizations. Followed by, he emphasized that one should do research about the company and the responsibilities of the position before facing the interview. Lastly, a short Q&A session was held where the speaker answered to the queries of the participants. Thereafter, Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (*Head, Department of CoE & Associate Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Mentor, ACES*) thanked the honorable speaker with a virtual token of appreciation for delivering such an excellent presentation. In his speech, he encouraged the students for internship program that will eventually help them to draw a better professional curve in future. Subsequently, Nova Sarker (*Head of HR & Administration, Lepira*) began her speech by thanking Faculty of Engineering. She continued by stating the importance of preparing CV with best skills and appropriate information. Besides, she accentuated on the significance of taking preparation for interview with proper rules and regulations. She ended her speech by giving an effective briefing about some constitution of online interview and responded to the queries of the participants in the question-answer session. Finally, Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (*Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, ACES*) expressed his gratitude towards both the speaker in his closing remarks.

The webinar was ended at 8:00 PM by thanking everyone for their participation and taking a group snapshot with the presence of Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Siddique Hossain (*Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, Advisor, ACES*), Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman (*Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, ACES*), Nafiz Ahmed Chisty (*Associate Professor & Head In-Charge (UG), Department of EEE, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*), Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (*Associate Professor, Head, Department of CoE, Faculty of Engineering, Mentor, ACES*), Abir Ahmed (*Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Motivator, ACES*), Abul Hasnat (*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*), and the participants along with the organizing team of AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES).

Road to Success :

1. Engineering pathway from internship to professionals
2. CV Engineering

Speakers

Md Ziaul Haque Bhuiyan
Chief Of Staff, ShopUp
Consultant, Doctorkoi Smart

Nova Sarker
Head of HR & Administration, Lepra
Most Influential Global HR Leader (2019)

18:00 -20:00
 27 May, 2021
 zoom

Organized by



Faculty of Engineering

Supported by



AIUB Community of Engineering Students

Zoom Meeting

Fujail

Debobrata Chak...

Zishan, Burhan, Md

A B M Siddique...

Fariha Rahman Nam...

Abir Ahmed

Saniat Zishan

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Safiy Abid Bhuiyan

MAZAHARUL ISL...

Saadig Rashid

Tauhidur Rahman

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Purnendu Saha

MD. SABER REZA

S.M. Azmayen Fa...

Mahmudul Hassan

Prince Imtiaz Ah...

Ashmita Chowdh...

Zahid Hasan Kho...

Imran

Abid Hasan Himel

Unmute
 Start Video

Security
 Participants 180
 Chat
 Share Screen
 Record
 Reactions

Leave

Webinar in English Department on “Making English studies relevant to Bangladeshi students: Promises from a translanguaging classroom”

Department of English of AIUB, organized a Webinar on “Making English studies relevant to Bangladeshi students: Promises from a translanguaging classroom” on May 1, 2021 at 03:00 pm. Abu Saleh Md Rafi, the speaker of the webinar is researching on the medium of instruction policy of Bangladeshi higher education in his PhD at James Cook University, Australia. Translanguaging as a pedagogical approach is often considered as the best way to educate bilingual students in the 21st century. The discussion in the webinar, focussed on how Translanguaging pedagogies can enhance understanding of English literature. The webinar also explored the pedagogical benefits of Translanguaging in language learning, promoting cultural literacy while providing Bangladeshi students with a comfort zone in the foreign language and literature classroom.

The English language used in the departments of English in Bangladesh seems to be inaccessible to the students to grasp the course material of the English department studies while students do not understand the critical structure of primitive and classical English language. According to the research observation of Mr. Rafi, the teachers in Bangladeshi universities in their classroom, are not concerned about the linguistic aspect of the context of their teaching in foreign language. Even if some teachers are concerned about the linguistic aspect, there is lack of training on how to manage the bilingual or multilingual resources for the students in the classroom. So there is a need for training or teacher education. The Associate Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. ABM Rahmatullah and the Head of the department of English, Mr. M. Hamidul Haque were present along with the teachers and students of various departments of AIUB among the audience. Dr. Rahmatullah mentioned in his welcoming speech that the webinar dealt a very timely and relevant topic which may be very fruitful and may really help the audience understand the necessity of Translanguaging. The coordinator of the “Seminar, Workshop and Outreach” sub-committee and associate professor of English department, Mr. Asif Kamal organized and moderated the webinar.

Multilingual scaffolding

Features of Metaphysical Poetry:
Thoughts and feelings

- ✦ Ratiocination: সঠিক যুক্তিসম্মত চিন্তা-প্রক্রিয়া
- ✦ Peculiar: অদ্ভুত
- ✦ Unified Sensibility: সমন্বিত সংবেদনশীলতা, ভাবপ্রবণতা, অনুভব-ক্ষমতা
- ✦ In the process of the intellectual ratiocination of metaphysical poetry, feelings have an appropriate place. Thoughts and feelings fuse into a peculiar union in metaphysical poetry.
- ✦ The fusion is what T.S. Eliot called “The Unified Sensibility.” This kind of union lends flexibility and lightness to a piece.

jcu.edu.au

50 years

“Inner Eye: An Online Photography Exhibition by the MMC Department”

As a part of the ‘Digital Photography’ course, the Department of Media and Mass Communication (MMC) at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organized an online photography exhibition, “Inner Eye”, with the students. The online exhibition was held from 1st - 10th December 2020, using social media platforms, where people from around the world were welcome to view the exhibition. Under the guidance and curation of the course instructor, Mr. Niaz Majumdar, the students of the Digital Photography course proactively participated and organized the event.

Although the exhibition is held regularly for the course, this year, the event paid tribute to one of the extremely talented students of the MMC Department, Sadia Islam, who unfortunately passed away in a tragic boat accident in Rajshahi on the 25th of September 2020. The exhibition showcased the versatility and creativity of the students of the MMC Department through their ‘inner eye’, bringing incredible moments to life. Together with the knowledge they learn through the courses here at AIUB, the practical applications of it in constructive programs like this, enables students further in the holistic development of the leaders of tomorrow.

You are cordially invited to an online photography exhibition

Inner Eye

1st. to 5th. December 2020

The Exhibition will be inaugurated by Honorable Vice Chancellor of AIUB,
Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna

Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean Faculty of Arts
and Social Sciences of AIUB will be the chief guest at the exhibition.

Mrs. Nadia Anwar, Honorable Chairperson of AIUB
will be the chief guest on the concluding day.



Curated by: **Niaz Majumdar**
Faculty member and course teacher of “Digital Photography”

Organized by: Department of Media & Mass Communication

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH

AHMED, SAKIB
AHMED, SAIF YOUSUF
ANU, SWARANIMA GUPTA
ANKON, FAWAZ NOWSHAD
BAKHTIAR, RAGIB
DAS, ANUPOM
EMON, MONIRUZZAMAN
HOWLADER, MD. IMRAN HOSSAIN
ISLAM, AINUL
ISLAM, SAYED MD. TOUHIDUL
ISLAM, KAZI TAHMID
ISLAM, MD. MUHAMMINUL
KAISER, KAROBI
MAMUN, IFFATARA
MOJUMDER, ANIK
MARUF, FAIZUL MOBIN
MIM, MONISHA DAS
OVI, MD. NAZRUL ISLAM
RAHMAN, MINAR
RAFA, TASFIA TASNEEM
SAMAD, TANJIM
SULTANA, MARIUM
SUCHONA, SADIA ISLAM
HOSSAIN, MD. TAHER

Contact us:
01711534520, 01730441783

We are available




Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series on “The Accreditation Program in the Context of Higher Education in Bangladesh”

On Thursday, 26 November 2020, an invaluable edition of the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series was held virtually with Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) as the distinguished speaker. “The Accreditation Program in the Context of Higher Education in Bangladesh” was the title of his lecture. Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin highlighted in his lecture by tracing the brief history of higher education in Bangladesh and how it evolved to flourish as both private and public universities. Universities of the country have evolved to concentrate more on the instruments of academic quality and employability of their graduates. With accreditation as a process to measure quality, he is optimistic that new horizons will appear, and new paradigm shift will take place in the curriculum development. The lecture was very informative as he emphasized on the challenge that no university can escape of having its academic programs undergo accreditation process. During this event, the honorable Vice Chancellor of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna warmly welcomed the speaker and all the participants underscoring the value of the lecture series organized for more than a decade now to honor the founder of AIUB and the first Chairman of the Board, Dr. Anwarul Abedin. After the lecture of the distinguished speaker, a couple of important questions were raised by the participants on the value of national and international accreditation in relation to BAC and also on the importance of blending the academic and corporate needs in curriculum contents. The responses enlightened the audience about their individual roles in the accreditation process. In Recognition of Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin’s valuable knowledge and comprehensive discussion of the topic, a Plaque of Appreciation was presented to him. On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, the citation was read by Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Vice President Academics and Director, IQAC who at the same time delivered the Vote of Thanks. The Deans, Associate Deans, Directors, Deputy Directors, Department Heads of both the academic and nonacademic, faculty members, officers and students of AIUB connected through the online zoom platform and participated in the lecture.



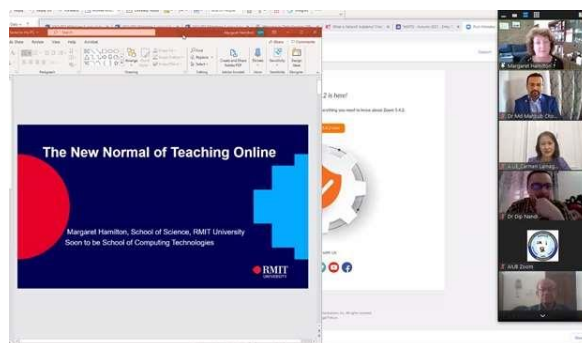
Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series: The New Normal of Teaching Online

On the 26th day of November 2020, an informative webinar titled ‘The New Normal of Teaching Online’ was held as a part of “Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series” at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB). The webinar was organized by the Faculty of Science and Technology in the honor of AIUB’s visionary Founder Chairman Dr. Anwarul Abedin who catalyzed substantial transformation in the educational sector of the country.

Prof. Dr Margaret Hamilton from the School of Computer Science and Information Technology, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia was the esteemed guest speaker for the occasion. She is known internationally for her work in mobility, user experience and computer science education including new technologies, problem-solving, employability and academic integrity. In her presentation, Prof Hamilton illustrated her knowledge and experience on online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic and assessing students online by ensuring academic integrity. She emphasized on the need for e-learning technology for tomorrow’s world. Prof. Hamilton also highlighted the diversification of online teaching around the world. During the question-answer session, Prof. Hamilton addressed numerous queries from the audience, elaborating on her valuable ideas.

Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, Vice-Chancellor, AIUB delivered an inspirational welcome message. In her speech, Dr. Lamagna focused on the significance of e-learning technology in today’s world for re-shaping the Higher Education. After the keynote session, Associate Prof. Mashour Rahman, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, AIUB concluded the event by delivering vote of thanks towards the distinguished speaker and handed her a digital certificate of appreciation. Dr. Dip Nandi, Director, Faculty of Science and Technology introduced the guest speaker and moderated the webinar. Prof. Dr. ABM Siddique Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dr Md Mahbub Chowdhury Mishu, Head, Computer Science were present along with the faculty members, officials and students of AIUB.

With almost 100 participants on the Zoom platform, and over 3500 live viewers on AIUB’s official Facebook page, the webinar was indeed a success.



Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, M.P., Deputy Minister of Education at AIUB to Deliver a Lecture on “Learning How to Learn and Need For Skill Based Education”

In honor of its visionary Founder Chairman, who catalyzed change in the educational sector of the country, the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organizes the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Lecture Series as one of the many efforts to continue his legacy. And as a part of that very initiative, an insightful online session was held on the 22nd of November 2020, themed on ‘Learning how to Learn and Need for Skill-based Education’.

Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, M.P., the Honorable Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Govt. of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh was the esteemed guest speaker for the occasion. He shared his knowledge and experience on the life-long learning, the cultural aspects of education in line with career goals, and the skills needed to survive and succeed in the world, today and tomorrow. He emphasized on the need for equipping students with skills beyond the traditional curriculum-based learning to increase their potential of becoming global citizens and entrepreneurs. Mr. Mohibul also highlighted the diversification of employability based on student’s analytical ability, areas of specialization, language and numeracy skills. During the question answer session, Mr. Mohibul addressed numerous queries from the audience, elaborating on his valuable ideas.

Mrs. Nadia Anwar, Founder Member, AIUB Board of Trustees, provided the welcome address to the distinguished guest, along with the participating students, faculties, and officials of AIUB. She highlighted the significant importance of continuous learning and skills development for the youth of our nation, inviting the Deputy Education Minister to enlighten and enrich the minds of the leaders of tomorrow. After the session, Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna, the Vice Chancellor of AIUB concluded the event by expressing her gratitude towards the speaker and the audience for their valuable time and support. She also cited her own example of how the diversified knowledge empowered her in her career. Her concluding remarks were “by learning you will teach, and by teaching you will learn. And those who dare to teach must never cease to learn”.

With almost 400 participants on the Zoom platform, and over 6000 live viewers on AIUB’s official Facebook page, the webinar was indeed a success. The saying holds true, even more in this digitally transforming era, “Progress lies, not just in enhancing what is, but in advancing towards what will be.”



AIUB-IQAC organized a Three-Day Faculty Development Program on Outcome-Based Education (OBE)

From 28 September to 30 September 2020, AIUB-IQAC organized a Three-day Faculty Development Program on Outcome-Based Education with Mr. Ajay Bhagwat, Director, Inpods India as the resource person for this event. This Faculty Development Program (FDP) covered key issues and aspects in the area of Outcome-Based Education (OBE). This is a timely intervention in the light of AIUB's preparation for the program accreditation to be conducted by the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC). While this program has already been introduced in the university, a couple of times, the program comes as a refresher to enhance the faculty's functional understanding of the approach.

The topics that were covered in the FDP were as follows:

Day 1: Fundamentals and advanced concepts of OBE

- a. Importance of OBE
- b. Program outcomes – classification
- c. Top-down program design
- d. Course outcomes design

Day 2 and 3: CO-PO attainment computation

- a. What is Threshold, Target and CO Attainment computation
- b. COs attainment analysis
- c. PO outcomes batchwise analysis
- d. Identifying weaker students and remedial actions
- e. Improving employability outcomes

The open interactive discussion sessions that follow every session provided an opportunity to raise clarificatory questions on how OBE can be effective through online instruction. After the 3-day sessions, Mr. Ajay was presented a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Vice President, Academics and Director, IQAC while the more than 180 participants were issued a Certificate of Participation. The Vote of Thanks to the Resource Person and the participants for the successful completion of the program was delivered by Ms. Farheen Hassan, Additional Director, IQAC. Ms. Anisa Sultana, Senior Assistant Professor, Dept. of Management, was the emcee of the program. The overall conduct of the FDP was coordinated by IQAC as part of its QA activities.

IEEE AIUB Student Branch in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering successfully organized a webinar on “Scopes and Challenges in Higher Education During COVID-19 Pandemic”

On 16th August 2020, the IEEE AIUB Student Branch in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering, AIUB and the Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA) successfully organized a webinar on ‘Scopes and Challenges in Higher Education During COVID-19 Pandemic’. The webinar mainly focused on the application procedures of Erasmus+ and Marie Curie scholarship for those who are looking forward to accomplishing their goals to pursue higher education in Europe amid this COVID-19 crisis.

The webinar was inaugurated by the opening remarks from Prof. Dr. ABM Siddique Hossain, *Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch*; who discussed the importance of postgraduate degrees for an Engineer. He gave a brief idea about the demand of Erasmus+ scholarships in recent times due to its enormous networks, its requirements, and the facilities it provides to its holders. The first speaker of the webinar, Md. Ashiqur Rahman, *Research Fellow, Spanish National Research Council; Country Representative Network Manager, Former Country Ambassador, Bangladesh; Vice-President, South Asian Chapter, Erasmus Mundus Association*; started his presentation by giving an elaborate overview of Erasmus+ Association including the programs, opportunities it provides to its fellow achievers and also gave a detailed overview of its funding & scholarship policies. Following that, Mr. Rahman explained the entire application procedure of Erasmus+ scholarship in the joint masters and PhD programs. He concluded by highlighting the importance and ways of writing proper CV, Motivational Letters and Statement of Purpose for achieving the scholarship. Afterwards, one of the guest speakers, Sayed Muhammad Baker, *PhD Candidate, University of Kaiserslautern; Project Engineer, COHERENT-DILAS Diodenlaser; Erasmus Scholar MONABIPHOT (2017-2019); Lecturer (On study leave), AIUB*; took the platform and answered some frequently asked questions from the scholarship seekers. Mr. Baker emphasized on the importance of thesis topic and thesis internship in applying for the scholarship process. Later on, the next guest speaker, Fakrul Islam Tushar, *Post-Graduate Research Associate, Carl E. Ravin Advanced Imaging Laboratories, Duke University Medical Center, USA; Erasmus Scholar MAIA (2017-2019)*; took the platform and suggested the participants to choose a program based on the field of study that they had during their undergraduate thesis. He concluded his presentation by enlightening the participants with the importance of proper CV along with the necessity of updating it from time to time.

Later, Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, *Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB; Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Vice-Chairperson (Activity), IEEE Bangladesh Section*; took the platform and gave the concluding speech where he appreciated the initiative taken by the student branch to organize this webinar and suggested the students to take help from their seniors who had experience in their interested topics. He also asked the students to use necessary resources

provided by their respective universities to the fullest. The session was graced by the presence of 285+ registered participants which includes Dr. Md. Hasan Imam, *Counselor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Advisor, IEEE EMBS AIUB SB Chapter; Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*; Kawshik Shikder, *Motivator, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*; and Tasnuva Tasneem, *Motivator & WIE Coordinator, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*.

WEBINAR ON

SCOPES AND CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WWW.IEEEAIUBSB.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/IEEEAIUBSBSTUDENTBRANCH

TIME & DATE

🕒 7.30 PM - 9.00 PM
📅 16th August, 2020

For Registration

PLATFORM

Speaker

MD. ASHIQUR RAHMAN

Research Fellow,
Spanish National Research Council (CONA-CSC);
Country Representative Network Manager,
Former Country Ambassador, Bangladesh;
Vice-President, South Asian Chapter,
Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA)

Guest Speakers

SAYED MUHAMMAD BAKER

PhD Candidate, University of Palermo (Italy);
Project Engineer, COHERENT-DULAS (Indonesia);
Erasmus Scholar: MONABPHOT (2017-2018);
Lecturer (On Study Leave), AIUB

FAKRUL ISLAM TUSHAR

Post-Graduate Research Associate,
Carl E. Levin Advanced Imaging Laboratories (SAI Lab),
Duke University Medical Center, USA;
Erasmus Scholar: HANA (2017-2018);
BSc in EE, AIUB

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You are viewing MD ASHIQUR RAHMAN's screen
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Never Give Up, Start Here...

Some Useful Links

EMJD catalogue: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/catalogue>

Erasmus+ page: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en

Erasmus Mundus Bangladesh FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/105556129476392/>

For Application supporting videos in Bengali: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AshiqurOfficial>

More about Erasmus+ Bachelor/Credit Mobility: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

Marie-Curie PhD: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

IH: Mohammed...

Nazeem Hossain Rony

Tanzima Zahir

Kawshik Shikder

Sumalya Hoque

Unmute
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Participants
Chat
Share Screen
Record
Reactions
Leave

Architecture webinar on “Bengal Partition in 1905 & it’s impact on shaping up the Bengali Identity”

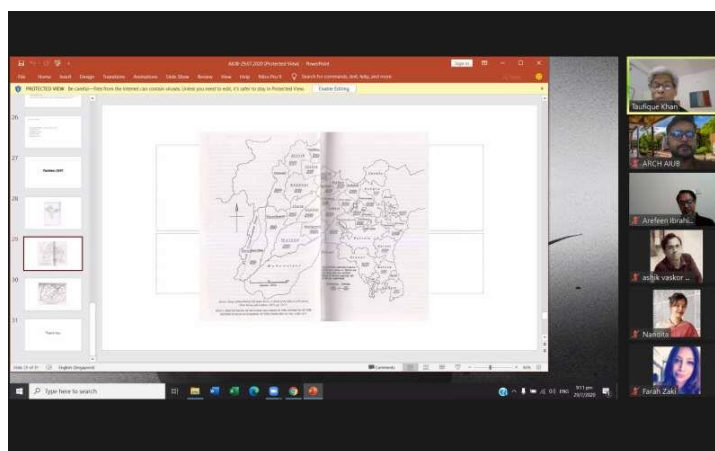
The Department of Architecture, AIUB organized a webinar titled ‘Bengal Partition in 1905 & it’s impact on shaping up the Bengali Identity’ on 29th July 2020, Wednesday at 7 pm for the students and faculty members of the department. The resource person was Ar. Taufique Rahman Khan.

Taufique Rahman Khan takes keen interest in history and philosophy and currently working as an independent researcher to study the partition of India, 1947 and its impact on this region, especially Bengal. His interest also spreads to various form of art and culture of Bangladesh and South Asia. Khan is also serving the 23rd Executive Committee of Institute of Architects Bangladesh, IAB as the Secretary for Seminar & Convention.

As students of architecture, regional history is greatly emphasized in the curriculum. The department of architecture at AIUB, emphasizes the importance of context in every direction of its teaching. This webinar helped the students to rethink, have newer perspectives on great partition of Bengal and how the Bengali identity has persisted throughout the catastrophe, and is still evolving.

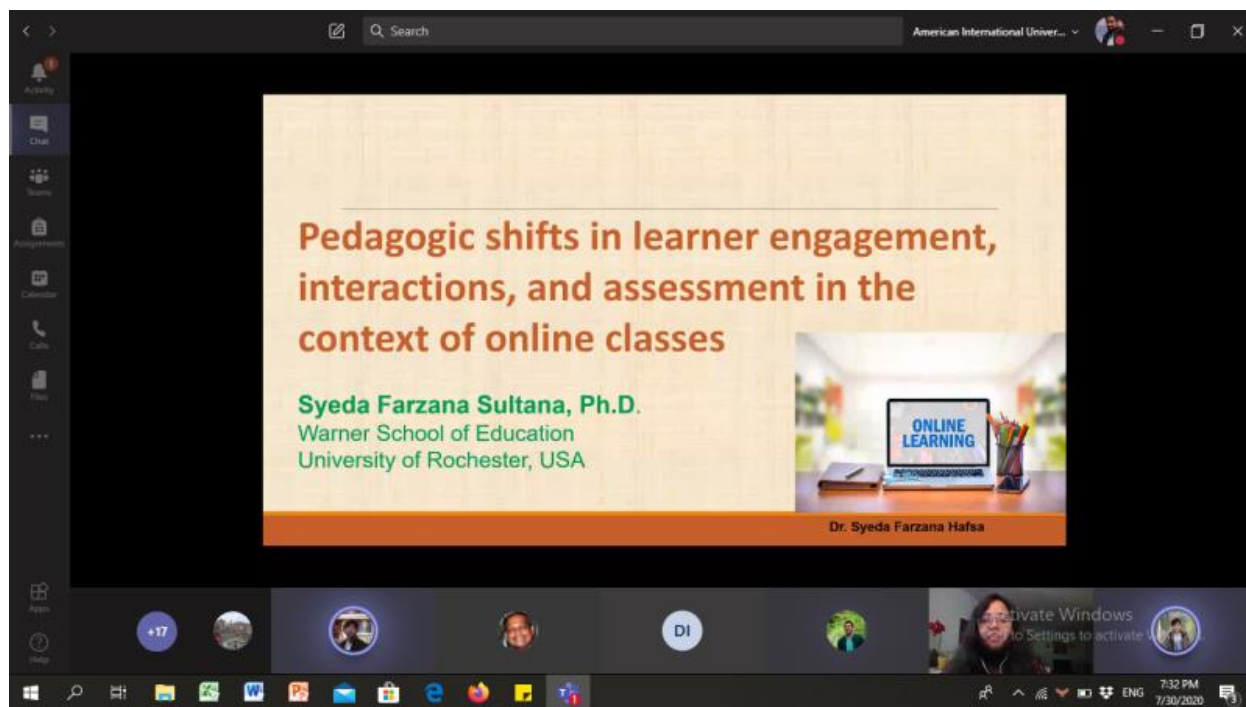
It was a very intellectually engaging and interactive webinar; the faculty engagement was praiseworthy. The webinar was streamed live on social media, which had more than 3000 views, reached over 9,000 people and was shared widely among the architecture community. The participants and viewers developed a good knowledge and it ended well with suggestions of books on the partition and Bengal.

The webinar was moderated by the Head of Architecture Department, M. Arefeen Ibrahim. The question-answer session which followed the presentation became very lively with participation of the audience from home and abroad. The department is thankful to Ar. Taufique Rahman Khan for the thought-provoking, engaging presentation and the audience too for showing their keen interest.



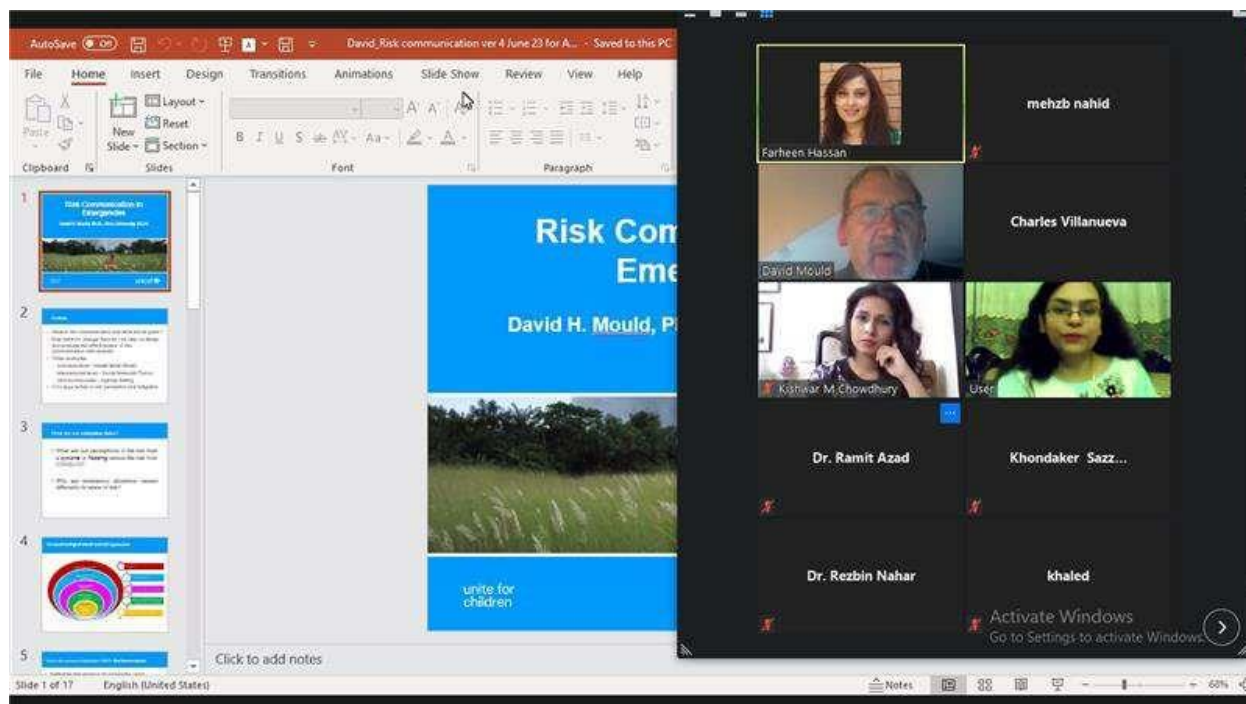
Webinar Organized by English Department on Teaching Online

The Department of English, AIUB organized a webinar titled 'Pedagogic shift in learner engagement, interactions and assessment in the context of online classes' on 30th July 2020, Thursday at 7 pm for faculty members of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, AIUB. The resource person was Dr. Syeda Farzan Sultana (PhD, University of Rochester). The webinar was conducted via MS TEAMS platform. It was an interactive webinar where the Faculty members exchanged their experiences with the resource person making a very positive contribution to the effectiveness of the session among the participants. Dr. Syeda Farzan Sultana has been in Rochester, USA for last eight years while she procured her PhD and at the same time she worked as an English language teacher in various institutions in the region. She has been involved in online English language teaching from the very inception of the COVID 19 cases in the USA. She has achieved vast knowledge on different types of tools and mechanism of taking online classes effectively. In the webinar she has shared her experiences and her reflections from her experiences in teaching English online in the USA. Prof. Dr. Tazul Isalm, Dean of the Faculty inaugurated the session. Dr. Islam tagged the webinar as "a very intellectually engaging and interactive webinar session". By the help of this webinar, the participants received various information and developed a good knowledge for making the online classes at AIUB a great success.



Webinar on Risk –Communication during emergencies

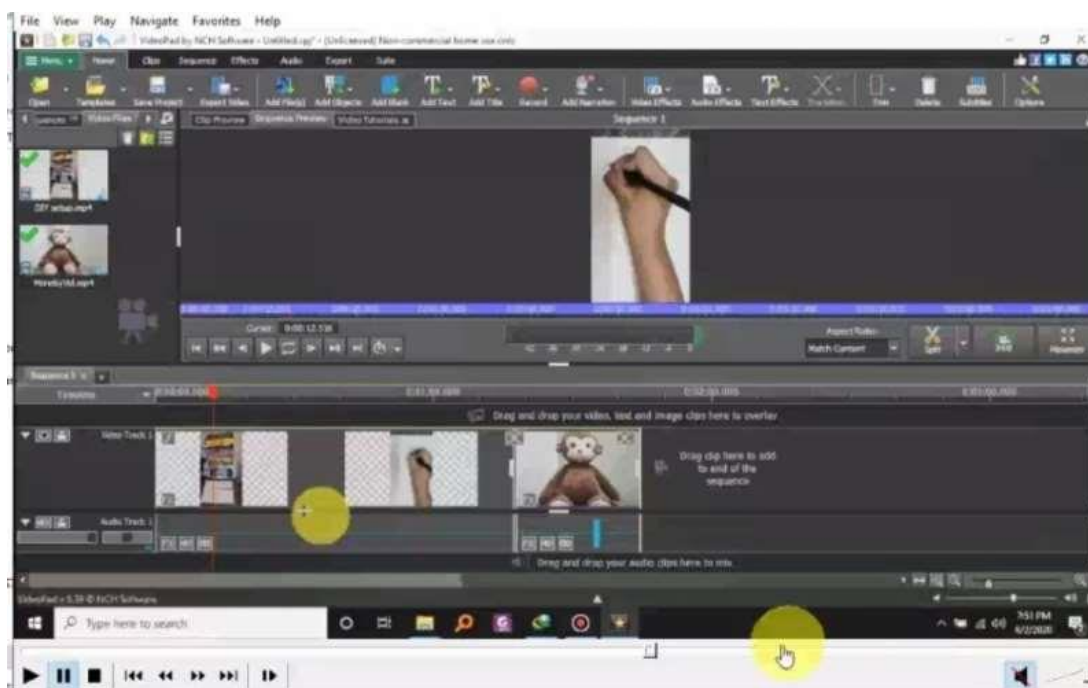
On 28th June 2020, Sunday at 7:30 Pm (Bangladesh Time) and 9:30 am USA time, Department of Management and HRM, Faculty of Business Administration (FBA), AIUB has organized a webinar titled 'Risk Communication during Emergencies' Under the platform of 'Socially distanced, Academically involved and Intellectually engaged' call of Vice Chancellor of AIUB Dr.Carmen Zita Lamagna. The resource speaker of the session was David H.Mould, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Media Arts and Studies at Ohio University, USA. Dr.David discussed Risk communication and its goals, Behaviour change theories to design and evaluate the effectiveness of risk communication interventions and C4D approaches in risk perception and mitigation with examples on individual, interpersonal and societal level. The webinar was one and half hour long and featured with Q&A session by our faculty members at the end. Thirty three faculty members of FBA and FASS participated the session and the Dean FBA and Vice President, Academics Dr.Charles C.Villanueva welcomed the resource speaker and Director BBA program and head of Dept' of Management and HRM , Associate Professor Ms. Farheen Hassan offered her vote of thanks . The session was organized and coordinated by Ms. Anisa Sultana, Senior Assistant Professor, Dept' of Management and HRM, FBA under the guidance of Ms. Farheen Hassan. It is worth mentioning that Dr.David had visited AIUB permanent Campus as a leader of an international Team that has worked with universities in Bangladesh to develop curriculum in communication for Development and helped faculty develop their skills in social research. He also ran an informative seminar last year at the campus. AIUB is also immensely happy to have him as the editorial member of AIUB Journal of Business and Economics.



WEBINAR ON "EFFICIENTLY CREATING LECTURES FOR ONLINE TEACHING: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF USEFUL TEACHING METHODS, TOOLS & TECHNIQUES"

On 18th June 2020, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB organized a webinar titled 'Efficiently Creating Lectures for Online Teaching: A Comprehensive Review of Useful Teaching Methods, Tools & Techniques' through Microsoft Teams platform. About 137 faculty members from different departments of AIUB joined this webinar. The webinar was conducted by Ms. Nowshin Alam, *Lecturer, Department of EEE, AIUB*. Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, *Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB* inaugurated the webinar with the opening remarks where he welcomed the participants and guests for participating in such informative event organized by Faculty of Engineering. He briefly discussed about importance of virtual class, creating efficient lectures for online teaching and proper time management.

After that, speaker of the webinar Ms. Nowshin Alam started her session by discussing about strategies to make online teaching more efficient and student-oriented, and introduce a number of approaches to improve teaching content. Later, she explained how to make power point lectures easier to follow by using a cursor highlighter and discussed different methods for writing digitally to create lectures, text extraction from physical pages using OCR. She also demonstrated the way to save a lot of time while handling documents (assignments/lecture notes) by using annotating apps. Then she described how to choose an app for writing digitally on computer or smart device, and demonstrated the features of three popular applications for windows and android operating system. At the end of her session, she efficiently gave answers to the questions from participants. The webinar ended with concluding remarks and vote of thanks to the participants by Prof. Rahman.



Online Research Training Session Entitled “Qualitative Comparative Analysis”

The Faculty of Business Administration (FBA), AIUB has organized an Online Research Training Session in response to the call of the Honorable Vice Chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh, Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna named as ‘Socially Distanced; Intellectually Engaged’. The resource speaker was Dr. Arash Azadegan, Associate Professor and Director, Supply Chain Management MBA Concentration and Supply Chain Disruption Research Laboratory, Rutgers Business School, NJ, USA. The session was entitled “Qualitative Comparative Analysis – A Novel Methodology for Empirical Research in Operations Management: An Application in Water Management Innovation” on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 11:00 am. His research focuses on Supply Chain Disruptions, and the Effect of Inter-organizational Response and Recovery Effort to mitigate them. Dr. Azadegan’s works is published in several top Operation/Supply Chain Management journals including the Journal of Operations Management, Journal of Supply Chain Management, Production and Operations Management Journal, and the Decision Sciences Journal among others. The session was participated by FBA faculty members of FBA and also joined by the Prof. Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Vice President (Academics), and Dean, FBA, and Prof. Dr. Nisar Ahmed, Director, MBA Program, who shared their Vote of Encouragement to the resource speaker, participants and the organizers of the session. The session was coordinated and hosted by Mr. Mohammad Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management, FBA. This faculty development program is conceptualized and structured by Dr. Rezbin Nahar, Associate Professor, and Ms. Anisa Sultana, Senior Assistant Professor from the Department of Management and HRM, FBA. The technical support is provided by Mr. Mehzabul Hoque Nahid, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Information System (MIS), FBA, AIUB.

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. The main window shows a presentation slide titled "Qualitative Comparative Analysis" with the subtitle "Key attributes". The slide content includes:

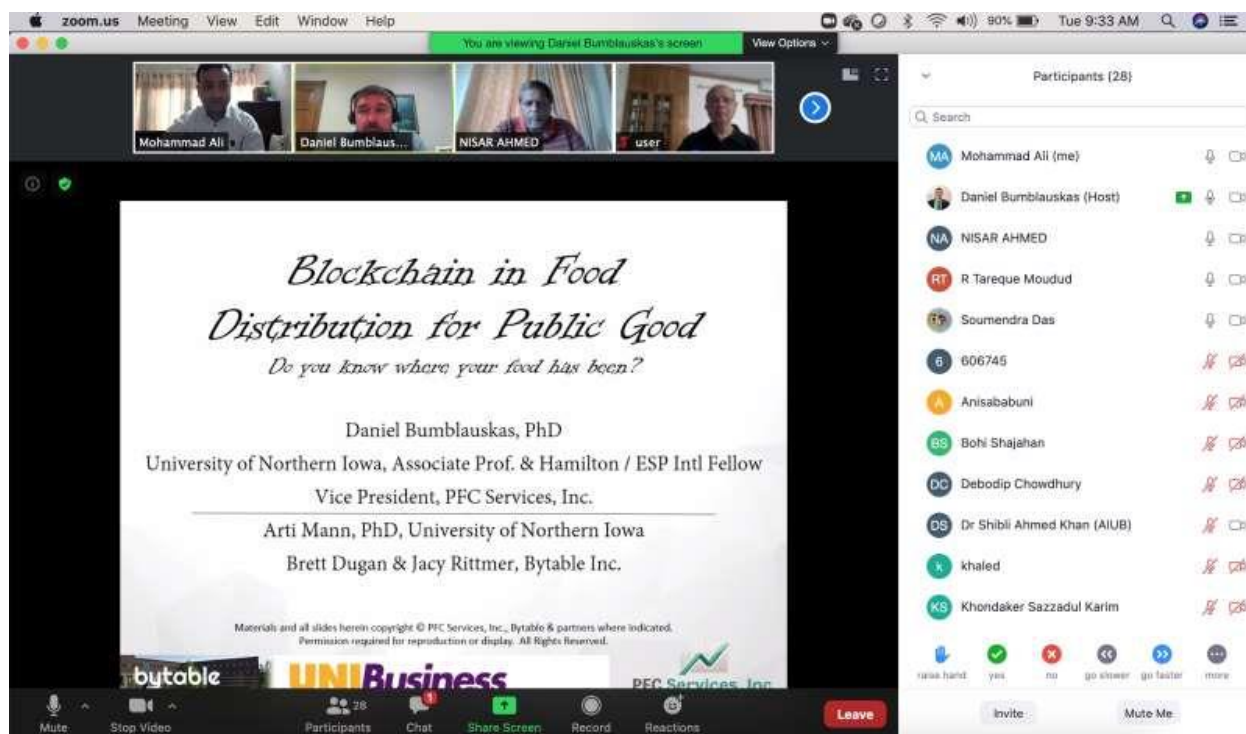
- Allows for combining qualitative and quantitative data
- Fills the gap in terms of shortcomings of both
- Considers Contrarian Cases
- INUS conditions
- Insufficient but necessary parts of causal recipe

Below the list, it states: "Small to medium sample size, still power results". The Zoom interface includes a toolbar at the bottom with icons for mute, video, chat, and other controls. On the right side, there is a "People" panel listing participants:

- Mohammad Ali
- A K M Kamrul Haque
- Anisa Sultana
- azadegan.arash (Guest)
- Dr. Charles C. Villanueva
- Dr. Md. Khaled Amin
- DR. MD. TAMZIDUL ISLAM
- Dr. Mossa Anisa Khatun
- Dr. Nisar Ahmed
- Dr. Rezbin Nahar

Online research training session entitled “Blockchain in the food supply chain”

The Faculty of Business Administration (FBA), AIUB has organized an Online Research Training Session in response to the call of the Honorable Vice Chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh, Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna named as ‘Socially Distanced; Intellectually Engaged’. The resource speaker was Dan P. Bumblauskas, Ph.D, Associate Professor and Jeff & Julie Hamilton/ESP International Fellow for Supply Chain and Logistics Management, University of Northern Iowa, IA, USA. The session was entitled “Blockchain in the food supply chain: do you know where your food has been?”- on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 9:30 am. The session was participated by faculty members of FBA and also joined by the Prof. Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Vice President (Academics), and Dean, FBA, and Prof. Dr. Nisar Ahmed, Director, MBA Program, who shared their Vote of Encouragement to the resource speaker, participants and the organizers of the session. The session was coordinated and hosted by Mr. Mohammad Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM). This faculty development program is conceptualized and structured by Dr. Rezbin Nahar, Associate Professor, and Ms. Anisa Sultana, Senior Assistant Professor from the Department of Management and HRM, FBA. The technical support is provided by Mr. Mehzaul Hoque Nahid, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Information System (MIS), FBA, AIUB.



Architecture Webinar on “Why Architecture?”

The department of Architecture, AIUB organized a webinar with the renowned architect Nurur Rahman Khan on June 10, 2020 at 07:30 – 10:30PM (BST). The title of discussion was "**Why Architecture**" Architect Nurur Rahman Khan's engaging session focused on the subject architecture, how it is often misunderstood by many and slowly unfolded his vast knowledge about the subject and the numerous possibilities the subject carries. **Over 100 participants** joined the online session; this was a congregation of students currently enrolled, architecture alumni, professionals and faculties. The program was graced by participation of Dr. ABM Siddique Hossain, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, American International University-Bangladesh among others.

Architect Nurur Rahman Khan is a partner at Tanya Karim N.R. Khan Associates, an architectural firm, whose works have been nominated for prestigious awards and won national and international competitions. He has lectured at various universities and has authored two books, one "The Assembly Building", which was published on the 100th birth anniversary of Louis I Kahn and the first book on Architect Muzharul Islam titled "Muzharul Islam: Selected Drawings". He has been a torch bearer for many students of architecture for years and helped with his thoughts, ideas and knowledge.

The webinar was designed for the young architects and students of AIUB, he enlightens the participants of the endless whys and wherefores for choosing architecture, the power of creativity. He started with a story of himself and his friend and how they fell in love with designs by Battista Farina and Enzo Ferrari that motivated and drives him till this day. He believes and architecture must have tremendous passion. He also shared multiple examples of various works by famous architects and designers, Mahzurul Islam, Bernard Tshumi, Yoko Ono, Arata Isozaki, captivating the audience. The audience also engaged in the questions and answer session spontaneously and he ended the webinar saying the importance of reading and enhancing knowledge, even if one is an academician or a practicing architect.

The program was organized and moderated by the Head of the Department and Associate Professor, Architect M. Arefeen Ibrahim. It was organized for the department, to help the students and graduates stay positive during this pandemic situation and stay connected. The Department of Architecture would like to thank the IT Department of AIUB and AIUB authority for the support which made the webinar possible.



Webinar on "COVID – 19 and Beyond: Using Project Management to Mitigate Supply Chain Disruptions" by Mr. Daniel Stanton

PMI Bangladesh Chapter organized a webinar with world famous speaker Mr. Supply Chain – Daniel Stanton, on June 3, 2020 at 8:00-9:30PM (BST) / 10:00-11:30AM (US ET). The title of discussion was "*COVID – 19 and Beyond: Using Project Management to Mitigate Supply Chain Disruptions*." Mr. Supply Chain's engaging and interaction session focused on most applicable concepts, current issues, and future solutions on the most relevant topic of discussion. Over 90 participants joined the session from different professional societies, universities, and countries. This was a congregation of top professionals, academicians, researchers, and students. The program was graced by honorable Professor Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Vice President (Academics), and Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, American International University-Bangladesh. There were several faculties, graduates and students from AIUB, joining the session.

Mr. Supply Chain – Daniel Stanton is a supply chain executive, educator, and entrepreneur. He is the author of "*Supply Chain Management For Dummies*", an Amazon best seller in 5 categories (Production & Operations, Distribution & Warehousing, Project Management, Engineering Management, and Industrial Production & Management). His bestselling courses on LinkedIn Learning have been viewed more than 1 million times. The topic includes Supply Chain Management, Operations Management, Project Management, Job Skills: Supply Chain and Operations, Certification Tools and Tips. Mr. Stanton has been recognized as an "*IBM Watson Supply Chain Futurist*" and as a "*Pro To Know*" by Supply & Demand Chain Executive Magazine, 2018, 2019, 2020. He earned a Masters in Logistics Engineering from MIT and is a doctoral researcher at Cranfield University. He is a Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP, APICS) and Project Management Professional (PMP, PMI).

The program was organized by Mr. MMR Shohag, PfMP, PgMP, PMP, Director of Professional Development, PMI Bangladesh Chapter. The session was hosted by Mr. Ashfaq A. Mohib, Associate Professor, OSCM, FBA, AIUB, on PhD Program study leave at Wichita State University, Wichita, KS, USA.

Reference Link.

PMI Bangladesh Chapter LinkedIn Group - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4229287/>

Mr. Supply Chain – Daniel Stanton - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielstanton/>

PMI Bangladesh Chapter Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PMIBDChapter/>

PMI BD - Mr. Supply Chain – Facebook

Recording <https://www.facebook.com/PMIBDChapter/videos/298487321160154/>

COVID-19 and Beyond: Using project management to ...
 Posted by PMI Bangladesh Chapter
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COVID-19 AND BEYOND

Using project management to mitigate supply chain disruptions

Daniel Stanton
 "Mr. Supply Chain"

zoom

1:16:16

zoom

'PRACTICING INTERNATIONAL TRADE': A SIMULATION ORGANIZED FOR STUDENTS OF GLOBAL TRADE

The Department of Marketing in the Faculty of Business Administration organized an event entitled, "Practicing International Trade" for the students of the core course of 'Global Trade'. The event was held on the 13th of March 2020, on the university premises, to provide an opportunity for the students to acquire knowledge and skills for promoting and selling local products in hypothetical international marketplaces. 14 teams from different sections of the Global Trade course proactively participated in the program. Each team brought various unique items from different districts to create a competitive environment, putting into practice, the theoretical concepts they learnt in class.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Tafazzal Hossain, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of AIUB. Ms. Farheen Hassan, an Associate Professor & Director of the Undergraduate Program in the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) and Dr. Khondaker Sazzadul Karim, an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of Marketing in the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) were also present during the inauguration. They visited all the stalls and shared their valuable feedback on the ideas and presentation of each of the teams. Respected faculty members and administrative officials, as well as numerous students participated in the event, encouraging the teams in their endeavors.

Dr. Partha Prasad Chowdhury, a Senior Associate Professor, Course Coordinator and Convener, along with Dr. Sahin Akter Sarker, an Associate Professor and Convener, Mr. A.K.M. Kamrul Haque, Senior Assistant Professor, and Mr. Mahir Abrar, Lecturer, of the Department of Marketing in the Faculty of Business Administration, organized this event. Somoy TV and TV24 covered the event and conducted some interviews of the participants and visitors at the stalls. The event created an innovative opportunity for students to implement their ideas and actualize them as the future business leaders of tomorrow, making the program a great success.



IEEE AIUB Student Branch organized a seminar on- “Higher Study in North America with GRE and TOEFL”

On 19th February 2020, IEEE AIUB Student Branch successfully organized an informative seminar titled “Higher Study in North America with GRE and TOEFL” in collaboration with the IEEE Young Professionals Bangladesh Section and Faculty of Engineering, AIUB. The seminar was conducted by Sanowar Hossain Shamim, *GRE & TOEFL Instructor, American Center, Bangladesh; Founder, GREfly, Graduate Resources Enhancing Center (GREC)*. The seminar was inaugurated by the opening remarks from Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Siddique Hossain, *Advisor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*, who discussed the importance of postgraduate degrees for a successful career. In addition, he discussed the benefits of studying in North America as it has the most dynamic and adaptable education system responsive to the needs of a vast, multicultural student community from all over the world. He concluded by discussing the indispensable roles of GRE & TOEFL examinations for procuring admission to overseas universities.

After that, the speaker Sanowar Hossain Shamim took the stage and initiated the session by discussing the importance of GRE and TOEFL examinations for those who are keen on pursuing higher studies abroad. He talked about the examination structure and elaborately discussed about different sections of the GRE & TOEFL examinations along with the keys to succeeding them. In addition, he talked in detail about the importance of having good English writing, reading and speaking skills for becoming a firm contender to any designated occupation. The speaker ended the discussion with an interactive Question-Answer session.

Afterward, Dr. Mohammad Hasan Imam, *Counselor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Advisor, IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, AIUB Student Branch Chapter; Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB* took the stage and delivered the concluding speech where he discussed the necessities of going abroad for pursuing higher studies. He also motivated the participants for developing various practical skills. Later, Dr. Mohammad Hasan Imam presented a token of appreciation to Sanowar Hossain Shamim. A group photo session was carried out which marked the end of the seminar.



The International Conference on Computing Advancements 2020 (ICCA '20) at the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB)

The American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) held its 3rd annual international conference, organized by the Faculty of Science & Technology, titled the “International Conference on Computing advancements 2020 (ICCA '20)”. In cooperation with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Special Interest Group on Applied Computing (SIGAPP), the 3-day conference was inaugurated on the 10th of January 2020, by Prof. Dr. Sazzad Hossain, the honorable member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) as the Chief Guest. The program was collaboratively sponsored by Dhaka Bank Ltd., Juniper Networks, B-TRAC Technologies Ltd., GATEWAY Communication & Technology, and Infolink Ltd.

On behalf of AIUB, Ms. Nadia Anwar, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, along with Dr. Hasanul A. Hasan, Founder Member, Prof. Dr. Tafazzal Hossain, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. A. B. M. Siddique Hossain, the Dean for the Faculty of Engineering, were present on the occasion. Prof. Dr. H M Zahirul Haque, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts, and Prof. Dr. Anwar Hossain, the Vice Chancellor of Northern University Bangladesh, also joined the event. Prof. Dr. Ng Giap Weng, an Associate Professor of the Faculty of Computing and Informatics from the Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Prof. Dr. Md. Saiful Islam, Director of the Institute of Information and Communication Technology (IICT) at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) delivered their keynote speeches focusing on the present states of different aspects of computer science.





WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF TURNITIN, A TOOL FOR QUALITY RESEARCH

The honorable Vice Chancellor Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna organized a workshop on the use of TURNITIN as an important tool to improve the quality of research on Wednesday, 11 December 2019 in the Auditorium of the university. It was a mandatory workshop for all the faculty members. Some senior students also attended the workshop. The VC emphasized the need for the use of Turnitin being a valuable tool to help the faculty and students in ensuring that their research output is free of plagiarism and other infirmities in conducting research. The management is subscribing to the tool and therefore, its use must be maximized said the VC hence, the workshop. Turnitin is a tool which checks and prevents plagiarism, an unethical way of citing and inappropriate copying of published works of other writers and researchers. The tool can detect these unprofessional actions of researchers, faculty and students who are generating information and data from publications, journals, websites, books, articles and others without properly recognizing the source. During the workshop, the Vice Chancellor was assisted by AIUB IT experts, Mr. Manirul Islam, Director of Continuing Education Center and Dr. Khandaker Tabin Hasan, Head, Graduate Program, Faculty of Science and Technology. It was a fruitful session making everybody aware of the existence of this tool. It is expected that the quality of research outputs of the students and the faculty members either as an internship requirement or for publication in the journals will be enhanced.



Seminar on “Manuscript Preparation for High Indexed Journals” at AIUB

“Research is formalized curiosity. There’s no research without action, and no action without research.” The common facts of today are the products of yesterday's research. And no research is ever quite complete. It’s a continuous process, that demands intensive data analysis that revises or establishes ideas that evolve over time. Research has always been of great importance at the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB), in light of which, a seminar on “Manuscript Preparation for High Indexed Journals” was held on the 4th of December 2019, conducted by Prof. Dr. Ku Ruhana Ku Mahamud, the Dean of the Awang Had Salleh Graduate School and the Head of the Data Science Research Lab in the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). She was leading a delegation of doctoral students from UUM who were participating in an Outbound Mobility Program to AIUB. Prof. Mahamud is also the Chief Editor of the Journal of Information and Communication Technology (JICT), the Associate Editor of the International Journal of Innovation in Enterprise System, (IJIES), a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of University of Babylon (JUB), an Adjunct Professor in the Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo, Japan, a Visiting Professor in the Universitas Muslim Nusantara Al-Washliyah in Medan, Indonesia as well as in the Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. As an expert scholar in research, Prof. Mahamud presented the various components integral to a constructive research, reviewing the focal points and challenges of each, providing guidelines to the avid students and faculty members of the institution. Prof. Mahamud discussed in details the significance of research in the 21st century, along with the value of high indexed journals and how to prepare manuscripts for publications in them, interacting with the audience in a Q&A session afterwards. The knowledge from the lecture she delivered has undoubtedly encouraged and enlightened both students and faculties to engage in further research and pursue its implications in the long run.



Seminar on Career at Therap

“Opportunities don’t happen, you create them. Success doesn’t come and find you, you have to go out and get it.” And in that light, the AIUB Computer Club (ACC) in collaboration with Therap (BD) Ltd., organized a seminar on the 24th of December 2019, titled, “Career at Therap”, which was held on the AIUB Campus premises.

A US-based company with an office in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Therap is a national leader in providing Software as a Service (SaaS) to government and private organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities in the US. The company strives to maintain a startup culture in which everyone is a hands-on contributor and feels comfortable sharing ideas and opinions, which is what the session aimed to highlight, in order to encourage fresh graduates and potential students to apply and join Therap.

The seminar was conducted by Mr. Richard Robbins, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Therap, who was accompanied by his highly trained team comprising of Major General (Retd.) M. Shamim Chowdhury, the Vital Analyst & Director of HR, Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, the Senior System Analyst, Mr. Kazi Rezwan Abedin Saad, the Senior Software Engineer (Quality Assurance), Mr. Khandakar Nasrat Zubair, the Senior Database Engineer, Ms. Tasfia Afnan Barshon, the Training & Content Specialist, Mr. Minar Mahmud and Mr. Seemantra Ahmed Shubho, the Software Engineers at Therap (BD) Ltd.

Dr. Dip Nandi, Director of the Faculty of Science & Technology (FST), Mr. Tareque Moudud, the Director of the Office of Placement, opened the session by welcoming the guests from Therap to the university. The session began with a quick presentation of their medicine-based application, various services and websites. With over 30 alumni currently employed at Therap, they shared what they look for in potential candidates recruited at the organization and how should they should prepare themselves at the start of their careers. Later a short video highlighting the various insights of Therap, followed by a briefing about the facilities for women at Therap, like private rooms for resting during pregnancy, separate gym & yoga sessions on premises, etc.

The seminar concluded with an interactive Q&A session, followed by a group photo, and the presenting of the tokens of appreciation to the guests. The seminar was attended by numerous students and faculty members from various departments. Both AIUB and Therap exchanged their views on the seminar, and expressed their interest in cultivating their relationship further to provide opportunities of collaboration in the long run.



AIUB Business Club (ABC): Case Storm 2019 powered by Finnovation

Business principles are only as good as the practices that can back them up. And it's those very practiced principles of businesses across the world that we read, examine, and learn from in books, or more specifically, in case studies. The industry benchmarks that set an organization apart from the rest, the the solution that overcame a challenge, creativity that revolutionized the industry itself – the makings of a classic case analysis. And it is this very notion of utilizing theoretical frameworks into practical applications to address the various issues that a business faces throughout its lifetime, that the AIUB Business Club (ABC) organized their 2nd Case Storm 2019, powered by Finnovation, an inter-college and intra-AIUB case competition. The program was a constructive platform for bright young minds to showcase their potential to unravel complex business crisis and critical scenarios. Introducing case analysis to aspiring talented college students, the Case Storm 2019 was made include college-level participants for the first time. With Smartifier Ltd. as the Education Partner, Jamuna TV, Jago FM, bdnews24.com and Daily Observer as the Media Partners, Foodpanda and Gowala as the Support Partners, and Shuttle as the Special Partner, the aim of the competition was to raise the bar of critical analysis and strategic thinking and the result was overwhelming.

After week-long registrations, the program held its Grooming Session for both college and university participants on the 27th of November 2019, followed by the Battle Round for college students and the Preliminary, Secondary, And Final Round for the university students held across a span of 2 weeks. Each round analyzed a different case, with a separate judge panel for each, enriching the experience for the future business leaders even more. The final case analysis and presentation was held on the 7th of December 2019, narrowing down the pool to the Top 5 teams from both college and university level participants. The Closing Ceremony hosted the Chairman of Finnovation Ltd., Mr. Syed Najmus Saquib, along with the Director of Finnovation Ltd. Mr. Mashfiqur Rahman Rashedi, the Director of Business Development at Parallaxlogic Infotech, Mr. Salman Monzur Chowdhury, the Director at Parallaxlogic Infotech Salman Muntasir Chowdhury, the Assistant Manager at Parallaxlogic Infotech, Tanvir Hossain Ratul, and the Research Associate from Build, Ms. Sara Tasmeen. Dr. Nisar Ahmed, the Director of the Graduate Program in the Faculty of Business Administration at AIUB, presided over the prize-giving ceremony.

Both college and university participants put up quite a competition, with each team proving their mettle in case analysis, making it difficult for the judge panels to narrow it down. But in the end, the best of the best won. The 2nd Runners Up in the college-level was "Team BN Meghna" from the Bangladesh Navy College, while "Team Aim" from Notre Dame College became the 1st Runners Up, as the "Team Challengers" from the Gulshan Commerce College won the title as Champions in the Case Storm 2019. Amongst the university participants from AIUB, "Team Xenon" became the 2nd Runners Up, "Team 4 Horsemen" became the 1st Runners Up, while "Team Cre-ed" won the title as the Champions. All participants received a Certificate of Participation, while the winners were awarded Certificates of Achievement and Crests for their

accomplishment. The event came to an end with a versatile cultural program by the AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC), which was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants, all of whom seemed to be eagerly awaiting their next big opportunity. AIUB has proudly witnessed the great initiatives from ABC, and looks forward to seeing its students grow and develop even more with the club in the semesters to come.



Virtual Lecture on Supply Chain Simulation delivered by Prof. David, Georgia Tech, USA

The Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM), Faculty of Business Administration organized a seminar on “Virtual Lecture on Supply Chain Simulation” on 27 November 2019 at Media Studio, AIUB Campus for MBA students of OSCM major courses Global logistics Management and core course Managing Operations and Quality. The resource speaker was Prof. David Goldsman, Professor and Directors of Masters Programs, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, USA. The main objectives of this seminar were to provide our students to be virtually connected with an eminent professor of a foreign country with the aid of our strong logistics support. The speaker very eloquently explained the basics of simulation, uses of simulation at different area like hospital, airport, some software of simulation process, waiting line simulation. Prof. David very much enjoyed the question answer session where students and teachers spontaneously participated.

Dr. Nisar Ahmed, Professor and Director of MBA Programs, Faculty of Business Administration inaugurated the seminar with a welcome speech. Dr. Saad Hasan, Dr. Mohammad Rashedul Hoque, Mr. Mohammad Ali, from department of Operations and Supply Chain Management were present at the event. Dr. Saad Hasan delivered the vote of thanks.

The seminar was coordinated by Mr. Mohammad Ali, Assistant Professor. The Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management gratefully appreciates the support extended by the AIUB management.



The inauguration of the First ever Virtual Reality conference at AIUB December 2019

On 6th December, 2019 at American International University-Bangladesh, the inauguration of the First ever Virtual Reality conference (VR CON) has been arranged in Bangladesh for introducing the youth to technology. The event which started from last Friday is organized by “Bangladesh Innovation Forum” at American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB). It’s a two days long conference.

Prof. Dr. Sazzad Hossain, *Member, University Grant Commission (UGC)* was the Chief Guest of the inauguration ceremony who said that Virtual Reality: Augmented Reality is a wonder in the digital world. The whole world is excited about this. He hopes that this kind of initiative will inspire people to know more about technology.

Mr. Abdul Hye, *Project Director, Skill Development For Mobile Game & Application, Ministry of ICT*, who was the Special Guest of the inauguration ceremony said, the government always welcomes new initiatives like this. He thinks this event will have positive effect on the country.

The Vice-Chancellor of American International University-Bangladesh, Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, was the Program Chair of the inauguration ceremony.

There will be approximately ten technical seminars on augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and gaming in the event. Besides, there will be workshops on VR Game with Unity, VR Pipeline and Augmented Reality applications. More than 30 speakers will share their thoughts. There will be also speakers from the famous Programming Institution ‘Unity’. Moreover, there will be project display of the institutions who work with VR and AR gaming.

The founder of Bangladesh Innovation Forum, Mr. Ariful Hasan Opu said, people of Bangladesh are being introduced to the technology day by day and the usage of technology is also increasing. But still we lag in VR, AR and gaming compared to rest of the world. We are hoping that this kind of event will help overcoming this.

This conference is co-organized by Skill Development For Mobile Game & Application, *Ministry of ICT* and title sponsored by Rise up Labs.

The conference is supported by: Venue partner- American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB). Live Streaming partner- Live to Web, Media partner- Techshohor.com, E-Ticket partner- E-Soft and also supported by Impressive VR and Bangla Puzzle.





IEEE Student Professional Awareness Workshop (SPAW) 2.0

On 9th November 2019, IEEE AIUB Student Branch successfully organized IEEE Student Professional Awareness Workshop (SPAW 2.0) at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) for the second time in the history of IEEE Bangladesh Section and Region 10 (R10). IEEE USA Student Professional Awareness Activities (SPAA) are oriented to enhance the leadership, career, and professional development skills of engineering students. This IEEE USA branded venture was provided with technical support by IEEE Bangladesh Section and also supported by IEEE Bangladesh Section Student Activities Committee, IEEE Young Professionals Bangladesh Section and IEEE Computer Society Bangladesh Section Chapter. The flagship event consisted of series of professional and career-based workshops focused on professional development, conducting plenary talks on timely topics and allowing students to understand the ever-changing professional world. Students from different universities from all over the country came to participate in the event.

The day was inaugurated with a welcome speech by Dr. M Tanseer Ali, Educational Activity Coordinator, IEEE Bangladesh Section; Sr. Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB. The first session of the event entitled “Make a Successful Career as an Engineer” was interactively conducted by Md. Ariful Hoque Shuhan, Managing Director, REVERIE Power and Automation Engineering Ltd. The session exclusively focused on the qualities an engineer needs to obtain in order to gain a successful career and the importance of setting goals in one’s life. The second session titled “Strategic Interview-Workshop and Networking Session” was conducted by A.R.M Abdullah Rocky, Asst. Manager, BKash Limited; Chairperson, IEEE Young Professionals Bangladesh Section and Shams Shad Rafi, Mentor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; System Engineer, Bangla Phone Ltd. Their session included a brief workshop on introducing the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity & Threat (SWOT) matrix in which the participants showed their skills of analysis and problem solving by working in groups. The best performing group was declared winner and awarded. The third session titled “Initiating a Startup as an Engineer” was conducted by Arnob Kumar Saha, Deputy Manager, Office of Professional-Development, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC). The session focused on the important factors and key essentials that initialize a start-up and the methodologies to keep the start-up successful. He discussed different steps for designing: Empathy, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Test in details. The next session titled “Women in Engineering (WIE)” which was conducted by Tasnuva Anowar, Asst. Engineer, Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC). The session focused on inspiring young women to pursue a career as an engineer in the industry. The last session of the grand venture titled “Authorship Workshop to Ensure Quality Publication” was conducted by Dr. Celia Shahnaz, SMIEEE, FIEB; Chairperson, IEEE Bangladesh Section; Professor, Dept. of EEE, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The session focused on introducing the participants to proper paper writing formats along with the ethics of paper publishing. She also talked about LATEX and the other peer review processes used by conference committees. All the speakers were presented with tokens of appreciation. The day-long event was concluded with a closing

speech from Dr. Mohammad Hasan Imam where he started his speech by thanking the participants, organizers, the ambassadors, speakers, supporters, partners for their tremendous effort in making the event a successful one. Later, he and Kawshik Shikder, Motivator, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Asst. Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, presented tokens of appreciation and certificates to all the ambassadors who participated from different affiliated universities and also presented the best ambassador prize. A token of appreciation was handed over to Mashrur Sakib Choyon, Event Designer, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Ambassador Lead, IEEE SPAW 2.0. The day long professional venture ended with a group photo.



Virtual Lecture on Supply Chain Management

The Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM), Faculty of Business Administration organized a Virtual Lecture session on 'Supply Chain Management' on 14 October 2019 at in the Media Studio of AIUB campus. Students of OSCM major courses and Operation Management (OM) core courses joined the session. Dr. Arash Azadegan, Associate Professor, Rutgers University, NJ was the resource person. The speaker very eloquently explained the basics of modern supply chain, flow process of supply chain, complexity in supply chain and relevant issues to the audience. One of the main objectives of this seminar was to provide our students to be virtually connected with an eminent professor of a foreign country with the aid of AIUB's strong logistic support. Dr. Arash very much enjoyed the question answer session where students and teachers spontaneously participated.

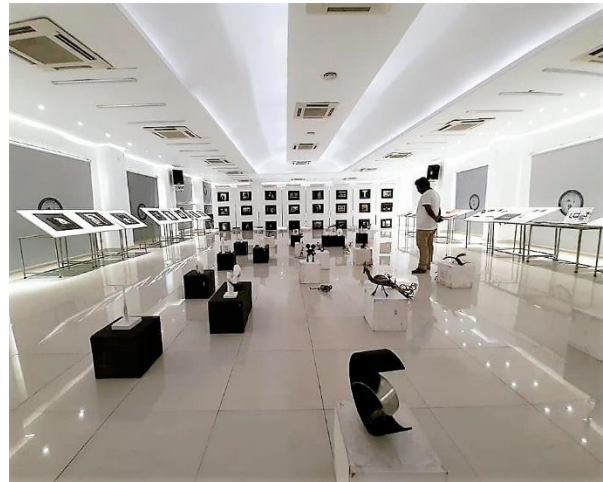
Prof. Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, VP, Academics and Dean, Faculty of Business Administration inaugurated the seminar with a welcome speech. Dr. Khondakar Sazzadul Karim, Dr. Mohammad Rashedul Hoque, Mr. AKM Kamrul Haque, Ms. Shahnaz Zarin Haque, Ms. Sadia Rahman and Ms. Nazmun Nahar were present at the event. Dr. Saad Hasan and Mr. Obaidul Islam delivered the vote of thanks.

The seminar was coordinated by Mr. Mohammad Ali, Assistant Professor. The Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management gratefully appreciates the support extended by the AIUB management.



Architecture Dept. Arranges Outstanding Knowledge Integration Exhibition

Students from Sculpture, Graphic Art and Photography studio arranged an astonishing exhibition with their projects, on 31st July, 2019. The event was conducted by the Faculties of Sculpture Studio Hamiduzzaman, Ashik Ikbāl, Nazifa Zabeen, Nushrat E Huq along with Graphic Art studio instructors Arefeen Ibrahim, Ashik Vaskor Mannan, Tarek Morad and Photography studio instructors Ashik Vaskor Mannan, Tabassum Zarin Tithi, Saiful Hasan Tariq, Rashed Hasan. The event took place in the Multipurpose hall of Annex 7 building. The journey of the exhibition began with displaying the photographs captured by the students from “Photography studio” and then the audience got introduced with the world of three dimensional forms in different theme from the works of “Sculpture Studio”. Furthermore, the project works of the “Graphic Art Studio” added an alluring ambiance to the event by showcasing different product design influenced with various concepts. In the exhibition, students from the “Graphic Art Studio” have displayed several remarkable projects including Book Cover Design, Word Art and Wall Clock. The book cover design was based on the theme of ‘Rain’ to celebrate the monsoon season. Word art project was an interesting thought-provoking exercise, where the students were given carefully selective words and they were instructed to design a three dimensional representation of the chosen specific term. Moreover, wall clock project was intended to create three dimensional visual artistic interpretations of the design principles of famous architects. On the other hand, the key intention of the “Photography studio” was to show the value of the society and culture of our own context through capturing different Architectural form, Landscape, special cultural activity, portrait and more. Besides, the visitors got overwhelmed by seeing the artistic expression done in shade and shadow photography. In addition, the photo stories of the cricket playing in our local context, having iftar on the street showed another greatest impression of our cultural value. The event got more energetic by displaying the sculptures from the “Sculpture studio”, showing not only the beauty of the Three-dimensional art but also exploring the exquisiteness of using various Materials, which were also appreciated by the visitors. The three dimensional white plaster of Paris exposed the greatest ability of the student’s creativity in abstract art and crafting. Then again, the sculptures made with wire, clay and found material in different forms were ruling the ground of the exhibition. At the end of the event, M. Arefeen Ibrahim, Head, Department of Architecture delivered his appreciative speech. The joyful presence of faculties and students from the Department of Architecture made the event more successful and inspiring one. And the event was only possible because of the spontaneous hard work of students and respective teachers, along with the support provided by AIUB administration.



Department of Law staged Mock Trial in the Moot Court Room

AIUB has experienced the 'First Mock Trial' by the students of First batch of the Department of Law on August 05, 2019. The Mock Trial was performed after several training sessions and rehearsals at the Moot Court Room. Students previously had also experienced a real time 'Trial Experiences' at the Mymensingh Judge Court. While performing the mock, students have shown the judges/faculties true potentials of being an advocate. The faculties have enjoyed student's performances as the judges of the trial. Prof. Dr. Taslima Monsoor, the Honorable Advisor of the Department of Law of AIUB and Mr. Md Khalid Rahman, Assistant Professor of Law and the course teacher of Professional Practice & Mock Trial acted as judges in the mock. After the Mock Trial the students (First Law Batch of AIUB) were praised overwhelmingly for their dedicated efforts while conducting the Mock Trial.



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING (CoE) IN COLLABORATION WITH ACES ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON “INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERS EXAMINATION (ITEE)”

Department of CoE in collaboration with AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES) organized a seminar on “Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE)” which was held at the Multipurpose Hall (Annex 7, American International University-Bangladesh). The goal of this seminar was to convey informative knowledge about ITEE and its benefits as a national level certification with the students.

Prof. Dr A.B.M. Siddique Hossain Sir (*Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) inaugurated the seminar by welcoming the participants and delivering a few words about the major contributions of Japanese civilization in the IT sector and also mentioned a few important reasons as to what students will be able to accomplish by appearing for the exam. Afterwards, the first speaker Mr Ryo Saito (*Deputy Team Leader, ITEE JICA Project*) came forward and conversed about some of the accomplishments of ITEE and also informed the participants about the importance of the certification. He also introduced the participants to the exams that ITEE organises in Bangladesh; namely the level 1 IP exam and level 2 FE exam. He later emphasised on the fact that the FE exam would be the main focus of the seminar and that it should be the target for majority of the students. He then called Mr Yukinobu Miyamoto (*Associate Professor, Kobe Institute of Computing and ITEE expert*) on to the stage to continue. Mr Yukinobu Miyamoto introduced himself and described the methods of “Hanpuku” (Japanese for repetition) using which students and candidates will be able to prepare for the FE exam. He later elaborated on the question patterns of the FE exams and gave the participants of the seminar a rundown of the schedule of intensive training programs that they are offering and also shared various resources that candidates will be able to use to prepare for certain topics in the exam related to strategy and management, since these were the areas in which most candidates from Bangladesh struggled to pass. Afterwards, Mr S.M. Nafi (*Senior PR Officer, ITEE JICA Project Team*) and Md. Bellal Hossain (*MIS Coordinator, ITEE JICA Project Team*) came forward on stage to inform expected candidates about the payment process and application process for the ITEE level 2 exam. This was followed by a Q&A segment conducted by all of the members of ITEE present at the seminar. Mr. Safayet Ahmed (*Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, Motivator of ACES*), Mr Abir Ahmed (*Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) and Mohammad Zohurul Islam (*Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) graced the ceremony with their presence.

Lastly, Mr Safayet Ahmed (*Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, Motivator of ACES*) and Mr Abir Ahmed (*Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB*) were requested to come forward and present the token of appreciation to the honourable guests. The seminar came to an end with a group photograph.



Talk Show on C4D Project with Prof. Dr. David Mould from Ohio University

Dr. David Mould, Professor Emeritus, Ohio University, held a discussion session with the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) and Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FASS) of AIUB in Media Studio of the university. Four (4) member team from FBA and FASS has recently participated in a project organized and implemented by UNICEF upon the initiated by UGC, BD on “Inclusion of Communication for Development (C4D) Curriculum and Research in the existing curriculum of Universities in Bangladesh”. The project was initiated in August 2017 and after successful completion of different phases UNICEF BD and UGC of BD held one national Conference on “Fostering Communication for Development to achieve result for Children” on 29th April 2019 and followed by one Symposium participated in by universities from all over BD on 30th April 2019 at UGC Auditorium, BD.

An Echo seminar based on the project was held in AIUB on 5th May 2019 at 12:00 pm. Prof. Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Dean of Faculty of Business Administration, Vice President Academic, AIUB delivered the welcome notes. This was followed by 2 presentations conducted by the faculty participants. Immediately after the presentation, Dr. David took the center stage with Ms. Farheen Hassan, faculty participant and Director of the BBA Program as the moderator of the talk show. The discussion session was very interesting and informative with the faculty members raising some questions for clarification especially on the impact of this project to the present curriculum of the university and the mechanics of implementation. Professor Dr. Tajul Islam, Dean, Faculty of Social Science (FASS), AIUB delivered the vote of thanks.

Dr. David was also ushered by the organizers to view the library and the other facilities of the university. He was delighted and impressed of the modern library. The Talk Show was an initiative of the UGC-UNICEF-C4D project team from AIUB.



Seminar on “MIS for future leaders”

A seminar titled “MIS for future leaders” was organized by the Department of Management Information Systems (MIS), Faculty of Business Administration on 18th of March in the Multi-Purpose Hall at 2 PM with Steve Anthony Jacob, Deputy General Manager, Bdnews24.com as the resource person. Mr. Danilo G. Morgia, Director, I.T. Operations delivered a welcome speech and informed the audience about present trend of MIS curriculum in academics and was optimistic to find pool of students taking MIS as major, both in the BBA and MBA program. The guest speaker – Steve Anthony Jacob explained the implications and the different aspects of career perspectives in the field of MIS. He shared his career journey and explained how his business degrees (BBA and MBA) majoring in MIS have prepared him to apply ICT skills in creative new ways to solve various business challenges and helped him to achieve his goals in corporate world (both local and international). He shed light on many useful information by providing quality contents and many examples on the contemporary issues such as Business analytics, Digital marketing, Search engine optimization, Block chain etc. In this closing speech Mr. Danilo G. Morgia expressed his gratitude & thanks to the resource person Steve Anthony Jacob for taking his precious time to come and visit AIUB and Mr. Mehzabul Hoque Nahid, assistant professor, dept of MIS as organizer of the seminar. Mr. Danilo G. Morgia and Mr. Mehzabul Hoque Nahid handed over the certificate of appreciation along with a gift to the guest speaker of the seminar.



WORKSHOP ON “INVESTMENT IN THE CAPITAL MARKET”

The Department of Finance, AIUB, arranged a study tour for students of the course “Investment and Portfolio Management” and “Capital Budgeting” to attend a day long workshop on 30th March 2019. The title of the workshop was “Investment in the Capital Market”. The workshop was conducted in BICM with full support provided by Ms Kashfia Sharmeen, Assistant Professor of Bangladesh Institute of Capital Market (BICM). The purpose of the workshop was to provide students of the department of Accounting and Finance, hands on knowledge on the arena of investment in the capital market. This was done by disseminating recent and updated theoretical and practical knowledge by the faculty members of the BICM. The tour was organized & coordinated by Ms. Bohi Shajahan, Senior Assistant Professor Department of Finance. The tour started from Campus with students & Course Instructor at 8am. On reaching the venue, the students completed their registration. The workshop started with a brief introduction of BICM by Tasrura Sharmeen Chowdhury, Assistant Professor BICM who also provided an overview of the Bangladeshi capital market. Topics on “Investment in the capital market”, “Secondary trading in Bangladeshi market” and “Financial statements and types of Financing” were discussed by Assistant Professor Ms Kashfia Sharmeen, Associate Professor Nitai Chandra Debnath and Assistant Professor Md. Habibullah respectively. The Workshop ended with a vote of thanks from BICM. The students were encouraged by the faculties to implement the right investment knowledge when investing in the capital market. Department of Finance extends its profound thanks to the Office of Students Affairs, Management of the University and the concerned faculties of BICM for providing valuable support to make the study tour a memorable event for the participants.



FBA Video Conference with AACSB

On the 12th of March 2019, The Faculty of Business Administration hosted an interactive Video Conference with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB, a globally renowned American professional organization founded in 1916 to provide accreditation to competent business schools around the world.

The video conference was participated by the president and CEO of AACSB, Mr. Tom Robinson, the Associate of Membership and Administration Ms. Umi Habiba and senior students from the Faculty of Business Administration lead by the Director of BBA Program Ms. Farheen Hassan. The session was an informative one in which Mr. Robinson discussed about AACSB as an organization and its activities, trends in the business society, implications for learners and how the students should prepare them for the future. After the discussions, Mr. Robinson also answered to the various queries the students raised regarding scopes of possible inter business school collaborative activities between AIUB and other member/accredited universities under AACSB and how AACSB can facilitate such possibilities which Mr. Robinson was optimistic about and gave hope to the students to look forward to.



Financial Decision-Making Using MS Excel

Organizing workshop is a regular initiative of AIUB to strengthen students' skills and aptitude for learning. On February 19, 2019 Department of Finance successfully organized a workshop on financial decision-making using MS Excel at Annex 3, Room No. 3208. The day-long workshop was conducted by Mr. Mahmood Taseen Chowdhury, Director, Project Management, Development Design Consultants Limited.

This development workshop was designed to demonstrate the various techniques of using MS Excel for financial decision making and enhance the competence of the student of the university in making a more stimulating and effective use of financial software. The session was inaugurated by Professor Dr. Nisar Ahmed; Director of MBA Program with an inspiring welcome speech.

MS Excel software package is regarded as an essential for financial and statistical analysis. It is the most popular and effective spreadsheet tool today. It is user friendly, robust, and packed with excellent features. Keeping its popularity and effectiveness in a workplace in mind, the Department of Finance, AIUB organized a workshop titled 'Financial Decision-Making using MS Excel' to help students to learn the following functions:

1. PV, FV, RATE, and NPER to take real life financial planning related decisions.
2. EFFECT & NOMINAL to convert nominal interest rate to effective interest rate and vice versa.
3. Amortization Schedule to understand loan repayment.
4. Data Analysis to calculate descriptive statistics.
5. AVERAGE & STDEV.S to calculate risk and return.
6. CORREL to calculate and interpret correlation coefficient between two data sets.
7. TREND to forecast data using least squares method.
8. Regression Analysis to understand which among the independent variables are related to the dependent variable, and to explore the forms of these relationships.
9. Pivot Table to extract the significance from a large, detailed data set.

A total of seventy-five students participated in the workshop. At the end of the program, Professor Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, Vice President, Academics and Dean Faculty of Business Administration expressed his vote of thanks to the guest speaker and presented with Certificate of Appreciation. The concluding session was further decorated with kind presence of Ms. Farheen Hassan, Director, BBA Program, Mr. Md. Faridul Alam, Head, Department of Accounting and other distinguished faculty members.

The workshop was organized by Mr. Md. Joynal Abedin, Assistant Professor, Department of Finance of FBA. The Department of Finance, Faculty of Business Administration gratefully acknowledges the open-handed support given by AIUB Management to make the event successful.



In-house seminar in the Department of English

As part of its regular practice the Department of English, AIUB organized a seminar on 14th February 2019 on teaching learning practice. Kuntala Shabnam Parama, Assistant Professor of the Department of English, AIUB presented a paper on “Impacts of the use of Social Networking sites on the Academic Performance of the Students”. Faculty members along with the Head of the Department of English and some students were present in the seminar. The presenter conducted the research back in 2017 during her academic research in the USA. The research was conducted on the junior and senior school graduates in USA, who maintained a logbook mentioning authentic information about their use of social networking sites. The researchers along with her co-researchers followed the academic records of GPA of the same students with their permission. At the end of the research, it was found, that the time spent on social networking sites had no direct correlation but the students’ self-regulation had serious correlation with their academic performance. After the paper was presented, there was a lively question answer session between the presenter and her audience about different aspects of the presented study.



Department of Computer Engineering (CoE) and Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering of AIUB Organized an International Conference on Robotics, Electrical and Signal Processing Techniques (ICREST)

Department of Computer Engineering (CoE) and Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE) from Faculty of Engineering of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organized the 1st International Conference on Robotics, Electrical and Signal Processing Techniques (ICREST) on 10 – 12 January 2019 in its campus.

The opening address and welcoming remarks were given by Prof. Dr. ABM Siddique Hossain, General Chair of the Conference and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB. Then the Chief Patron of the Conference Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna, the honorable Vice Chancellor of AIUB, inaugurated the conference. In her inauguration speech, she highlighted on the academic and research excellence achieved by AIUB as well as encouraged the young researchers to contribute to the development of the country through their engineering research. The opening ceremony was also graced by Mr. Mike Hinchey, Former Director of NASA Software Engineering Lab, Prof. Dr. Henry Reiser, President of the College of New Caledonia, Canada, Prof. Dr. A. M. M. Safiullah, the honorable Vice Chancellor, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Prof. Dr. Celia Shahnaz, Chair of IEEE Bangladesh Section, Dr. M Shamim Kaiser, Chair of IEEE Computer Society, Bangladesh Chapter and Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, Organizing Chair of the Conference & Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB.

The three-day conference featured a number of keynote speakers and other distinguished guests. 10 keynote speeches were presented by world renowned researched from home and abroad on subjects as diverse as, Power, Renewable Energy, Nanotechnology, Telemedicine, and others. Nearly 20 academic sessions with 134 papers were presented, authored by nearly 500 researchers coming from 13 different countries (Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Qatar, South Korea, Thailand, UK, USA, and Vietnam) including Bangladesh. These panel sessions were designed to elicit maximum debate and conversations between the audience and the experts on the panel. In addition, three-day long workshops, project exhibition, poster competition were organized during this vibrant conference.

On Friday evening, before the banquet, a cultural program was presented by the AIUB Performing Arts Club to entertain the participants and guests. Prof. Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, attended the cultural program and the banquet as chief guest. He thanked the organizers as well as AIUB for organizing this international conference and also shared his valuable knowledge and experience with others.

The closing ceremony of ICREST 2019 took place on January 12, 2019 in the auditorium of AIUB. The recognition and award part of the program was dignified by the presence of Ms. Nadia Anwar, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Founder Member of AIUB. After her inspiring

speech, she handed over the Dr. Anwarul Abedin and Mrs. Hasna Abedin awards for the top position in different categories.

The Organizing Chair of the Conference & Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman announced the closing of the conference after delivering the vote of thanks.

The conference was made possible because of generous financial support from a number of organizations. This enabled logistics and travel support for keynote speakers and authors who traveled to Bangladesh from various parts of the world. Among the sponsors who gave generous financial support are: MEP Group, Rahimafrooz Ltd, Reverie Power & Automation Engineering Ltd., RM Power, and Shoibal Construction. Special grant from the ICT division helped to organized a day-long workshop on Robotics Design Engineering. Moreover, the generosity of Universal LP Gas, Anwar Cement, Ulkasemi, Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd., Powertrac, Brilliant Cloud, Dhaka Bank Ltd., Amber IT, Telnet, Seven Rings Cement, Radiant, Metronet, intercloud and Dhaka Regency Hotel & Resort played a vital role to organize the conference successfully. The media partner of this event was Channel i online.

The organizing committee of the ICREST 2019 expressed their utmost gratitude to Dr. Hasanul A. Hasan, Founder Member & Treasurer, AIUB and Mr. Ishtiaque Abedin, Founder Member, AIUB for their crucial support to organize the conference.





Faculty Research and Publication

[A Learning Curve for HEIs in Bangladesh: A VC's Perspective](#)

Author: Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna

Brief Description:

The Covid-19 Curveball

Life is essentially a curve with ups and downs. The very motion which is our learning curve – one that is crucial to growth. It is difficult to see it that way when you're thrown amidst crisis and chaos like we have been this year. 2 months into 2020, we've gone from a foreign outbreak to a full-blown global pandemic! It has sent out waves of panic and fear across borders, giving rise to economic, financial, and socio-cultural issues in countries around the world. But when we can't control what's happening, we must challenge ourselves to control the way we respond to what's happening, that's where our power is.

Life as we know it threw us the Covid-19 curveball at a time that we least expected it and were even less prepared for it, inevitably altering our work to our homes, and everything in between. The unknown uncertainty of such predicaments is not dealt with that well anywhere, and even more so in this part of the world. It makes us second-guess questions that we may not even know the answer to – from the primary concerns of what should I do, how can I stay away from friends and family, will we be safe to the more difficult decisions of whether we can keep running our organizations, can we really work from home, how do we go online now without leaving anyone behind? As individuals as well as institutions, we have all had to deal with a complicated web of issues, challenges, and doubts on multiple fronts throughout this pandemic.

It is a hard fact that the high-risk sites for the spread of the Covid-19 are school, college and university campuses. This evolving situation will not only be vastly disruptive but also a paradigm shift in Higher Education Institutions (HEI). The coronavirus is most fatal for the aged with underlying health medical issues. That may be an appropriate description for HEIs brought about by the coronavirus. This crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities prevalent, not only amongst the governing bodies across borders, but within industry sectors and individual institutions as well. And the HEIs in the academic landscape are no different. Many institutions are still rooted within traditional systems of education, entrenching their curriculums in conventional theories and restricting their delivery to a one-way transfer of knowledge. This leaves them susceptible to the disability of stagnation in progress, with the unfortunate possibility of deterioration in the development of learning in the long run, especially in today's rapidly evolving and increasingly uncertain times.

This pandemic has forced academic communities across borders to rethink their approach towards teaching and learning, exploring the uncharted territories of distance learning and online education. It is not only a daunting challenge for institutions and students alike, but even more so for those who are yet to be able to adapt to this change and adopt the 'new normal'. That in itself is an incredibly difficult task for those in developing countries, given their pre-existing conditions of socio-economic constraints, slow advancement of the IT infrastructure, and the poor literacy & general apathy towards technology. Amidst this global crisis, HEIs have been stripped to its fundamental functionalities and put to an eccentric acid test. Now, it is the survival of the fittest, amongst countries, industries, organizations, and of course, most importantly, the people. On paper, certainly, we should be adaptable to change, technologically advanced, and infrastructurally strong by now. But that blanket statement cannot cover every single person or organization in the country. Discrepancies prevail across the board even now. We must evaluate our capabilities in terms of infrastructure, technology, and skills in order to determine the feasibility of such changes and prioritize the extents of what we can and cannot do in reality. We must understand whether we have the technological capacity to make the move, whether our students and staff are equipped for engaging in the transition, whether we can adopt course curriculum, lectures, assessments, etc. from such a long-standing offline mode. And that is exactly what we did, or at least, we tried to.

The 'Plan C' at AIUB

As the global events unfolded and the pandemic loomed closer, the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) was prompted to transition online. Since its inception, AIUB, as an institution, had always strived to be digital, but now it had to go virtual as well. We have always strived for continuous improvement, keeping ourselves on our toes, embracing challenges, developing ourselves, and keeping pace with time. Perhaps that was one of the major reasons why we were able to shift our entire operations online within days – AIUB went fully online in 4 days! We were the first to respond to this crisis amongst HEIs in Bangladesh, and we take great pride in being able to witness the agility of our institution. From the 20th of March 2020, AIUB has successfully shifted all the classes of all 4 Faculties, for both undergraduate and graduate programs, onto the virtual platform of Microsoft Teams Application. Initiating one of the very first efforts of HEIs in Bangladesh going online, AIUB enabled students and teachers to conduct and undertake their lectures and assessments within the safety of their homes. Since 2008, AIUB has been affiliated with Microsoft Live@Edu, currently known as Microsoft Office 365 for Education, making it one of most long-standing and constructive collaborations with the technology giant in the country till date.

As a result of this partnership, AIUB students, faculty members, and officials get unlimited user access to many of its applications, including the Microsoft Teams. It is a unified platform for communication and collaboration that combines persistent workplace chat, video meetings, file

storage, and application integration. Being one of the first private universities in Bangladesh to make the move within days of the initial outbreak in the country, AIUB has now gone fully virtual with its classes with the licensed MS Teams App that everyone can access using their own university email IDs. With its dynamic interface and diverse features, students and faculties can now participate in a unique teaching-learning experience, MS Teams enables an interactive and versatile system that not only ensures the health and welfare of its students, faculty, and administration, but also encourages the continuity of academic activities even in these difficult times. Albeit, even though the means were different, the ends were not altogether that new. Over these past few months, we had to work relentlessly to strike a balance between where we were and where we needed to be – a combination of the somewhat traditional and slightly unconventional. Besides the obvious and unavoidable change of shifting from the on-campus brick-and-mortar classroom setup into an online virtual platform, there were several other facets of our higher education that we had to tweak and modify, in lieu with those that were kept intact. We still had to retain the courses and curriculum for the different programs, as overhauling any demands a rigorous prolonger process for assessment and approval. We maintained the traditional aspects like the lecture routines, scheduling classes accordingly throughout the semester to keep students on track. Lectures are still aimed to be interactive, using PowerPoint presentations, local and international case discussions, and e-Textbooks, etc. Quizzes, assignments, and exams are still incorporated into the courses but adjusting the formats, taking the current circumstances into consideration. Online quizzes still attempt to include both objective and subjective question patterns, while assignments take on a more case-based individual projects and presentations, with the term examinations adopting more of a review assessment approach.

We had already been proactively running a hygiene awareness campaign, collaborating together with the student club volunteers, before the lockdown. There was mandatory sanitization done at entry points across the campus during the initial stages of the pandemic, along with promoting and encouraging better healthy hygiene practices by providing important information and guidelines. We have since expanded the health and safety measures around the campus, for the staff at present, and in future, for the students, ranging from full sterilization of all the buildings on the premises, regular cleanup and sanitization of the premises, and sanitizing tunnels, mandatory masks, alcohol-based hand-rubs, etc. for ensuring that all the precautions have been taken to keep the campus and its people safe from Covid-19. And the increase regular attendance of our existing students as well as our intake of new students in these past 2 semesters during this pandemic gave us the reassurance that we were on the right path. Even the proactive response in the number of researches conducted and publications made, various webinars and workshops organized and participated in, and the social awareness and welfare initiatives undertaken by faculty members and students alike, have been significantly noteworthy during

this period of unpredictability. Despite the constraints that come with an uncharted territory, exploring it may lead to new opportunities as you stumble through it.

Indeed, adapting to this 'new normal' was not easy. Integrating Microsoft Solutions together with our pre-existing infrastructure, we were able to make the remarkable transition from on-campus to online with over 10,000 students, faculty members, and administrative staff onboard within 4 days! The Microsoft 365 Education has amplified our efficiency and productivity, which in retrospect of the lockdown is an incredible feat in itself. We have been able to re-create the physical classroom learning experience for the students and teachers, improving the collaboration in the pandemic. This unanticipated shift as expanded horizons, to a phase where we are now considering a hybrid approach to education, with lectures being engaged in both virtual and physical classrooms, post-pandemic. As of the Summer 2019-20 session, approximately 10,000 active student users along with around 650 faculty members and administrative officials of AIUB, are accessing the online platform, utilizing it to its full capacity for real-time online class lectures and team-based work projects. Faculty members are delivering lectures through video conferencing with embedded PowerPoint presentations, Microsoft Learn, Microsoft Stream, Microsoft Administration, Microsoft Forms for quizzes, Gradebook, Assignments, whiteboard incorporations, attendance monitoring and desktop sharing options. Students can communicate with them through video, audio, or message boards for queries, clarifications, and class participation, as required and appropriate. They can also undertake various means of assessments like quizzes and assignments online on MS Teams.

Sure, it was a bit of a challenge for all of us, having to shift our entire academic operations online within days, enabling both students and staff to utilize and acclimate to the tools, and of course, focusing on the curriculum to adjust to the changes and lend itself to make the teaching-learning process more engaging. But given the reduced distractions, increased flexibility, and minimal commutes, under the current circumstances, it has become widely accepted as the 'new normal'. We have been receiving many inquiries on how we adopted this cultural transformation. The younger generation can undoubtedly adapt with technological changes more easily than the senior members. While they may understandably not be all that tech-savvy, the smooth transition was made possible by Microsoft and their seamless user-friendly applications. We conduct, not only class lectures, but also operational meetings with administrative officials, board of trustees, and even academic council members, through MS Teams, triggering the journey of digital transformation throughout our university. The platform has unlocked a dynamic set-up as an alternate medium to the conventional in-class teaching and learning environments, augmenting another layer of advanced digitized education in the modern world today. The initiative safeguarded the students from incurring the loss of the semester, giving them the leverage and flexibility to pursue their degrees and achieve their goals, while giving their parents and guardians a peace of mind in these precarious times. To date, positive feedbacks are relayed

by the teachers, along with the enthusiasm shown by the students, to continue improving the education experience, prioritizing the learning objectives, teaching methods, and student outcomes with the utmost attention and consideration.

The Pandemic Around Us

Ultimately, progress is neither automatic nor inevitable, but it is impossible without deviating from the norm. Change is the only constant in our lives, and those who refuse to change their minds, will not be able to change anything else. But ironically, that is the one thing most of us are unwilling to do – change. We keep repeating the same process over and over again, expecting a different result. Rewind back even just 5 years ago, and compare that to a decade back, the world was a different place then, just the way it is now. Economically. Politically. Socially. Culturally. And of course, educationally. Despite the apparent waves of changes made in education over the past century, the quality, impact, and value of an education are yet to be realized on their own accord. The old model of an institution within the 4 walls of a classroom, with teachers sharing their knowledge, taking tests and assigning homework, focused on and encouraging repetition and memorization as the standard for being ranked in a pre-defined grading system – has now been contested as Pre-Pandemic Predisposition. The institutions around the world, especially those in developing countries like Bangladesh, have long been rooted so deeply into their conventional curriculum, course structure, lecture contents, etc. that they have seemingly become a depiction of ‘the glass is full’. So full to the brim, that there is no scope left for any additional concoction! The minute you try, it spills over! We are living in the 21st Century. We cannot be forcing our students to learn the same way we did 10 years ago! Time has changed, and it is high time our teaching does too!

The national education policies have long been archaic, with changes brought about only 10 years ago when a new national education policy was introduced. And while, this did hit on some of the critical points that needed to be addressed in order to pave the way for development of our nation, there still have been some buffering in the impact and implementation of the policy on multiple fronts. Many institutions refuse to move out of the obsolete structures and strategies of education, still enforcing and emphasizing ineffective models and syllabus. While, many, on the other hand, are struggling to do so, whether that be for financial constraints, poor infrastructure, or lack of collaborative support rendering them disabled. These impede the growth and development of our education systems overall, which has only made it even more arduous for us to adapt to the changes brought about in this pandemic. It does not help that most of the institutions are exceedingly dependent on the tuition fees as the main revenue source, especially the private institutions which get little to no government support for subsidizing operational costs. This undoubtedly becomes an added burden during these difficult times of Covid-19, especially given the preexisting limitations of a developing country as Bangladesh. Multilateral collaboration has only just begun to be considered as a constructive

means of pursuing holistic academic development, from the curriculum, undertaking research projects, to co-curricular exchange programs that enrich the overall experience for students in the long run. But with the lockdown for the pandemic, even those options have become extremely restricted. And with no idea about when this will be over, whether a vaccine will be found, if immunity is even possible, the ambiguity surrounds the re-opening of establishments on a full-scale, raising questions on the impact this may have on learning, academic mobility, socialization, mental and physical health on not just students, but staff as well. Disconnect and burnout are probably some of the worst case scenarios that can result from long-term screen-time, whether that is working, teaching, or learning online, not to mention the adverse side effects that the absence of physical as well as socio-cultural activities can have on the wellbeing of young adults. Quality academic continuity, overall health and safety, along with the economic survival are now critical matters of concern for the outlook of 2021 and beyond.

Learning is more effective when it is made an active rather than a passive process. If we teach students today what we learnt yesterday, we rob them of tomorrow. And the same can be said for the 'how', now. Just as the content and material of learning has evolved over time, the methods of teaching must as well. And with the pandemic acting as a catalyst of change, albeit posing several challenges and constraints across the board, it has undoubtedly accelerated the pace for developing our modern day education system to truly reflect the meaning of the term today. This is an unprecedented shift for institutions around the world, but particularly, for those in the developing countries such as ourselves. While, most developed nations have long adopted e-Learning as an effective medium of delivery for quality education, ensuring higher student participation, higher education institutions (HEIs) in Bangladesh are still are an extremely early stage of adapting to the holistic applications of such technologies. Now, although there are still several financial, logistical, and technological hurdles along the way, e-Learning has been gaining prominence amidst educators and students alike, given that it provides an opportunity to stay focused, keep active, and relieve from the increasing stress of the lockdown, doubled with the uncertainty of the future in terms of their academic degrees and career prospects.

Even then, infrastructure and culture play a predominant role in this phase of transition. In a country where a majority of students in HEIs are from middle-income households, affordability of computers, laptops, or smartphones is a pre-existing issue. Access to internet connections using bulk data surcharges is another major concern, as is the all-too-common disruptions in internet connectivity. Roughly 5-10% students may not even have access to the internet at all, especially those residing in remote or rural areas. And in today's world, where we are aiming to go digital, national expansion of internet access has become essential to safeguard the continuity of education for our youth. Several telecommunication companies have already rolled out their respective offers for students availing their internet packages, and although that's a start, we still have a long way to go. We have had several initiatives undertaken by educational institutions,

companies, as well as the governmental agencies in tandem, but there is still tremendous scope for doing more and reaching a wider berth amongst the population. Collaborations must be constructed for the greater good, between universities, corporations, and the government, so to be able to subjugate the havoc wreaked by the pandemic on all fronts. With combined efforts, online teaching and learning can be transformed from a forced option to an informed choice.

The Post-Pandemic Future of Education

Before, students sat down, listened to their teacher, took notes, did tests and exercises. But the generation of students we have today, have been nurtured in the exposure of technology. They can no longer just sit through a nonreciprocal lecture in monotony. They need a form of education that challenges them to bring out the best in them. Catalyzed by the pandemic, we have gone from one end of the learning spectrum to another (from face-to-face to online), but as a result we skipped the phases in between – blended and hybrid learning. It is already an extremely constructive concept that has been implemented in various institutions across the world, and one that AIUB has been considering as a new approach towards its own teaching-and-learning method. We have long been working with blended learning, implementing in multiple layers of our teaching method, we have already gone fully online, conducting all the classes of all 4 Faculties on the virtual platform of MS Teams, but once we overcome this pandemic (hopefully soon), we want to be able to rein in the strengths of both formats, capitalizing on how hybrid learning can feed into each other in the long run. Now, these two concepts are often used interchangeably, and while they share a common space on the spectrum, they have their own individual identities.

With blended learning, a fundamental ideology of it was that the online materials were not intended to “replace” face-to-face class time, rather, supplement and build upon the content discussed in the classroom. But in case of hybrid learning, the online components are intended to replace a portion of face-to-face class time, which can be either be synchronous, meaning that students are interacting online in real time, such as through class sessions conducted via MS Teams, or asynchronous, meaning that students interact online at different times, such as through online discussions boards. That coalesced with face-to-face interactions infuse dynamic advantages that are difficult, if not impossible to replicate otherwise, creating an incredibly powerful learning opportunity. Creating a synergy between the different interactive experiential collaborative means of education. At present, AIUB utilizes the best online tools (most of which have been developed in-house by our own students) to support teacher-led classrooms, while encouraging students to explore practical approaches that combine both technology-integrated learning and hands-on applications of theories. But right now, we are working on focusing on a tandem of the most effective ways to deliver courses to students, congruently amalgamating the best of both worlds – our expertise in blended teaching and our experience in online learning.

Just as the pandemic unmasked the numerous shortcomings of the educational system in Bangladesh, it has always revealed the true value of empathy and transparency in our actions, as well as the significance of inter-cultural understanding and adaptability. And as ironic it may seem in the 21st Century, we were even reminded of the underestimated importance of scientific integrity and collaboration, especially in the medical field. The consequence of inequality and disparity has already been felt widely, whether that has been in terms of the spread of the virus across borders, or the anxious search for the vaccine, or even the varying impact and recovery around the world. It took us a while, to realize that we are all in this together and that is the only way we'll get out of it – by augmenting our cooperation in pursuit of effective innovative solutions. And the first steps towards that, particularly in higher education in Bangladesh, is reallocating resources to improve online teaching and learning, focusing on curriculum, co-curriculars, and cultural understanding without mass mobility, and a systematic assessment of the risks and merits of e-Learning as opposed to its alternative of face-to-face teaching that can determine a hybrid path leading to holistic education. Building the local competencies, integrating technologies like automation or augmented/virtual reality into academic capacities, while enhancing greater social responsibility as individuals and institutions alike, may be the key towards restoring a better future for the generations to come. Challenges amidst crises often offer opportunities in disguise, the cloud's silver lining as it were. But it is up to the stakeholders to identify what to change and how.

God forbid, this pandemic may surpass 2020 and perhaps outlast us all, or we may find the miraculous cure in the developing vaccines, who knows? But the impact it has had on global economy, people's livelihood, their health and wellbeing is going to leave its mark. And so, even in these turbulent times of risk and doubt, it is imperative that we work towards equipping the youth with as much competence, agility, and grit that we possibly can, in order to prepare them to be fully capable of overcoming adversity, capitalizing on their potential, and taking advantage of opportunities that the post-Covid world may have in store for them tomorrow.

[An Unplanned Switch: The AIUB Case in the New Normal](#)

Author: Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna

Brief Description:

It is a hard fact that some of the high-risk sites for the spread of the COVID-19 are school, college and university campuses. This evolving situation will not only be vastly disruptive but may also be the driving force for an unprecedented paradigm shift in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The virus seems to be increasingly fatal for the aged with underlying health medical issues – quite an apt analogy for the metamorphosis brought on by the pandemic on the HEIs around world.

COVID-19 has become more of a catalyst for online education, along with numerous other sectors like healthcare, commerce, ICT, etc., that were curve, the lack of medical test kits, and the elusive breakthrough for the vaccine, sending students home ensured their safety. But enabling them to finish off their academic term online ensured that no one fell behind. This was of critical importance in order to safeguard the youth of our nation, not only in terms of their health but also the continuity of their pursuit to realize their dreams. It is a light of hope amidst the chaotic darkness that engulfs the world today.

‘Physical distancing’ being a temporary new norm, HEIs are now developing more pedagogical and administrative tools so as to enable operations as a distributed organization. In the long run, this will not only work towards enriching education as we know it but enhancing the learning experience altogether. Unfortunately, in the developing countries like Bangladesh, most HEIs have struggled to adopt into the change brought about by the pandemic. Many faced challenges with ensuring an adept remote workforce for the duration of the lockdown. The means for implementing virtual classes was not something they were prepared for. Unlike the tech sector, HEIs are not exactly built for remote operations, having little or no prior experience in managing such radical shifts.

There is also a financial backlash on this, obviously. Students may not be in the classroom, but some have either typically welcomed the respite or may have actively resisted it. But they are still getting the same curriculum, courses, teachers and administrative staffs, they had initially signed up for. The only thing is, the cost of making the shift to online delivery and augmenting the requisite supports, that undoubtedly adds value to their educational experience under the current circumstances, adds to the overall cost as well. Contradictorily, one that goes unaccounted for.

No one wants to consider a scenario where this perplexing situation persists well into the next semester, rendering universities unable to reopen. It may not be a likely scenario, but it is definitely a possible one. But that very notion raises difficult questions. Would it be an affordable alternative? A feasible option? A sustainable one? Given the ambiguity we all face now, sadly, we can only prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB): Digital to Virtual

As the global events unfolded, the pandemic looming closer, prompted the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) to transition online. Since its inception, AIUB, as an institution, had always strived to be digital, but now it had to go virtual as well.

From the 20th of March 2020, AIUB has successfully shifted all the classes of all 4 Faculties, for both undergraduate and graduate programs, onto the virtual platform of Microsoft Teams Application. Initiating one of the very first efforts of HEIs in Bangladesh going online, AIUB

enabled students and teachers to conduct and undertake their lectures and assessments within the safety of their homes. Since 2008, AIUB has been affiliated with Microsoft Live@Edu, currently known as Microsoft Office 365 for Education, making it one of most long-standing and constructive collaborations with the technology giant in the country till date.

As a result of this partnership, AIUB students, faculty members, and officials get unlimited user access to many of its applications, including the Microsoft Teams. It is a unified platform for communication and collaboration that combines persistent workplace chat, video meetings, file storage, and application integration. Being one of the first private universities in Bangladesh to make the move within days of the initial outbreak in the country, AIUB has now gone fully virtual with its classes with the licensed MS Teams App that everyone can access using their own university email IDs. With its dynamic interface and diverse features, students and faculties can now participate in a unique teaching-learning experience, MS Teams enables an interactive and versatile system that not only ensures the health and welfare of its students, faculty, and administration, but also encourages the continuity of academic activities even in these difficult times.

For the Summer 2019-20 and Fall 2020-2021 sessions, approximately 10,000 active student users along with around 650 faculty members and administrative officials of AIUB, are accessing the online platform, utilizing it to its full capacity for real-time online class lectures and team-based work projects. Faculty members are delivering lectures through video conferencing with embedded PowerPoint presentations, Microsoft Learn, Microsoft Stream, Microsoft Administration, Microsoft Forms for quizzes, Gradebook, Assignments, whiteboard incorporations, attendance monitoring and desktop sharing options. Students can communicate with them through video, audio, or message boards for queries, clarifications, and class participation, as required and appropriate. They can also undertake various means of assessments like quizzes and assignments online on MS Teams.

And AIUB did not just digitalize its academics, but even took its co-curriculars online as well. The AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC), the AIUB Drama Club (ADC), the AIUB Oratory Club (AOC), the AIUB Social Welfare Club (Shomoy), the AIUB Arts Club (AAC), the AIUB Photography Club (AIUBPC), the AIUB Business Club (ABC), the AIUB Film Club (AFC), the AIUB Computer Club (ACC), the IEEE AIUB Student Branch (IEEE-AIUB SB), the AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES), the Engineering Students of Bangladesh – AIUB Unit Face (ESAB-AIUB), AIESEC in AIUB, are amongst some of the prominent student organizations at the university. Even in the current pandemic, under lockdown, the student clubs have kept the streak alive of continuously striving for enhancing and enriching the club community and the student body at AIUB. Since the start of the year, there have been over 18 competitions, 60 webinars, 75 workshops, and 100 interactive development meetings held by the student clubs, using numerous virtual platforms like Facebook, Messenger, Google Meet, Zoom, Cisco WebEx, Jitsi, Discord, etc. In addition, there

were also several national conferences, alumni sessions, cultural programs as well as international participations, features, and recognitions amongst the student organizations.

To date, around 30 academic webinars were organized by the various departments at AIUB, along with an International Webinar on Higher Education in the New Normal co-organized with the Mykolas Romeris University of Lithuania and the International Conference on Robotics, Electrical & Signal Processing Techniques (ICREST 2021) arranged by the Faculty of Engineering at AIUB. Nearly 350 research and article publications were made by numerous faculty members on a wide range of topics relevant to the pandemic and higher education, which has been a 53% increase compared to the regular average in the pre-pandemic.

Several online meetings of the Vice Chancellor with the academic and administrative-support staffs are held regularly. The Academic Council, Syndicate and Board of Trustees meetings are held either in MS Teams or Zoom.

The MS Teams platform has unlocked a dynamic set-up as an alternate medium to the conventional in-class teaching and learning environments, augmenting another layer of advanced digitized education in the modern world today. The initiative safeguarded the students from incurring the loss of the semester, giving them the leverage and flexibility to pursue their degrees and achieve their goals, while giving their parents and guardians a peace of mind in these precarious times. To date, positive feedbacks are relayed by the teachers, along with the enthusiasm shown by the students, to continue improving the education experience, prioritizing the learning objectives, teaching methods, and student outcomes with the utmost attention and consideration.

Overcoming the Obstacle-Course

Adapting to this new normal was not easy. Integrating Microsoft Solutions together with our pre-existing infrastructure, we were able to make the remarkable transition from on-campus to online with over 10,000 students, faculty members, and administrative staff onboard within 4 days! The Microsoft 365 Education has amplified our efficiency and productivity, which in retrospect of the lockdown is an incredible feat in itself. We have been able to re-create the physical classroom learning experience for the students and teachers, improving the collaboration in the pandemic. This unanticipated shift as expanded horizons, to a phase where we are now considering a hybrid approach to education, with lectures being engaged in both virtual and physical classrooms, post-pandemic.

We have been receiving many inquiries on how we adopted this cultural transformation. The younger generation can adapt with technological changes more easily than the senior members. But the smooth transition that was made possible by Microsoft and their seamless user-friendly applications. We conduct, not only class lectures, but also operational meetings with

administrative officials, board of trustees, and even academic council members, through MS Teams, triggering the journey of digital transformation throughout our university.

Several online meetings of the Vice Chancellor with the academic and administrative-support staffs are held regularly. The Academic Council, Syndicate and Board of Trustees meetings are held either in MS Teams or Zoom.

With dedicated leadership from the people who truly make the institution come to life, technology can indeed revolutionize the curriculum and better prepare students for the new world of work. Unleashing their full potentials and harnessing their talents, such radical changes can catalyze and catapult them into greater heights even in this challenging landscape. It is now a tried and tested fact today, that digital transformation of institutions has the capability to provide equality, accessibility, and empowerment to all, making the previously impossible, possible.

Agility, resilience, and adaptability aren't just fundamental skills for the 21st century students. They're imperative skills for the 21st century educational institutions as well — especially in an era when disruptive pathogens and natural calamities are predicted to become all the more common. Whether or not COVID-19 subsides quickly, the life as we knew it, has been irrevocably altered. Tumultuous times have a way of reordering reality and, in the process, opening doors to new opportunities and mind-sets. At the end of the day, every cloud, no matter how stormy, may have a silver lining. It all depends on how we look at its perspective.

Digitization in HEIs for Enhancing Learners' Interpersonal Skills: Evidence from a Developing Country

Author: Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna et al.

Brief Description: Over the past few decades, the world has been shifting from industry-based to knowledge-based in which quality in education has always been a prime concern in developing countries; therefore, developing nations are, somehow, struggling to implement quality education system since these countries are still in a process of establishing a proper knowledge dissemination mechanism, which enhances skills required by the industry and is as important as all others educational outcomes. In this notion, adoption and implementation of educational technologies are quite significant for enhancing interpersonal skills necessary for producing efficient graduates. With this realization, government of Bangladesh is trying to provide quality education to their citizens by taking several initiatives to implement various projects as to ICTs. As a result, a number of academic institutions have already incorporated digitization process or are in a process of incorporating into the traditional system through the appropriate use of ICTs available at this moment. Furthermore, a large amount of research has been conducted to

address the issues related to adoption of ICTs in HEIs, usefulness of ICTs, benefits associated with ICTs, challenges of adoption and barriers to adoption of ICTs, measuring students' satisfaction, etc., but little studies have been conducted to unveil the impact of digitization process on the formation of learners' interpersonal skills or managerial skills. Therefore, the paper aims to ascertain the utilization and appropriation of ICTs in HEIs in enhancing learners' interpersonal skills in Bangladesh. Using self-administered questionnaire as research instrument together with cross sectional approach as research method, the study analyzed data of one hundred respondents (i.e. students and educators) collected randomly from sixteen HEIs of Bangladesh. Furthermore, collected data were analyzed through a Structural equation Modeling Simulation (SEM), namely SMART PLS 2.0. At the initial level, all scales used in the study were validated using the standard indicators: AVE, Composite reliability, Cronbach's Alpha, etc.; likewise, correlations were checked, and all stated hypotheses were tested using the standard indicators, i.e., Beta Coefficient, T-statistic, P-value. Throughout the study, necessary materials were collected from institutions such as the University Grant Commission (UGC), Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN), etc. as well as online directory. Results of the study revealed that the determinants: interactivity, collaboration, self-efficacy found to have a significant positive influence on the development of interpersonal skills: teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, and persuasion. However, some factors: cost, lack of training facility, poor infrastructure, high level of plagiarism, lack of motivation were identified as the obstacles to digital transformation in HEIs in Bangladesh. Results of the study could be an important blueprint for the policy makers of HEIs in developing countries in favor of establishing a solid reason or base for integrating ICTs.

[e-Learning in Bangladesh: Challenges and Strategies in 2020](#)

Author: Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna

Brief Description:

Learning is more effective when it is made an active rather than a passive process. If we teach students today what we learnt yesterday, we rob them of tomorrow. And the same can be said for the 'how', now. Just as the content and material of learning has evolved over time, the methods of teaching must as well. And with the pandemic acting as a catalyst of change, albeit posing several challenges and constraints across the board, it has undoubtedly accelerated the pace for developing our modern day education system to truly reflect the meaning of the term today. This is an unprecedented shift for institutions around the world, but particularly, for those in the developing countries such as ourselves.

While, most developed nations have long adopted e-Learning as an effective medium of delivery for quality education, ensuring higher student participation, higher education institutions (HEIs) in Bangladesh are still at an extremely early stage of adapting to the holistic applications of such technologies. Now, although there are still several financial, logistical, and technological hurdles along the way, e-Learning has been gaining prominence amidst educators and students alike, given that it provides an opportunity to stay focused, keep active, and relieve from the increasing stress of the lockdown, doubled with the uncertainty of the future in terms of their academic degrees and career prospects. At the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB), we have witnessed a more regular attendance, with students joining in their classes with greater enthusiasm, consistency, and attention. Sure, it was a bit of a challenge for all of us, having to shift our entire academic operations online within days, enabling both students and staff to utilize and acclimate to the tools, and of course, focusing on the curriculum to adjust to the changes and lend itself to make the teaching-learning process more engaging. But given the reduced distractions, increased flexibility, and minimal commutes, under the current circumstances, it has become widely accepted as the ‘new normal’.

Even then, infrastructure and culture play a predominant role in this phase of transition. In a country where a majority of students in HEIs are from middle-income households, affordability of computers, laptops, or smartphones is a pre-existing issue. Access to internet connections using bulk data surcharges is another major concern, as is the all-too-common disruptions in internet connectivity. Roughly 5-10% students may not even have access to the internet at all, especially those residing in remote or rural areas. And in today’s world, where we are aiming to go digital, national expansion of internet access has become essential to safeguard the continuity of education for our youth. Several telecommunication companies have already rolled out their respective offers for students availing their internet packages, and although that’s a start, we still have a long way to go. We have had several initiatives undertaken by educational institutions, companies, as well as the governmental agencies in tandem, but there is still tremendous scope for doing more and reaching a wider berth amongst the population. Collaborations must be constructed for the greater good, between universities, corporations, and the government, so to be able to subjugate the havoc wreaked by the pandemic on all fronts. With combined efforts, online teaching and learning can be transformed from a forced option to an informed choice. God forbid, this pandemic may surpass 2020 and perhaps outlast us all, or we may find the miraculous cure in the developing vaccines, who knows? But the impact it has had on global economy, people’s livelihood, their health and wellbeing is going to leave its mark. And so, even in these turbulent times of risk and doubt, it is imperative that we work towards equipping the youth with as much competence, agility, and grit that we possibly can, in order to prepare them to be fully capable of overcoming adversity, capitalizing on their potential, and taking advantage of opportunities that the post-Covid world may have in store for them tomorrow.

Higher Education & Research: Ethical Challenges for a Transforming World

Author: Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna

Brief Description:

Higher education is leadership education. The values and virtues practiced in universities heavily influence the future leaders. Many institutions of higher education show excellence not only in academic subjects, as green campuses, with manifold ethics curricula and in their community engagement, but also in the value-orientation of the Board and teaching staff as well as students. But, additionally, in many universities and schools around the world, fundamental values and virtues are violated: cheating, plagiarism, unethical research, nepotism in staff recruitment, corruption in exams, sexual harassment or simply the lack of ethics curricula give then the signal to the future leaders that ‘this is how the world functions’ and only with unethical behavior can one achieve professional success.”

We live in a world in crisis, in a knowledge society, and in an era in which time is fluid, nothing lasts, everything changes and is unstable. When new forms of knowledge and symbolization qualitatively impregnate all basic aspects of a society, or when a society’s structures and processes for reproducing itself are so penetrated by knowledge-dependent operations that information creation operations, symbolic analysis and expert systems are more important than other factors of production, then we’re talking about the knowledge society (Innerarity, 2010). The major challenge facing a knowledge society is the generation of collective intelligence: society’s intelligence as a whole is more important than just having a society composed of multiple individual intelligences.

Bertman (1998) described life in today’s society as a ‘nowist culture’ and a ‘hurried culture’, because we place more importance on brand-new, high-impact things than on those which require exploration. According to Bauman (2007), we have gone from linear time to pointillist time: what matters is the moment, and our identities are continually being built and modified.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has emerged as a paradigm for revising and reorienting today’s education. ESD consists of new forms of knowing and learning how to be human in a different way. This education aims to contribute to the sustainability of personal integrity, or in the words of Sterling (2001), to the integrity of the spirit, heart, head and hands. As argued by Dewey and the educational ‘reconstructionists’, it is often not enough to do things according to custom or habit, that is, to reproduce the existing social system. Instead, new answers must be sought. These principles for lasting human development, formulated at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, imply lessons that largely coincide with the four pillars of education set out in the Delors Report: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be. In the context of ESD, UNESCO (2008) suggested the inclusion of a fifth pillar: learning to transform oneself and society.

Changes aimed at tapping the potential of information and communication technologies in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The goal of such changes is to create what Prensky (2009) calls 'digital wisdom'.

Another set of ethical challenges - integrity and academic honesty. We must be candid about our commitment to research and clear about the benefits that commitment brings to students. Too often, students fail to understand the responsibility a university has in the discovery of new knowledge.

Reengineering Education in the Pandemic: e-Learning at AIUB

Author: Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna

Brief Description:

"We are changing the world with technology – the great growling engine of change that has intertwined itself into everything we do. And the saying holds true, now more than ever, that we are no longer just using technology, we are indeed living it now". From the 1st Industrial Revolution of the 1820 to Industry 4.0 of 2020 – we have evolved! We are residing in a digital era, where emerging and existing technologies have been infused into our homes, ingrained within how we teach and learn, and integrated into the way we work. From healthcare to entertainment to even the basics of communication – could we imagine surviving this pandemic without it? Technology has truly been our saving grace this past year. Had it not created systems and enabled us to avail the convenient use of telemedicine to take care of ourselves and our loved ones, streaming services to find an escape from the chaos, or video calls to stay in touch with friends and family amidst social distancing and lockdowns, we would not be able to function! Shifting class lectures and office work online has been a difficult transition, that needed some getting used to for us, especially for those who have had to manage and balance the hassles of home along with it. But from smart applications & automation to big data analytics to cloud computing to integrated systems & networking, the technologies of today have made our daily lives adaptable to change. Rapidly evolving scenarios in the global landscape has interconnected multidisciplinary environments, making collaboration through information the key today. Arts, business, science, and engineering are no longer independent fields, those lines are now blurred – each is correlated to the other, altogether contingent upon finance, communication, and inevitably, technology to function, develop, and thrive in the intensely competitive world now.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted everything from home to work life worldwide, and education was no different. Not only was majority of the population across the globe imprisoned in their homes, with most working virtually to curb the spread of the virus, but even educational institutions in several countries were also closed, with some operating fully or partially online.

Almost 90% of the world's student population were out of school this year due to Covid-19 closures – leaving nearly 270 million young people to be classified as 'NEET – Not in Education, Employment, or Training' during this pandemic. The impact this had in Bangladesh, was depriving approximately 40 million learners from schools, colleges, and universities, delaying them from joining the workforce and further burdening them with socio-economic constraints.

The pandemic hit us hard, initially bringing our lives as we know it to a complete standstill. Despite the lag time it took for us as a nation to grapple with the effects of the pandemic and find our footing again, it is indeed awe-inspiring for us to witness a once 'least developed country' keep pace with developed nations around the world in our relentless efforts to adapt and adopt to the 'new normal'. Higher educational institutions (HEIs) have sought to rethink, revise, and redesign, not only their mode of teaching but even their overall curriculum, assessments, and teaching-learning methods altogether. This pandemic has indeed been a catalyst for change, that may have taken years to bring about otherwise. Strategic leadership in education has been able to make learning accessible through multiple devices and improved connectivity, with resources that facilitate various means of assessment in an infrastructure that has enabled us to fit all the pieces together. There is still a long way to go with scopes of improving on several grounds, but what we are experiencing now would be impossible to envision in Bangladesh 5-10 years back. From strong stable connectivity to quality affordable devices to enriched digital content & resources, we are now capable of reengineering education.

Both national authorities and decision makers in HEIs needed to adapt very rapidly to both the crisis and a completely new environment. To what extent were they prepared to deal with such an unprecedented situation? What are the factors that allowed some systems and institutions to adapt more rapidly and effectively than others in terms of prevention, preparedness and responses? In other words, what are the factors that foster resilience in HE, and what should we take into account the future of planning HE. Since 2008, Bangladesh's pursuit for digitalization has working towards increasing access to digital public services, which progressed into the education sector in 2010, unlocking a broad spectrum of online learning opportunities like Konnect, Skills Portal, MuktoPaath, etc. The response to Covid-19 accelerated this process even further by implementing a robust multi-modal strategy, incorporating television and radio with mobile devices and the Internet, that allocated additional resources to augment existing tools that could be utilized to reach millions of students across the country.

With the onslaught of the current pandemic, the sluggish pace of digital transformation in education as a service has been accelerated unprecedentedly over the past few months. Catalyzed by the lockdown that imposed and expedited e-learning in Bangladesh, it enforced academic institutions to redesign their business model altogether. Collaborative response prioritizing equity and inclusiveness in education from the government, non-government, development, and private sector was a major factor in ensuring a prompt and proactive response amidst the crisis.

Necessity in our case, has not only invented new ways of teaching and learning, but also altered the apprehensive perception on technology and enforced us to embrace it. The efforts invested in developing a 'Digital Bangladesh' that worked towards improving accessibility and connectivity, has paid off during the pandemic. Although reluctantly, a shift in the orthodox perspectives on pedagogy and assessments have opened up parents, teachers, and students to accept alternative options to conventional education. Today, the education service delivery has had to be altered to adapt to an e-design that digitalizes course curriculum and content, streamlines the lecture delivery process, and automates assessment techniques in the virtual platforms adopted for education in Bangladesh. Given the increasingly global and competitive job market and employers demanding high-skilled technical and managerial professionals, the educational system here has long been overdue for a change. And this multi-faceted approach to teaching and learning should be retained and formalized, together with on-campus activities, in the post-pandemic.

Since its inception, AIUB has been working towards digitalizing its approach to teaching and learning, and with the push of the pandemic, we have had to transition into the virtual arena. We have always strived for continuous improvement, keeping ourselves on our toes, embracing challenges, developing ourselves, and keeping pace with time. Perhaps that was one of the major reasons why we were able to shift our entire operations online within days – AIUB went fully online in 4 days! As it would seem, the 4 walls of a classroom cannot confine the teaching-learning process today. In most cases, the 4 borders of a screen, has the potential to unlock new gateways, branching out into multidisciplinary aspects, expanding the horizon. We, as educators, must teach them to keep learning. To keep adapting. To keep evolving. AIUB has been affiliated with Microsoft Live@Edu for the last 12 years, currently known as Microsoft Office 365 for Education, making it one of most long-standing and constructive collaborations with the technology giant in the country till date. And that very strategic partnership has enabled us to be the first to respond to this crisis amongst HEIs in Bangladesh, and we take great pride in being able to witness the agility of our institution. From the 20th of March 2020, AIUB has successfully shifted all the classes of all 4 Faculties, for both undergraduate and graduate programs, onto the virtual platform of Microsoft Teams Application. Initiating one of the very first efforts of HEIs in Bangladesh going online, AIUB enabled its network of around 13,000 students and teachers to conduct and undertake their lectures and assessments within the safety of their homes.

Particularly in the case of the educational service sector this year, embracing uncharted territories of e-learning in a market that suddenly moved online, has enabled institutions to identify means for delivering their services electronically. And not just academic services like class lectures, quizzes, and assignments, but even administrative services like registration, payments, records, etc., taking the entire service blueprint online. As you can see (or it may be a bit difficult to see), we have mapped out our teaching-and-learning experience on the virtual

platform – from the ‘student customer’ phase where students register for courses, to the physical evidence required for the process, to the ‘student customer’ actions for preparing for the classes of the semester, that brings them to the line of interaction with those responsible for the on-stage tech-actions like the online portal and database management system as well as the on-stage employee actions from the direct faculties, department heads, and program directors, behind whom would be the line of visibility, where the backstage employee actions ensure smooth operation and functionality through the line of internal interaction with the support processes that together coordinate the overall management of the university and its services.

At AIUB, the educational service delivery has been electronically designed to shift from the ‘brick and mortar’ model, exchanging a physical classroom setting with a virtual one. Now, the lectures, assessments, and counselling are delivered through a technological application, to students by faculties, online. In other words, the service is created, delivered, and consumed virtually – and not just the main academic service, but even the supporting services ranging from processing official document to ordering textbooks for courses, in addition to even co-curricular activities to a certain extent! We have to build the bridge of redesigning the course development and structure to meet the demands of upskilled employability in this digitally transforming world with student, faculty, and institutional support. Service innovation is pertinent to not just succeed, but rather survive in the global arena now. Even with engineering thesis projects, it may have been unimaginable to even attempt those online a year back, but now, with the willingness of the students and commitment of the faculty members, we have even overcome that barrier. At AIUB, we have strived to establish a learner-centered approach to designing a holistic online learning experience, with a strategic design that addresses a wide range of multifaceted courses across the spectrum. We have committed to an instructional framework that values both diversity and inclusiveness, ensuring both equality and equity in the access to higher education in Bangladesh, by assimilating the curriculum to digitalization. And that effort is not restrained within the pandemic, but rather is aimed to be implemented on a blended-hybrid format well beyond it.

Covid-19 has brought about several institutions like to welcome ‘resilient teaching models’ to better equip our students and staff for the post-pandemic world. In a way, we have been incorporating ideas from designing for extensibility, flexibility, and redundancy, facilitating the learning experience to become more dynamic in responding to disruptive environments. In essence, it advocates redesigning the tools, content, and forms of interaction between teachers and learners, which is a predominant factor in the current context of education today. It has become a necessity to rethink our teaching-learning model now, identifying key collaborations that must be enhanced, developing a revised and robust course plan, evaluate the technological mechanisms that support the permutable terrain of educational services. “By learning you will teach, and by teaching you will learn. And those who dare to teach must never cease to learn.” Teaching has long been considered a noble profession, that requires a rather special skill set of

being able to essentially transform knowledge. Merely transferring or transposing the knowledge would no longer suffice. Nor would retaining the same knowledge be of any use. Just as the knowledge base must develop with time, so should the methods of teaching and the context of learning. Assimilative learning, where students merely acquire new information that is processed to easily fitted into their preset boxes of knowledge, is no longer conducive. With the advancement of academic levels and progression of practical applications, it is becoming increasingly difficult to organically sustain growth and development in education, without transformative learning, especially in this digital era with emerging technological advancements. The role of learners must emphasize on proactively engaging with challenges and opportunities alike, instead of just being passive recipients of content, while teachers need to become enablers who not only disseminate data, but rather empower and inculcate the avid learners. And in the context of the world today, that entire process, undergoing multiple transitions over the years, a paradigm shift has been made from analog to digital to now, virtual.

The challenge for teaching and learning is getting the learners from what they currently known to a point of greater knowledge and understanding. And in most cases, the distance between the two are considerably significant and the path not always a straight line or step up – learners must acquire new skills and information, but ‘transform’ their approach altogether. Without any prior experience in the field, simply unloading knowledge onto them is a moot point. Teaching must now extract preexisting knowledge, develop it, and enable students to engage with it constructively. Teachers and learners now work in extremely complex environments that are multicultural and technologically advanced focused on in-depth learning, progression, self-regulation, 21st century skills, social and emotional competencies. Both must expand their horizons to accommodate lifelong learning of life skills like critical thinking, creative thinking, collaborating, information literacy, technology literacy, flexibility, and innovative initiatives. And such changes must be made on a broader spectrum so as to widen the access to higher education around the world, considering employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and innovative in the global landscape.

With blended learning, a fundamental ideology of it was that the online materials were not intended to “replace” face-to-face class time, rather, supplement and build upon the content discussed in the classroom. But in case of hybrid learning, the online components are intended to replace a portion of face-to-face class time, which can be either be synchronous, meaning that students are interacting online in real time, such as through class sessions conducted via MS Teams, or asynchronous, meaning that students interact online at different times, such as through online discussions boards. That coalesced with face-to-face interactions infuse dynamic advantages that are difficult, if not impossible to replicate otherwise, creating an incredibly powerful learning opportunity. Creating a synergy between the different interactive experiential collaborative means of education.

In conclusion, a learner-centered approach to design and develop online learning experiences must be kept in place, course strategy and design for a wide range of courses across the Learning Management System (LMS), a commitment to design approaches that value both diversity and inclusiveness, which is based on the foundational principle of equitable use and universities' commitment to developing and implementing processes to ensure that online courses are designed with issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in mind. So, let us come together, as the change agents of our own organizations, as we have today, and pool our efforts in revolutionizing the world we live in today, into the one we wish to see tomorrow.

Impact of COVID-19 on Academic and Psychological aspects of Undergraduate Students in Bangladesh: A Case Study

Author: Md. Mortuza Ahmmmed et al.

Brief Description:

Undergraduate students are considered susceptible in terms of anxiety, drug abuse, depression, and bad dietary habits in comparison to the general people. Their academic and psychological facets have severely been altered due to COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of this study is to identify the effect of COVID-19 on the academic and psychological aspects of undergraduate students in Bangladesh accompanied by other pertinent factors. Data were accumulated from the undergraduate students of the Fall semester 2020-21 of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) by questionnaire provided through Microsoft Forms. The associations among the variables were assessed through the chi-square test. All the statistical analyses required to meet the goals of the study were done through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Nearly one-fourth of the students suffered from anxiety and depression at an extreme level while close to one-third of them suffered quite a bit signaling a tormenting psychological state of the students. Chi-square tests found that depression, anxiety, study hour, assessment of online learning, and income issue due to COVID-19 of the student had a highly significant association with effects on their study and psychological aspects. Failure to address the aforesaid issues during an epidemic might have negative consequences on the academic and psychological aspects in the long run.

Source: <https://ajse.aiub.edu/index.php/ajse/article/view/169>

Depression and Associated Factors among Undergraduate Students of Private Universities in Bangladesh: A Cross-sectional Study

Author: Md. Mortuza Ahmmed et al.

Brief Description:

Depression among the undergraduate students is a psychological well-being issue in the universities around the world. In Bangladesh, just one cross-sectional clear investigation was led by Sultana (2011) to address this issue which was constrained inside the medicine students. The objective of the present investigation is to recognize the elements responsible for depression among the undergraduate students in private universities in Bangladesh. For this purpose, a cross-sectional investigation based on 403 undergraduate students of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) has been led from September 2019 to November 2019 employing stratified examining strategy, where every one of the class-areas has been considered as a stratum. The results of the study show that just over one-third of the students (33.7%) are depressed. Factors like skin complexion, chronic disease status, economic insolvency, ability to fulfill desire, relationship status with family members other than parents, unexpected Higher Secondary result, comfort ability within the university premise, satisfaction with the university program, ability to adjust with the continuously changing socio-cultural trends and survival status of parents have been found to have significant association with depression of the students. Besides, sociological factors like social status, social insecurity and social injustice have shown significant association with depression of the students. The findings of this study will lead future research works regarding the issue of depression among the students at various public as well as private universities in Bangladesh as there has hardly any relevant work been done so far.

Source: <https://www.psychosocial.com/article/PR200314/9863/>

The Impact of Internet on the Youth Leadership

Author: Md. Mortuza Ahmmed et al.

Brief Description:

Depression among the undergraduate students is a psychological well-being issue in the universities around the world. In Bangladesh, just one cross-sectional clear investigation was led by Sultana (2011) to address this issue which was constrained inside the medicine students. The objective of the present investigation is to recognize the elements responsible for depression among the undergraduate students in private universities in Bangladesh. For this purpose, a cross-sectional investigation based on 403 undergraduate students of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) has been led from September 2019 to November 2019 employing stratified examining strategy, where every one of the class-areas has been considered as a stratum. The results of the study show that just over one-third of the students (33.7%) are depressed. Factors like skin complexion, chronic disease status, economic insolvency,

ability to fulfill desire, relationship status with family members other than parents, unexpected Higher Secondary result, comfort ability within the university premise, satisfaction with the university program, ability to adjust with the continuously changing socio-cultural trends and survival status of parents have been found to have significant association with depression of the students. Besides, sociological factors like social status, social insecurity and social injustice have shown significant association with depression of the students. The findings of this study will lead future research works regarding the issue of depression among the students at various public as well as private universities in Bangladesh as there has hardly any relevant work been done so far.

Source: <https://armgpublishing.sumdu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/9.pdf>

Online Education in HEIs in Bangladesh moderated by COVID-19: Modified UTAUT

Author: S A M Manzur Hossain Khan et al.

Brief Description:

The whole world, including Bangladesh is brought to a standstill by the pandemic of COVID-19. The HEIs in Bangladesh also struggled to react to this sudden catastrophe; magnified by uncertainties. Compared to public universities, the private universities of the country managed to react the fastest and adopted sweeping changes in a very short period of time, shifting traditional face-to-face course content/teaching to online content/teaching. The shift to fully functional online teaching learning platform was sudden and with minimum preparation. To investigate the perception of the private university student community in Bangladesh towards this new teaching-learning method, this paper adopted the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model, focusing on stakeholders' behavioral intention, availability of the online platform and resources, prior experience, attitude towards usage and most importantly the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the paper also discusses the issues of social and cultural impact. It was found that all the UTAUT attributes are positively correlated with the Behavioral Intention, and which also positively correlate with students' Use Behavior in adopting online education. The impact of unexpected, and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic also significantly moderated their behavioral intention towards accepting online education.

Is the Pandemic Leading to a Paradigm Shift in Higher Education?

Author: S A M Manzur Hossain Khan et al.

Brief Description:

This book is a collection of short essays, accessible through open access, which takes the interested reader on a tour across the global higher education landscape. It addresses pertinent themes and challenges in higher education. To mark the 70th anniversary of the International Association of Universities (IAU) and its role in higher education since 1950, experts from around the world share their insights into higher education's recent past, present and future.

Source: <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030672447>

Augmented Primitive Data Types of Programming Language

Author: A. G. M. Zaman et al.

Brief Description:

Learning programming language for the first timer is critical and difficult to understand the concepts properly. It will be easier for the beginners to understand the concepts if any visual representation is available for them. Augmented reality (AR) is one of the most preferable medium in recent time. In this paper, we present an experiment of augmentation of primitive data types of C programming language in mobile platform. The visualization includes the structure of the data types, such as, memory block and space taken by each data type.

Source: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3377049.3377127>

Predicting Behavior Trends among Students Based on Personality Traits

Author: Dr. Kamruddin Nur et al.

Brief Description:

With the development of online activities, a remarkable change is observed on human behavior and personality. With the development of machine learning and other statistical techniques, we can define user's personality, preferences and other interests based on their online and daily life activities. In this paper we have wanted to see if machine learning techniques can be applied to predict certain user behavior patterns based on their personality traits. The goal of this paper is to find students preferences on online tutorial vs class lecture and to find particular pattern on students personality traits. We also try to find a student is happy or not based on his personality. From our research we can say that given enough data personality traits can be used to predict other behaviors among humans.

Source: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3377049.3377068>

Identification of Extreme Guilt and Grave Fault in Bengali Language

Author: Dr. Kamruddin Nur et al.

Brief Description:

Numerous study has been done on the Bengali Language for the extraction of information, but none of them deals with extreme guilt (বাংলা দোষ) and grave fault (গুরুচণ্ডালী দোষ) in the Bengali Language. In this study, we have described extreme guilt (বাংলা দোষ) and grave fault

(গুরুচণালী দোষ). We have also used two machine learning methods, such as Logistic Regression (LR) and Support Vector Machine (SVM). We have used count vectorizer for feature extraction. Result analysis shows that SVM has better accuracy than LR. LR and SVM method has 80% and 87% of accuracy for extreme guilt (বাংলা দোষ) respectively and 60% and 85% accuracy for grave fault (গুরুচণালী দোষ) respectively.

Source: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3377049.3377098>

Assessing the Adoption Behavior of E-Learning in a Developing Country in South East Asia: Predicting an Alternative Path to Behavioral Intention to Use

Author: Md. Khaled Amin et al.

Brief Description:

To some extent in Bangladesh, all efforts that were put into availing technology-based learning has not paid off well as most of the learners are reluctant to use the evolving technologies. The major impediments to the use of various e-learning platforms include a lack of self-confidence and inadequate technical skills, along with insufficient knowledge. Previous studies have mainly focused on the adoption behavior of information system and information technology among students, educators, and the profession, but little is known about how to enhance learners' skills and capacity prior to the adoption of the emerging e-learning platforms among the HEIs in Bangladesh. This study aims to apply the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) to explore the protagonist factors that may expedite learners' experience and the skills needed to embrace e-learning. The study analyzed data from 250 learners (students) collected from three purposively selected leading HEIs - the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Daffodil International University (DIU) and the Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) in Bangladesh. The study used a paper-based self-administered questionnaire to conduct a survey comprised of statements (manifest variables), adopted from prior studies on the adoption behavior of Information Technology (IT) and Information System (IS). All responses were initially encoded into SPSS then processed through SMART PLS 2.0, a standard structural equation modeling simulation, for testing the study hypotheses. The findings revealed that the learners' behavioral intention to embrace e-learning is highly infiltrated by the variables: effort expectancy (EE), social influence (SI), and performance expectancy (PE); likewise, variables such as i) Social influence (SI), ii) Effort Expectancy (EE), and iii) Facilitating Condition (FC) enhancing learners perceived behavioral control (PBC) of using e-learning platform prior to forming BIU. The study could contribute to the existing regional literature on e-learning acceptance; also, it could be quite useful for HEIs in Bangladesh for accelerating the e-learning penetration rate within their institution.

Source: <http://ijedict.dec.uwi.edu/viewarticle.php?id=2832>

Impact of Educational Technology on Faculty Performance-A Case Study on AIUB

Author: Md. Khaled Amin et al.

Brief Description:

Indeed, the dissemination of knowledge in a more impactful way during the pandemic is a prime concern for the faculty members at the tertiary level in Bangladesh. Globally, the acceptance of various e-learning platforms has been increased a lot owing to the disruption caused by the pandemic. Generally, those platforms are embedded with modules which can be used to conduct classes, assess performance, arrange webinar/meeting, etc.,. Lately, the importance of deploying e-learning platform has been much stressed by academicians, the government of Bangladesh, and civic society. Dealing with disruptions caused by COVID-19, and opening up the doors for the dissemination of knowledge, the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) took an initiative in mid-march 2020 to conduct all academic and administrative activities online through the use of Microsoft Teams Application. The usage of modern technology has a positive impact on student learning while also improving student interaction (Raja & Nagasubramani, 2018). However, the transition from face-to-face teaching to online has been well adopted by the institutions at the tertiary level availing resources related to various educational technologies, such as MS Team, Google Classroom, Moodle, Cisco Webex, etc., but the role of these platforms in enhancing the performance of the faculty members at the tertiary level is largely unexplored as many attempts have been undertaken to measure students' performance only. During the pandemic where teaching and learning usually take place online, measuring faculty performance is essential. According to Stosic (2015), the appropriate use of technology in teaching may increase faculty members' performance. The faculty members should be more concerned with the techniques of pedagogical learning during the crisis while interacting online with the students as a short amount of time is allocated to transfer skills (Rezbin, Foyasal, and Farheen, 2020). Through the study, we wanted to gauge whether there was a statistically significant change in faculty members' overall performance, which was measured using three instruments: Teacher's Performance Evaluation (TPE), Faculty Performance Evaluation by the management (FPE), and Self Evaluation (SE). The Teacher Performance Evaluation (TPE), Faculty Performance Evaluation (FPE), and Self Evaluation (SE) are matrixes comprising scales ranging from 1 to 5. These matrixes are centered on several aspects of teaching and learning, such as knowledge of the subject matter, instructional strategies and motivation techniques, personality traits, student-faculty relations, and routine matters, etc. About 70% of the full-time FBA faculty members' performances were investigated by the study using secondary data kept in the Dean office as the evaluation is regularly conducted using the questionnaires (both the electronic and hard copy) filled out by the students, by the teachers themselves and by the management. A total of 54 faculty members' documents (e.g. TPE, SE, and FPE) were analyzed to mark the change. A paired-samples t-test was opted for to gauge the difference between the means of the two designs estimated from two different occasions: Time 1(before the pandemic) and Time 2 (during the pandemic). Each of the measures was assessed at Time 1 (early March 2020) and then again at

Time 2 (late September 2020), after exposing the teachers to the newly introduced licensed e-learning platform, named MS Team. Results estimated a statistically significant decrease in the TPE scores from Time 1 to Time 2. Similarly, results indicated a statistically insignificant increase in both the FPA and SE scores from Time 1 to Time 2. The study has a meaningful impact on academia as it reveals the process of measuring faculty members' performance during the pandemic. The study also contributes to the literature in the field of performance measurement, adoption of education technologies. The study can further be extended to signify the factors causing the decrease in performance during the pandemic.

Source:

<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1068&context=m3publishing#page=71>

HOW DOES DIGITIZATION IMPACT ON THE FORMATION OF BANGLADESHI LEARNERS' INTERPERSONAL SKILLS?

Author: Md. Khaled Amin et al.

Brief Description:

The study envisages as certaining whether the initiatives embraced by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have impact on the formation of the interpersonal skills among the learners in Bangladesh or not. Considering cross sectional approach as research method and incorporating self-administered questionnaire as research instruments, a total of one hundred respondents (i.e. students and educators), chosen by the judgement of the researchers, from sixteen HEIs of Bangladesh were surveyed. The survey data were analyzed through a structured equation modeling simulation, namely SMART PLS 2.0. At first, all scales, which were adopted from prior studies and reworded to fit into the context, were validated using the standard indicators followed by the process of testing hypotheses. Empirical evidence revealed that behavioral factors: interactivity, collaboration, self-efficacy impacted positively on the development of learners' interpersonal skills, such as teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, and persuasion. However, the study also found some factors: cost, lack of training facility, poor infrastructure, high level of plagiarism, and lack of motivation, which were manifested as obstacles to digital transformation in HEIs in Bangladesh. Result of the study may provide educators and policy makers with a solid base for setting up e-learning within the institution and explore the main areas of improvement that should be taken into consideration. The study has also contributed to the existing literature unfolding behavior related to the development of professional skills

Source: https://iba-du.edu/upload_images/Vol.40_No.2_Article%202.pdf

Roles of Social Influence in Expediting Online Learning Acceptance: A Preliminary Study on Bangladeshi Learners

Author: Md. Khaled Amin et al.

Brief Description:

Higher education institutions (HEIs) around the world tend to incorporate various online learning platforms, such as Moodle, Google Classroom, Blackboard, Canvas, Virtual University Expert System (VUES), with the aim of shaping academic activities, which are knowledge sharing and knowledge creating. Despite its numerous benefits and usefulness highlighted in literature, majority are hesitant and reluctant to use online learning platforms available in Bangladesh. Alternatively, scholars from diverse disciplines have identified the construct 'social influence' as a prevailing predictor of the variable 'behavioral intention' to adopt numerous online platforms: blogs, e-services, online game and the predictor, social influence, plays a substantial role in embracing online learning as well as communicating the usefulness of various e-learning platforms. The study, therefore, is spearheaded to ascertain the role of social influence in facilitating learners' behavioral intention to accept online learning and communicating the usefulness of the e-learning in Bangladesh. To manifest the effect that one variable has on another, the study analyzed data of one hundred respondents surveyed randomly and confirmed the existence of the significant relationships: social influence (SI) and behavioral intention (BI), social influence (SI) and perceived usefulness (PU) in facilitating online learning acceptance, which provides an outline to the educators to comprehend behavior of the learners. The result of the study may also assist the educators and administrators to devise useful initiatives to intensify penetration rate of using online learning within the institution in Bangladesh. The research further adds to the existing literature that explains adoption and acceptance behavior of online education.

Source: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3377049.3377087>

Computational Design Thinking; Scripting the local', for the book 'Aspirations and Ideas: Designing with Context

Author: Ashik Vaskor Mannan et al.

Brief Description:

Contemporary architecture is a complex phenomenon. It needs extensive study to grasp the whole scenario. It seems to an apparently fashionable, utopian, and baseless, clueless invention, but it has strong grounds to be glitzy. These populist flashy forms have a strong relation with our contemporary emerging behavior; it is very connected with our performative lifestyle. After experiencing the age of overpowering modernism, we find a unique renewal in our lifestyle, also in the field of architecture. Modernism has given us a manifesto. Its logo centric attitude brings us together under an expansive shade, where diverse people with different thoughts shelter

together to be universal. But Postmodernism talks in other ways. We can relate the French philosopher Michel Foucault's words with postmodern fact: "Truth is a thing of this world: it is produced only by virtue of multiple forms of constraint. And it induces regular effects of power. Each society has its regime of truth, its "general politics" of truth: that is, the types of discourse which it accepts and makes function as true; the mechanisms and instances which enable one to distinguish true and false statements, the means by which each is sanctioned; the techniques and procedures accorded value in the acquisition of truth; the status of those who are charged with saying what counts as true" (Foucault, 1991). Truth is not absolute, it is contextual. It is the result of relationship among sign. Subsequently everything is ambiguous. This Postmodernism does not rely on mega-narrative; it has no grand truth, it is a nonlinear insolence- always with some possibilities. It invites us under many small individual shades with different ideas from different vicinities rather than a grand shade like Modernism. While Modernism tends to convey us towards enlightenment, Postmodernism is like a vagabond. With different thoughts, we can choose different walkways with no explicit direction. At a time when words like modernism and minimalism have lost their contemporary ring, a new style of architectural practice has become popular which deals in local connections with global techniques. As regionalism is an idea stuck to vernacular, and modernism is about total newness, architectural turf was looking for fresh intellectual approaches. Theorist Kenneth Frampton in the early 1980s presented the notion of critical regionalism as a theoretical construct that could offer an alternative to the populist drive of architectural postmodernism in challenging the tenets of high modernism. Site-sensitivity was, in fact, a central tenet for Frampton's notion of critical regionalism as an architectural approach that was able to bring together the best from universal civilization and local cultures. The architect should enter "a dialectical relation with nature," taking clues from the topography and avoiding bulldozing in order to flatten space being the elementary reflection. (Kenneth Frampton, towards a Critical Regionalism) He believes this move towards a critical regionalism can recapture a lost sense of "place." A number of construction and studio works are inclined to these critical thoughts. "Critical regionalism provided the prospect and opportunity for a truly reflective and critical response to the interconnections between landscape and architecture, between the 'global' and the 'local,' between 'nature' and 'culture,' between here and there." (Jacky Bowring and Simon Swaffield) But again, architects deal with the irregularities of the physical landscape in practice rather than by how they employ local culture. The American thinker Fredric Jameson came across Frampton's notion of Critical Regionalism as part of his interest in Postmodernism as the specialization of culture under the pressure of organized capitalism. It is this distance from "global modernization" that somehow pushes critical regionalist architectural approaches to a condition of ambivalence. He argues that "now the 'regional' as such becomes the business of global American Disneyland-related corporations, who will redo your own native architecture for you more exactly than you can do it yourself" (Jameson, 1997). He poses the somewhat rhetorical final question: Is global difference the same as global identity today? The question appears to be a direct response to Critical Regionalism's tendency towards the paradoxical creation of a regionally based "world culture." After the 1990s, an unprecedented transformation has been taking place in the core of architectural practice. The causes include the impact of technology,

information systems, and production processes. Hence, we can discover a shift in the process of designing. Digital technologies have come to play a major role in architectural production. In the domain of digital architecture, even though it does not explicitly discuss the computer, it is significant because it establishes context for the emergence of digital architecture. This context of architecture is described by Neil Leach, architect and cultural theorist, as “Architectural design reduced to the superficial play of empty, seductive forms and philosophy is appropriated as an intellectual veneer to justify forms.” (The Anaesthetics of Architecture) Today, we are witnessing a fresh and highly innovative vocabulary of architectural forms, generated by the algorithmic potential of the computer. Life force within nature, from cellular organization to the swarming and flocking behavior of insects, plant, and animal life neural system-these parametric behaviors within nature are enhancing the understanding of how human beings themselves behave. Just as we have seen biochemistry emerge out of chemistry, biotechnology out of technology, so too we are beginning to see a form of “bio-philosophy” emerge with computer simulation taking hold within philosophical debate in the architectural paradigm. Here we find process is privileged over representation and performance over beauty. This is ‘bio philosophy’(A branch of philosophy dealing with epistemological, metaphysical, and ethical issues in the biological and biomedical sciences. [HTTPS://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/biophilosophy](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/biophilosophy)) a bottom-up process, where performances become the key issue for form generation. An emerging group of young architects is using the technique of scripting-the manipulation of digital code-to produce radically innovative architectural environments. Code becomes an important tool for design. The apparent primacy of these codes opens up the possibility of modeling systems through digital means and, with it, the possibility of using digital means to breed structures. A new generation of structures is being created that recognize the potential of the computer not just as a sophisticated drafting and rendering tool, but as a potentially powerful tool in the generation of designs themselves. By scripting nature and using local parameters, these structures are producing an interesting result for architecture which connects with local and global phenomena. A relation has been established with performative concern and resultant form.

Biology provides one of the major sources of inspiration for research into parametric in architecture. Nature operates largely through logic of optimization, and can therefore offer important lessons for architects. The more we address parameters in the design process; the more likely it is that we will get a flawless bottom-up result. So, a process-based architectural creation becomes a smarter choice for the new-generation designers. They will not heavily rely on visual representation in architecture but will generate efficient buildings through performative logic based on parameters that will be written into a script through code, and the results will be automatically optimized. The logic of scripting is to focus more on process than representation and more on performance than appearance. Neil Leach argued, in our contemporary times, we find a curious reworking of the nineteenth century debate between the picturesque and the sublime. In place of the picturesque, we need only to read a society through images, a surface-based world of “the stuff that surrounds you.” But relatively little attention has been paid to the consequent fascination for the sublime, which one might argue, is inextricably

linked to the obsession with the image, a fascination that incorporates the sublime within the culture of the background image. In such a culture, the sublime always threatens to slide into the subliminal. The sublime here might be understood not simply in terms of the vast and the enormous, but also in terms of whatever is transgressed from the common standards-the shocking, the awesome, and the extreme. The sublime comes to represent a transcendence of the norm, an obscene fascination for excess, which begins to inform all manner of cultural life, from popular fashion to high art. It is not a case of the sublime versus the beautiful, but the sublime as the beautiful. The “contextbd.com” website, launched in 2015, is likely to open up a plethora of studio works from different schools. The students are beginning to explore similar principles of performance-based architectural practice and regionalist critical projects through their own works under individualistic shades of philosophy. These projects are the introduction to our future architecture where they are “scripting our local” with global consequence.

Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Aspirations-Ideas-Saimum-Mohammad-Zakiul/dp/9845062792>

Content and language integrated learning: A case study on simultaneous teaching of English literature and language in a private university in Bangladesh

Author: Md. Asif Kamal et al.

Brief Description:

This Handbook is a comprehensive overview of English language education in Bangladesh. Presenting descriptive, theoretical, and empirical chapters as well as case studies, this Handbook, on the one hand, provides a comprehensive view of the English language teaching and learning scenario in Bangladesh, and on the other hand comes up with suggestions for possible decolonisation and de-eliticisation of English in Bangladesh. The Handbook explores a wide range of diverse endogenous and exogenous topics, all related to English language teaching and learning in Bangladesh, and acquaints readers with different perspectives, operating from the macro to the micro levels. The theoretical frameworks used are drawn from applied linguistics, education, sociology, political science, critical geography, cultural studies, psychology, and economics. The chapters examine how much generalisability the theories have for the context of Bangladesh and how the empirical data can be interpreted through different theoretical lenses. There are six sections in the Handbook covering different dynamics of English language education practices in Bangladesh, from history, policy and practice to assessment, pedagogy and identity. It is an invaluable reference source for students, researchers, and policy makers interested in English language, ELT, TESOL, and applied linguistics.

Source: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-English-Language-Education-in-Bangladesh/Sultana-Roshid-Haider-Kabir-Khan/p/book/9780367405755>

Key Factors that Boost the Effectiveness of Virtual Teamwork in Online Higher Education

Author: Dr. Akinul Islam Jony et al.

Brief Description:

A globalized nature of today's business along with the advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has made virtual teamwork a significantly important skill to the employer as well as to the future graduates for their professional career success. At the same time, it is believed that higher education is the institutional foundation for a graduate to be prepared for his/her professional career. But the key factors that affect the effectiveness of virtual teamwork development are still not explored enough in the field of online higher education. Therefore, this paper investigates the key factors to develop effective virtual teamwork in online higher education which eventually proposed as a conceptual model. This conceptual model of the key factors of virtual teamwork is derived based on the existing literature. The application of this model can help future graduates from online higher education to gain the required skills, knowledge, and ability to participate in virtual teamwork successfully and foster their early success in their professional careers. It can be used in the evaluation of a virtual team. Also, top managerial personnel of a globalized company can apply this model for the management of virtual teamwork.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-62066-0_15

An Evaluation of Virtual Teamwork Model in Online Higher Education

Author: Dr. Akinul Islam Jony et al.

Brief Description:

Virtual teamwork is considered as one of the key skills to an employer in the recruitment process because of the globalization of business and technological advancement. The company needs employees skilled in virtual teamwork to run their globalized business process. So, it becomes important for graduates to have good skills, knowledge, and ability of virtual teamwork through their higher education before starting their professional careers. Therefore, this paper is going to evaluate a virtual teamwork model which was proposed for developing an effective virtual teamwork in the context of online higher education so that graduate can achieve a sound knowledge and skills about virtual teamwork. The model is assessed by applying the partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) statistical technique to validate the model's statistical significance. The evaluation of the model shows that the model has a significant positive impact on the effectiveness of virtual teamwork in online higher education. Hence, it is believed that the application of the model would be useful to enhance the knowledge, skills, and ability of future graduates in online higher education, and can foster their early success in their professional career. Also, any company which practiced virtual teamwork in their business process can be benefited from this model for the better management of their virtual teams.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-62066-0_16

A PLS-SEM Approach in Evaluating a Virtual Teamwork Model in Online Higher Education: Why and How?

Author: Dr. Akinul Islam Jony et al.

Brief Description:

The Statistical analysis tool is considered an essential tool for the research study in the social science domain. Of which partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) is a second-generation statistical modeling technique to be used for developing theories in exploratory research. That's why PLS-SEM is considered to be used in the research field of education and ICT to validate a conceptual model of virtual teamwork in the context of online higher education. However, there should have a clear justification for choosing PLS-SEM for particular research. Also, a systematic procedure is needed to apply it to report the analysis and evaluation appropriately. Therefore, this paper mainly aims to present the reasons for choosing PLS-SEM statistical method for evaluating a virtual teamwork model in online higher education, and how to apply this method to evaluate or assess the validity of the model. Though the intent of this paper is to provide a comprehensive guideline about PLS-SEM for evaluating a virtual teamwork model in online higher education it can also be useful for the other research fields. So, the outcome of this paper will help researchers in any field for designing their research who considered applying PLS-SEM in their research study. Also, a new researcher will find it as a comprehensive overview of PLS-SEM, and why and how to apply PLS-SEM in research work.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-62066-0_17

Effective Virtual Teamwork Development in Higher Education: A Systematic Literature Review

Author: Dr. Akinul Islam Jony et al.

Brief Description:

The evolution of technological growth and the globalized nature of today's world makes virtual teamwork as one of the building blocks of a successful organization. As a consequence, it rationale the importance of developing virtual teamwork in the higher education arena because it has been considered that future graduates are prepared through their higher education for their foreseeable professional life. Therefore, this paper presents a systematic review on developing virtual teamwork in the context of higher education in order to systematically synthesis and determine what is already know according to the state-of-the-knowledge and find out the gaps that need to focus in the academic domain. More specifically, this paper will present a state-of-the-art on the effective virtual teamwork development in the domain of education, higher education, or university-level education. The Web of Science database has been considered for carrying out this systematic review which is one of the most used and popular databases for conducting research on a particular field of interests. The findings of the reviewed

literature show the necessity or importance of integrating virtual teamwork in higher education as well as discusses individual factor and leadership effects on the performance or effectiveness of virtual teamwork. However, there are not any studies that researched the development of effective virtual teamwork in higher education. The systematic literature review on this research subject, therefore, is the primary objective of this research work. document.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21125/edulearn.2019.0285>

Key Performance Indicators of Virtual Teamwork: A Conceptual Framework

Author: Dr. Akinul Islam Jony et al.

Brief Description:

A rising growth of technology and the globalization of business have increased the demands for effective development of teamwork in a virtual context. To succeed in this, a considerable attention to the key factors that influence the performance of Virtual Teamwork (VT) is needed. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to investigate the main factors that will be the key performance indicators of VT, and then to propose a conceptual framework of those key performance indicators along with its coding scheme. This framework will be designed with the intention of promoting in Higher Education (HE) so that graduates can acquire the necessary skills, ability, and knowledge of VT before going to their occupation sector and can avail early success in their career. A qualitative research method was followed in this article for analyzing the contents of related literature in order to explore, understand, and summarize the concept of key factors that improve the performance in VT. This framework can also be used to assess the overall performance of a virtual team, as well as an individual team member by evaluating those key factors both in educational and business environment for evaluating purpose. Also, top managerial positions in the business sector can use this knowledge to better manage their virtual team and enhance the success of VT.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21125/iceri.2018.2153>

ICT in Higher Education: Wiki-based Reflection to Promote Deeper Thinking Levels

Author: Dr. Akinul Islam Jony et al.

Brief Description:

The main purpose of higher education is to produce skilled graduates so that they can think critically and solve real world problems. Presenting a group-based solution in a face-to-face class is a common activity in the higher education classroom where other students/peers can actively participate in the follow-up question/answer sessions. Working out a solution together as a group engages students' independent thinking ability and promotes active learning. This means, that

they have the opportunity to reflect on their own thinking and take it to deeper levels of thinking. However, recent trends show that online support to the higher education class - a form of blended learning is growing day by day. This paper proposes a wiki-based (one of the ICT tools) reflection method to follow up regular existing face-to-face classroom presentation activities to promote deeper thinking levels of students in higher education. In this article, Lee's Model of thinking levels is used for analyzing the thinking levels of students during their wiki work. The findings of this research work (through experiments) show that the wiki-based reflection method could be an effective way to promote thinking levels of students and hence can be used as a blended learning model to promote reflective and in-depth thinking.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5815/ijmecs.2017.04.05>

Menace of Fake News Amid Pandemic – What to do?

Author: Rani Ellen V. Ramos et al.

Brief Description:

Remembering the controversial “My Lai incident” during the Vietnam war on March 16, 1968, a simple semantic misunderstanding can lead to a disastrous failure in communication, like fallacies on comprehension on the part of the receiver. Fifty-two years ago, First Lieutenant William L. “Rusty” Calley, Jr., of the US Army, together with his entire platoon, massacred at least 500 Vietnamese civilians including old folks, women, and babies. During the ensuing war crime investigation, it was discovered that the officers who disseminated the messages to the soldiers on the ground were unclear in the orders that they gave, resulting in a fatal failure in communication that cost the lives of all the innocent villagers instead of sparing them. The result of this tragic blunder was a poignant lesson to the US military might and contributed not in a small way to losing a contentious war. This infamous “My Lai incident” is often alluded to and gamified during seminars or team building workshops where every member of a team will pass on the message of the leader or the first in line to the next person behind him/her until it reaches the last member. The latter will then reveal to the leader the message he got from all his team members. As it always happens, the original message is always corrupted if not totally turned around in a full 360-degree change from the original communication. Nobody, more often than not, has yet relayed any message in toto in any similar exercise in communication. This incident is no different in outcome from propagating fake news, phony gossips, or internet and online hoaxes. The effects of these nefarious media activities have demonstrated adverse and deceptive influence in the formation of public opinion especially on the more impressionable sectors of society. It is incontestable that mass media has proven itself to be the most potent mode of disseminating information and facts by which public opinion is formed and influenced. An essential part of our daily lives is to have access to information from the different conduits of media. The more reliable the source, the more defined, and sound are the opinions formed by the public. Out of this information disseminated by media, courses of action and decisions are

made by the people who rely on their accuracy. Let us by example take a look at how a reliable weather forecast can influence the order of the day of the common people. A wrong weather broadcast can adversely affect and lead to unnecessary inconvenience in their itineraries and mobility. Let us put this in the context of a global pandemic where lives in the thousands are at stake every single day. A piece of single erroneous information or an unfounded warning can stir a public panic to an alarming level in the same way that an understatement of the real situation can mislead people and stand in harm's way unknowingly. Media is at the frontline of this global holocaust as much as the medical sector and agencies are. Mass communication is vital in keeping the people informed and updated on the developments of COVID-19 virus pandemic. Governments and global health agencies have to work hand and hand with media, local and international, in gathering crucial information that will help them frame the bigger picture to base their course of actions on. Public information depends heavily on media pronouncements on risk avoidance, personal safety, and the latest government safety guidelines such as the ongoing community quarantines and lockdowns happening in over 200 affected countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) tries to check this kind of deception in formal news reports and citizen journalism by creating an online website and includes a "Scam Alert" and "Myth Busters" section that guards against various disinformation, myths, and allegations about the corona virus. Some cases range from promising claims of discoveries of untested medications by authorized Food and Drug control bodies to unfounded hearsay suggesting that the virus can be transmitted through mosquito bites. According to "Mr. Guy Berger, Director for Policies and Strategies regarding Communication and Information at UNESCO, some disinformation even has a racist, or xenophobic overtones like some people believe, wrongly, that young people or those of African descent are immune." (UN News, 2020). Other allegories also relate to climates and weathers, wherein the virus can be killed in both cold and hot temperatures, and that countries that are about to have their summer seasons need not worry too much about the spread of the virus. There is an alarming preponderance of such misleading information in the midst of this global crisis that they might put people in harm's way rather than help in the solution of the problem. There are probably a lot of possible motives for these increasing disinformation like motives to discredit government agencies or undermine efforts of authorities concerned, unscrupulous money-making schemes to take advantage of the situation, or maybe just plain mischief for media. Whatever the motives are of the people misinforming the public intentionally or unintentionally, the bottom line is that the fake news and all misinformation campaigns without any validation or proof are putting lives at risk and spreading panic to the public. As Mr. Berger noted, "those who do so, play on emotions, fears, prejudices, and ignorance, and claim to bring meaning and certainty to a reality that is complex, challenging, and fast-changing." (UN News, 2020)

The media is not solely to be criticized in this on-going concern on fake news and disinformation. A big part of the problem comes from citizen journalism or participatory news reporting when people freely use social media to propagate fake news, wittingly, or unwittingly. Either way, we are personally responsible to filter and assess all facts or data that we are receiving daily. With

tens of millions of internet users and broadcast media consumers, everyone who has access to information must tread with caution. The public should be made more aware of the dangers of fake news and be critical of the social sites they visit online and the reliability of the news they receive. Information from media sources is now a critical service that we need to be careful with. Recognition for networks and sources that have established for themselves a good reputation for the validity of facts should be made known to the consumers of information. The presumption of regularity must be given to these harbingers of truth so that they will be encouraged to maintain their standards. These are trying times when the truth is separated from fake news and half-truths by a very thin line. An awareness of the difference may not just lead to a simple misconception. It may mean life and death in the context of this gruesome threat to the health of the general public.

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Source: <https://saradin.news/english/menace-of-fake-news-amid-pandemic-what-to-do/>

The Art of Gamification

Author: Rani Ellen V. Ramos et al.

Brief Description:

It is commonly believed that the future of the education system is already gearing towards the application of the virtual learning process that most educational institutions globally are currently using. The American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) has responded to this immediately and the program has come to fruition earlier than anticipated. Some universities in different countries have already been offering online graduate, post-graduate, and short courses for the past few years and have proven effective and convenient by the people who availed of this educational system. This is a dynamic process and the inevitable technological advancement has made learning and education easily available and at arms reach. I took up some short courses with certification in two years and have enjoyed the learning experience immensely. The first online course I took in Coursera was called “Gamification”, from The Wharton University of Pennsylvania, and quite timely to apply in the virtual classroom especially having more than 40 students in one course.

Ever since our university made the bold move to be the first to respond to the idea of inculcating online classes, the idea of using “Gamification” in my courses has certainly crossed my mind. “Gamification” has been around for a couple of years now and a popular technique in countries such as the USA. This idea is very timely for both the digital native generation and the digital migrants wherein online games and streaming are the most popular entertainment these days. So, what is this intriguing “Gamification”? Professor Kevin Werbach of The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania has explained the many uses of the emerging field of gamification wherein game designers use the techniques of game applications in solving problems in different fields such as education, business, and health, among other things. According to Werbach, “Gamification is about learning from games, not just in the sense of learning about the games themselves, but understanding what makes the games successful. Also, understanding what makes the games engaging, understanding what games can do, and why games have power, then taking those techniques, and thoughtfully applying them to other situations which are not themselves games” (Coursera, 2017).

A blended classroom seems to be the ideal technique to give students a variety of experiences in both traditional and modern styles of learning. “Gamification” is just one of the ways to engage students in learning and can be valuable in enhancing creativity and critical thinking for both teachers and the students. There are available gamification apps and websites online but one can also opt to create the different components and forms in using it for different situations. Transforming the classroom into one big adventure means involving team works and applying game mechanics in solving problems incorporated in the daily lessons or discussions.

The main concern of virtual classes is sustaining the interest of students and how the teacher can prolong the attention of every individual throughout the required time duration per class, so I have been gradually trying to introduce and incorporate “Gamification” in one of my courses and used a medieval- themed fantasy world storyline. I used some graphics of game assets and elements from the net like a map of an entire kingdom and separated them by states. I named the kingdom the “Justice Kingdom” since the class was made up of law students. The students teamed up in four groups with a leader of their choice as their heads of state and came up with titles for their respective kingdoms. They were assigned different designs of castles for each kingdom and crown avatars for their rulers. Each member has their leaderboards and the columns and rows are classified with the different components for computing marks. Every time they excel in any of the given activities or assessments, they get rewarded with badges that have specific equivalent incentives.

In games, one must achieve the objectives and follow the mechanics to receive interesting and successful results. It’s innate in humans to be competitive and always up for challenges and using gamified class activities assists in strengthening teamwork, camaraderie, problem-solving, and collaboration among classmates and friends. In this way, it encourages them to level up and aspire to do better in the next activity and gives them the satisfaction of preparing for the next battle to claim their rewards. The goal is to create an immersive experience to inspire and

motivate them to get involved and study harder for the next level. The interactive leaderboards and achievement charts are ways to show direct and clear immediate feedback on the students' progress. As Prof. Werbach explained in one of his sessions, "Seeing the points received and the level of their performance, that in itself becomes a motivator. The action produces the feedback, then the feedback becomes a form of motivation, and the motivation leads to more actions." Some students were inspired to pro-actively present works beyond what was expected of them and developed more confidence in accomplishing assigned tasks.

"Gamification" is a broad area to trifle with and I have barely touched the very core of its entirety and go deep into how it can be applied in interesting ways. It has limitations and concerns and may or may not work in certain subjects or courses and outside of the traditional formal education system, but if designed right, it can be an integral part of the education process. There are a lot of factors to consider applying the idea of gamification in the evolution of blended learning, and this is just one of the many ideas that can be applied in mundane classroom tasks to promote motivational and fun learning that is intrinsically rewarding in the end, not just to the students but to the teachers as well

Source:

https://businesspostbd.com/epaper/post/2021/07/27/05/05_101?fbclid=IwAR3ZdtKxv4cSsB8z1numGXUBVofB-jzaV30ZafFKBLp1j5wzlp-r37ZoYFw

Digital and Traditional Pedagogy In Education

Author: Nelson Udaundo et al.

Brief Description:

In the past couple of decades, the leaps and bounds in digital media technology has radically changed the means of distribution of information and entertainment. There has been and still is a continuing exodus of printed information, books, news, the visual arts and entertainment into the digital platform on a global scale. As internet and computing devices driven by algorithms which establish user patterns and behavior, offer solutions to our needs, the deeper we get entrenched into this digital age. As the latest advances in media technology continue to collide and lock arms with the ever growing informative content in the cyber highways, It is inevitable that most if not all education institutions and other centers of higher learning as well, will be swayed into this global paradigm shift in information and skills training delivery. The Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) have enticed thousands upon thousands of students who learn skills and knowledge from a broad spectrum of online courses and ever since Stanford University opened the first MOOC program in 2011. Today, online delivery centers like Coursera and Udemy have rosters of educational institutions under their wings and offers hundreds of thousands of courses to millions of students worldwide. In 2014, Duke University offered an online course entitled "The History and Future of Higher Education" which was followed by 18,000 participants

from all over the world. The course traced and outlined the development of educational systems from the ancients to the Harvadian model of training the mind in creating adequate intellectual filters, the French educational system which is disciplinary and hierarchical learning of the arts and crafts, the British educational system that adapted the French system and the German Humboldtian model of focusing in the production of new knowledge through research and experimentation. All these systems produced the underpinning system of education that we know today and are carried on in today's delivery of knowledge that is rapidly migrating to full digital platform. Public sites like Wikipedia alone boasts of 23 million articles translated in 300 languages being updated continuously by a global community of knowledge producers. Google has 20 million online books and more are published daily. This deluge of information online resulted in an unprecedented scale of engagement both from the users and producers of information. Indeed, the global educational scenario is being restructured at a pace never imagined before. It might be just a matter of time when classrooms and contact sessions will be meant more as research facilities and for guidance of what was acquired outside the classroom and not anymore for direct learning. What used to be complementary knowledge acquired from online resources may become the main source of education while contact sessions in the premises of institutions may later serve as mere reinforcements of what was learned online. Day by day, the growing popularity and advantages of what you may call digital pedagogy are convincing more and more people. To name a few advantages, the digital education platform raises social intelligence that results from a deeper and more direct way of getting and eliciting reactions among online peers in the learning process through forums and community interactions online. Adaptive and cross-cultural competencies are honed as the ability to operate in different cultural settings develops and proficiency in thinking rises, in dealing with solutions beyond rote and repetition that traditional education systems offer. The new-media literacy brings about critical thought, a higher level of thinking that uses new media forms and techniques in assessing knowledge received. Yet despite the innumerable positive changes that the digital paradigm offers, a question begs to be answered. Beyond the revolutionary shift and the overwhelming rivers of information and knowledge flooding the cyberspace that benefits everyone and anyone, how does this global digitization of education resolve the inculcation of the affective dimension of learning. While we agree that gargantuan leaps have been made in the raising the bar of knowledge acquisition and skills development through a democratized and easy to reach media, can we same for the development of common and core attitudes vital in the formation of a professional in any field of endeavor in this digital era? Are we risking a future of cyber educated world populations in with sky-high "S" and "K" but without an "A"? How can digital pedagogy assure us that even without the presence of a warm bodied mentor in front of a student, the proper affective and moral components of a holistic education, be instilled with the upcoming digital world order? This is a question which up to now, no concrete and valid answer has been arrived at. No hard data and valid statistics are available to provide response to this question. New and emerging technologies are discovered but the human aspect and tangible life of a teacher who understands and appreciates his sacrifices, patience and love have not yet been challenged or replaced inside the classroom. The teacher's ability to touch the lives of the

students; the molding and honing the character of the students to become upright individuals; the creativity and innovativeness of the teachers in imparting knowledge with utmost enthusiasm and motivation for effective teaching and learning are the many facets of a teacher which cannot be equated or replaced by a nonhuman technology. It is still the human person like a teacher can create this technology and approaches work to maximize its impact when utilized or applied in the teaching and learning process. On the other hand, technology aided teaching and learning becomes interesting, facilitating and stimulating. However, the improper use of these technologies like those in the social media has misled the students in their study habits and imbalance way of life. They have forgotten the rudiments of learning which creates a strong foundation for sustainable and continuous application of the 3 learning domains: cognitive knowledge, psychomotor skills and affective or attitude/behavior. Learners become dependent on these gadgets rather than becoming self-reliant and independent thinker. When these technologies become dysfunctional, students are at a lost and the application of knowledge becomes difficult. It is, therefore, necessary to repackaging this technology to suit the needs of the learners and according to the requirements of the teachers. Operationally, pedagogy is an emergent expression of teaching, actual situation that takes place when a teacher begins to interact with students; the process of implementing and conducting the planned instructional experience.

For me, it is more of an art rather than a science. Sometimes, it is the combination of both depending on how you impart knowledge to make sure that learning takes place in the learners. In this regard, let the use of technology in the digital pedagogy compliment with the traditional method or approach of teaching adhering to some principles of teaching that the students are the centerpiece of all the efforts of development in the university. Start teaching where the child is. Make instruction interactive and participatory to allow students to express their ideas. Consider or understand individual differences; always start teaching with motivation to arouse the interest of the learners. These principles of teaching cannot be provided by just applying digital pedagogy. In short, teacher knows best. With this context, under the able and competent teachers, learning becomes more enriched, interesting and challenging. The critical and analytical minds of the students should be cultivated using both the traditional and digital pedagogy, the end result is a learned individual who is ready to match or respond to the complex demands and requirements of the job market and the society.

Source: <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/442042/Digital-and-Traditional-Pedagogy-in-Education>

Why and how Business graduates should learn the fundamentals of graphics and animation?

Author: Nelson Udaundo et al.

Brief Description:

In the light of the pandemic crisis the world's economies are facing today, businesses of sizes and shapes are being brought down to its knees. Stock trading has fallen to level reminiscent of the pre-war depression of 1930. Establishments from the biggest corporations to the smallest corner stores are practically getting only a fraction of what they used to make if not totally nil. Countries have locked down their borders to the minimum, quarantine measures have been enhanced and people are confined to their homes in this concerted fight against the deadly virus. In the thick of these gruesome conditions, social distancing and work stoppages have become a new norm in the hope of flattening a very steep curve of infections and a harvest of deaths. Businesses are driven to home-based operations wherever possible and operations are conducted remotely but connected in order to deliver goods and services. Given this global scenario, the digital communications and information technologies become the nerve center of continuing commercial operations.

Digital Content creators has never been more important than it is today due to dramatic digital consumption brought about by the paradigm shift in a post-covid19 economy. In the educational landscape, business students in particular should leverage degree with graphics design skills to align with the fourth industrial revolution because every reputable business will hire more digital content marketers to achieve their brand objective in a struggling economy. Employers require tech savvy and well-rounded staff familiar both artistic and digital skills to achieve communication excellence and effective branding. They can create quick prototypes and other visual presentations for stakeholders to understand their expectations and can convey a comprehensive roadmap in return. Aim of this article is to illustrate why graduates should be equipped with illustration, photoshop, animation skills to sell themselves in the challenging future job market and how those skills can be acquired. Graphics design is an easily adaptable skill for business graduates because they possess all the requirements that graphic designers requires for a successful career. For example, they can define Key Performance Indicators (KPI), understand value of communication, exercise critical problem-solving abilities and apply their case analysis abilities to create and deliver the right content to the right people at the Right Time. Graphic designers' job is not only creating great looking images and executing high quality work, but also It is also requiring lots of research, conceptual thinking, understanding, thinking and development to make a relevant and a lasting imprint of their brands and products. It is commonly believed that Graphic designers' job is to combine art and technology to communicate ideas through visual contents and becomes integral part of business communication. Research shows that Infographics provides plethora of creative ways to draw attention to their content in order to communicates and influence more, because around 90% of information conveyed to the brain is in visual form, which is flashier, vibrant and better than words. Unlike medicine or

engineering, visual arts discipline doesn't require years of background studies. Furthermore, marketing graduates also have an advantage in this rapidly growing e-marketing industry. They are learning "what to create" and "for whom" with their branding guidelines as clients. Learning how to use these design tools with the cognitive knowledge of design principles, color management and proximity will give them more control in their profession. For example, business students can easily understand requirements of a logo that distinguish their brand from others and communicate its unique message clearly. In addition to this, problem-solving nature of graphic design course assignments help business graduates in developing innovation and rethinking abilities by setting unconventional and visually innovative ideas. For example, business graduates have knowledge on various consumer behavior perspectives and can address the distinction between what their inexperienced clients' need rather than what they want. It helps them to offer better and more effective alternatives with explanation. HR and management professionals can use their computer aided creativity to illustrate eye catching trainer manuals, personalized birthday cards, posters, brochures, short animations and enhance photos to achieve their professional aims. Even students with accounting, economics, data analytics and finance majors get an option to broaden their scopes and pursue interests other than their core study areas. Computer aided visual arts course not only encourage their involvement in the acquisition of new computer skills but also helps them to present their monotonous tables, diagrams, Graphs and charts more in a lucrative and responsive style. Modern Day educators and e-marketing practitioners should help business schools to break out of their traditional comfort zones and replace courses that teaches obsolete "management principles and control mechanisms" of previous century and replace them with more contemporary skill enhancement courses. Bridging the gap and building a two-way street through academic friendships between school of arts and professional preparation would enrich academic domains of business schools. University programs has a structure to regulate assessment to gauge and evaluate students' performance through their demonstration of employability with regards to technical and academic outcomes. It makes them more agile and compliant for an unpredictable workplace. AIUB business School has been offering an elective course for undergraduates titled "Business Graphics and Animation". Many business graduates completed the course with flying colors are professionally involved in digital content creation and procurement. However, animation and Graphic Design related courses are considered as one of the most popular courses offered by polytechnic institutes, Makeshift IT-training centers and various online platforms. Tech savvy students with the sense of Self-discipline prefers MOOCs to enhance their skills because of open learning environment and flexible schedule. In conclusion, business students will definitely benefit from a graphic design course where available information and design technology meets a business objective. It helps any business professional to improve their communication skills with text and graphics that are more effectively recalled, Lower Operating Costs of the business, Improve Creativity of a person, encourage professionals to experiment with New Technologies and Understand Clients Better. In today's uncertainty of the immediate future of business and economy, the use of digital, computer-enabled content is undeniably the order of the day. Not to mention that now more than any other time, we have more time to dabble and reap the

benefits of being familiar with applications like Photoshop, Illustrator and animation software that offer an arsenal of tools that can be both a gratifying source of new skills and a path to unleash creativity in our everyday work.

Discovering rules for nursery students using apriori algorithm

Author: Aneem Al Ahsan Rupai et al.

Brief Description:

Over recent years, there has been a rise in the number of students completing nursery education in Bangladesh. However, in order to achieve a sustainable education goal, the dropout rate in education needs to be reduced. Therefore, this research worked on providing insights that would help to understand the possible causes of dropout from education. Since primary education is the starting point for every student, this research has been conducted on this part of education. The research used data obtained from a European country, Slovenia to use the insights of a developed country. The study was conducted using association rule mining where several mining rules were generated using the Apriori algorithm. The rules obtained had the confidence of 0.95 and support of 0.04. The result showed three major rules of dropping out children in nursery education and eventually helps to ensure higher education for all children.

Source: <https://beei.org/index.php/EEI/article/view/1665>

The Effectiveness of e-learning in Staff Training to Gain Hospitality Organizational Excellence

Author: Mahmudul Hasan et al.

Brief Description:

This paper discovers the state of e-learning within hospitality industry. It introduces relevant topics such as definition, employee attitude and other factors of hospitality e-learning. It critically reviews the growth of e-learning in hospitality companies. Moreover, the author identifies the development of e-learning in hospitality industry by addressing recent cases. A literature review is conducted, and the research involves survey questionnaire and semi-structured interview to collect data from users of Hilton e-learning resources and a statistical analysis of that data. Findings of the study indicate positive perceptions of e-learning among hospitality companies. However, the main finding is the identification of several concerns that can potentially prevent the users to utilize the complete advantage of e-learning. The findings should assist policy makers, instructors and e-learning implementers in designing course materials or improving technical matters that would be more effective for e-learning athospitality environment.

Source: <https://ajbe.aiub.edu/index.php/ajbe/article/view/25/23>

Quality of Physics teaching up to higher secondary level in Bangladesh—from the undergraduate students' perspective.

Author: Dr. Humayra Ferdous et al.

Brief Description:

The overall progress of a country depends on how much it is developed in science and technology. The scenario of Bangladesh in such case is not optimistic. It is therefore important to know the backdrop of the current situations. This study aims to know the level of understanding of the students in physics, reasons of current level of performance and suggestions for further improvement. This study is mixed in nature as it is demanded both quantitative and qualitative data. Data is collected from 144 randomly selected undergraduate students "using both closed ended and open ended questionnaire. Quantitative data were analyzed using simple descriptive statistics and qualitative data were analyzed thematically. The findings of this study reveal that students' understanding level of basic Physics hardly meet up the satisfactory standard in recent years, which might lead to a very dangerous consequence for the future of the country. As the country is planning to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by United Nation (UN) by 2030, it is high time to overhaul the Physics teaching techniques and national policies for appointing the science teachers in Bangladesh. The findings of this study might be significant use for the stakeholders, policy makers, education researchers and Physicists of the country.

Applying and Analyzing the Knowledge of Thermodynamics and Mechanics in Real World Situation ----- A Case Study Conference

Author: Dr. Humayra Ferdous et al.

Brief Description:

In the era of information and connectivity, it is very important for the people of any country to differentiate between logic and fallacy. Unfortunately, the situations of Bangladesh, in such case, hardly offer a positive picture. Undoubtedly to uphold the scientific temperament among the youngsters' across the country, Physics, as a subject, plays crucial role since it primarily deals with analytic ability and critical thinking of human's mind. However, this objective will not meet satisfactory level unless continuous assessment process and study are executed by the professionals. In this study, 50 undergraduate students were chosen whose grade point in Physics both at their Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination and Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Level were not less than A or A+. They were provided both close-ended and open-ended questions on Thermodynamics and Mechanics, two major areas of Physics that emphasis on real life activities. The principle aim of the research was to observe how they apply and analyze their obtained knowledge in these two areas and how they develop linkage between their understandings and real life situation. Quantitative data of this study were evaluated using

simple descriptive statistics and qualitative data were considered thematically. The findings of the study assisted us to develop an idea on current practice in brief and these leads us to conclude that overall teaching strategies of Physics in all stages of education may need some modification to excel the entire critical thinking level of the participants. Since Bangladesh is planning to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by United Nation (UN) by 2030, it is high time to focus in this direction as well as national policies for appointing science teachers. This study would be beneficial for the stakeholders, policy makers, education researchers, academicians and Physicists of the country.

Source: <https://bdphso.org/>

Secured Question Paper Management System

Author: Prof. Dr. Dip Nandi et al.

Brief Description:

The examination is one of the essential parts of the student's life. After learning from an institution, the students must attend and pass various types of examinations to get their certificates. In this process, sometimes students try to pass the examination by answering the leaked questions. From the beginning of making the question papers to delivering them to the students is now at stake in the existing question management system due to question leakage. So, the traditional way of managing the question papers needs to be changed so that it can stop the leakage of question papers. To secure the question papers and making a trustworthy, physical existence free, and affordable a system is proposed in this paper. To design this model, we have used the concept of Blockchain, Digital Signature, Randomization, OTAC.

Investigation of Facilities for an M-learning Environment

Author: Prof. Dr. Dip Nandi et al.

Brief Description:

International Journal of Modern Education and Computer Science (IJMECS) Abstract: The paper projected to study the field of m-learning focusing on investigating the facilities required to initiate an m-learning environment. Facilities and regular practices of conventional learning and e-learning was considered to find the potential facilities for m-learning environment. We used Integrated Tertiary Educational Supply Chain Model framework that stands on conventional education and illustrates the combined form of education supply chain and research supply chain model. Two surveys were conducted to collect data from students and teachers of higher education. The responses from both of the surveys have been presented and later compared with the findings from our studies of the existing learning environments. The significance of this research is in identifying the facilities for a learner and educator centric m-learning environment.

Investigation of Facilities for an M-learning Environment

Author: MOHAIMEN-BIN-NOOR et al.

Brief Description:

The paper projected to study the field of m-learning focusing on investigating the facilities required to initiate an m-learning environment. Facilities and regular practices of conventional learning and e-learning was considered to find the potential facilities for m-learning environment. We used Integrated Tertiary Educational Supply Chain Model framework that stands on conventional education and illustrates the combined form of education supply chain and research supply chain model. Two surveys were conducted to collect data from students and teachers of higher education. The responses from both of the surveys have been presented and later compared with the findings from our studies of the existing learning environments. The significance of this research is in identifying the facilities for a learner and educator centric m-learning environment.

Source: <https://www.mecs-press.org/ijmecs/v13n1.html>

Facing COVID-19 Pandemic: AIUB Strategy

Author: DR. MOHAMMAD RAFIQUUL ISLAM et al.

Brief Description:

Higher education institutions seem to be a potential-risk site for the outbreak of novel-coronavirus as students used to behave in close community proximity in college and university grounds in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world. In such a context, the emergence of a new business strategy for the higher education sector to get survived becomes a must. While it seems that many higher education institutions in Bangladesh have failed to respond timely to the call for the emergence of a new business strategy or a new business model to encounter the COVID-19 pandemic situation, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has proved its strength and become a role model as the first university in Bangladesh by shifting with a strategic drive within days of the initial COVID-19 outbreak in the country. AIUB's experience in encountering the COVID-19 pandemic has been documented here as a successful business teaching case. The lead case question: What are the factors that make it successful to encounter a high-sensitive global pandemic situation? Keywords: AIUB, Business Model, COVID-19, New Business Strategy, Teaching-Case.

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351039338_Facing_COVID-19_Pandemic_AIUB_Strategy

প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে মৌলিক বিজ্ঞান পড়ানো হচ্ছে না কেন?

Author: Dr. Mohammad Mahbub Rabbani et al.

Brief Description:

প্রযুক্তির উৎকর্ষ বর্তমানে যে পর্যায়ে এসে পৌঁছেছে তার সবটাই বেসিক সায়েন্স বা মৌলিক বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষা ও গবেষণার ফলের ওপর ভিত্তি করে। প্রযুক্তির উদ্ভাবন আমাদের সামনে দৃশ্যমান হয়, তাই আমরা প্রযুক্তি বা টেকনোলজিকেই স্পষ্ট করে দেখি এবং তার দিকে আকৃষ্ট হই। অথচ যে বিদ্যার প্রায়োগিক দিকই হলো প্রযুক্তি, সেই বিদ্যা অর্থাৎ বেসিক সায়েন্স গহিন অন্তরালেই থেকে যায়। ফলে দিনে দিনে আমরা বিজ্ঞান থেকে সরে যাচ্ছি দূর থেকে দূরে। কোনো একটা প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবনের পেছনে মৌলিক বিজ্ঞানের যেসব তত্ত্ব এবং তথ্য জড়িত, তা কখনোই সামনে আসে না। না আসুক, কিন্তু দেখার বিষয় হচ্ছে প্রযুক্তির পেছনে ধাবিত হতে গিয়ে আমরা মৌলিক বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষা ও গবেষণাকে অবহেলা করছি কি না।

হুজুগ বা কারেন্ট ট্রেন্ডের পেছনে ছোট্ট একটা রেওয়াজ আমাদের সব সময়ই রয়েছে। বিজ্ঞান প্রযুক্তি শিক্ষা ও গবেষণার ভিত্তি সর্বল করার প্রয়াসে প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার যুগোপযোগী পরিকল্পনার অংশ হিসেবে বাংলাদেশে ইতিমধ্যে সরকারি ও বেসরকারি পর্যায়ে অনেকগুলো সাধারণ ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। এর মধ্যে প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলো আবার দুই ধরনের। একটা হলো বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, আরেকটি হলো প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। এ ছাড়া দেশে বিশেষায়িত কিছু বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ও রয়েছে।

বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে মৌলিক বিজ্ঞানের বিভিন্ন বিষয়, বিশেষভাবে ভৌত বিজ্ঞানের অন্যতম তিনটি বিষয়, পদার্থ, রসায়ন ও গণিত বিষয়ে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণিতে পাঠদান অব্যাহত থাকলেও প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে এসব বিষয়ে স্নাতক শ্রেণির পাঠদান হয় না। অথচ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোর পদার্থ, রসায়ন ও গণিত বিষয়ে অনেক দক্ষ ও অভিজ্ঞ শিক্ষক রয়েছেন, গবেষণার সুযোগও যথাসম্ভব রয়েছে এবং বিশ্বমানসম্পন্ন গবেষণাও হয়। স্নাতক শ্রেণির পাঠদানের সুযোগ না থাকায় এসব বিষয় পূর্ণাঙ্গ একাডেমিক ডিসিপ্লিন হিসেবে গড়ে উঠতে পারেনি। অথচ এসব বিভাগের অভিজ্ঞ শিক্ষকদের মাধ্যমে প্রতিবছর অসংখ্য গ্র্যাজুয়েট তৈরি করা সম্ভব হতো। এর ফলে দেশের অনেক মেধাবী শিক্ষার্থী এ সুযোগ থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে, দেশও হারাচ্ছে সম্ভাবনাময় একদল তরুণ বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষার্থীকে।

বুয়েটের বর্তমান প্রশাসন সম্প্রতি বেশ কিছু যুগান্তকারী পদক্ষেপও গ্রহণ করেছে। যেমন: বিজ্ঞান অনুসন্ধান, বিজ্ঞান-প্রকৌশল গবেষণা ও ইনোভেশন সেন্টার গঠন, কিউ-১ জার্নালে প্রকাশনার জন্য বিভাগ নির্বিশেষে প্রতি শিক্ষককে দেড় লাখ টাকা প্রণোদনা, প্রতি দুই বছরের জন্য সর্বোচ্চ তিন লাখ টাকার গবেষণা অনুদান, প্রকল্পের গুরুত্ব বিবেচনায় অভ্যন্তরীণ শিক্ষকদের তিন বছরের জন্য সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ লাখ টাকা গবেষণা অনুদান ইত্যাদি। এটি অন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোকেও অনুপ্রেরণা জোগাবে।

আমরা জানি, যেকোনো র‍্যাঙ্কিংয়েই অনেকগুলো ফ্যাক্টর বা সূচক মূল্যায়ন করা হয়, যার মধ্যে একটি হচ্ছে গবেষণা। প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে মৌলিক বিজ্ঞানের এই তিন ডিসিপ্লিনে মোটামুটি সবাই গবেষণাকর্মটি করেন অনেক সীমাবদ্ধতার মধ্য দিয়ে। যেহেতু স্নাতক শ্রেণির পাঠদান নেই সেহেতু বিভিন্ন কলেজ ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে স্নাতক পাস করা শিক্ষার্থীরা প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি হয়। নতুন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে এসে সবকিছুর সঙ্গে খাপ খাওয়াতে এবং গবেষণার সঙ্গে পরিচিত হতে তাদের অনেকটা সময় লেগে যায়।

এ ছাড়া প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে মৌলিক বিজ্ঞান বিভাগগুলোতে বাজেট, প্রয়োজনীয়সংখ্যক গবেষণাগার ও যন্ত্রপাতির ব্যাপক স্বল্পতা রয়েছে। ফলে প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোর গবেষণা অনেকটাই নির্ভর করে সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষকের গবেষণার প্রতি আন্তরিকতা, ত্যাগ ও প্রচেষ্টার ওপর। রসায়ন, পদার্থ ও গণিত বিভাগের শিক্ষকেরা বিদেশে গবেষণারত নিজেদের পরিচিত বিভিন্ন গবেষকের সঙ্গে কিছু প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ও কিছু অপ্রাতিষ্ঠানিক কোলাবোরেশনের মাধ্যমে গবেষণা চালিয়ে যান। অথচ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে স্নাতক শ্রেণির পাঠদান অব্যাহত থাকলে সেই ছাত্রছাত্রীদের মধ্য থেকেই আগ্রহীরা স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণিতে গবেষণায় নিয়োজিত হতো এবং মৌলিক বিষয়ে গবেষণা আরও বেগবান হতো।

আমাদের জানা নেই বিশ্বের কোন দেশের এবং কোন কোন নামকরা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে প্রকৌশল বিষয়ের পাশাপাশি মৌলিক বিষয়গুলোতে স্নাতক শ্রেণির পাঠদানের সুযোগ নেই। প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তিকে প্রাধান্য দেওয়া সময়ের দাবি কিন্তু মৌলিক বিজ্ঞানকে পাশ কাটিয়ে অবশ্যই নয়। বিজ্ঞানে অনীহা নিয়ে কোনো ব্যক্তি, প্রতিষ্ঠান বা জাতি টেকসই উন্নয়ন অর্জন করতে সক্ষম হয়েছে বলেও আমাদের জানা নেই।

প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ছাড়াও বাংলাদেশের অনেক বিশেষায়িত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়েও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ে পাঠদান থাকলেও বেসিক সায়েন্স বিষয়ে পাঠদান নেই। বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতেও একই অবস্থা দৃশ্যমান। সিমাগো র‍্যাঙ্কিং লক্ষ করলে দেখা যায়, সরকারি

প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোর পাশাপাশি বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোর পদার্থ ও গণিত বিভাগগুলো তুলনামূলক ভালো অবস্থানে আছে, যদিও তাদেরও স্নাতক এমনকি স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণিতেও পাঠদানের সুযোগ নেই। এদিকে রসায়নের গবেষণায় তুলনামূলক অনেক বেশি ফান্ডিং প্রয়োজন হয় এবং স্নাতক শ্রেণির ব্যবহারিক ক্লাসের জন্য অনেক ল্যাব প্রয়োজন হয়, ফলে গবেষণাও হয়ে ওঠে কঠিন। বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতে মৌলিক বিজ্ঞানের বিষয়গুলোতে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর শ্রেণির পাঠদানের ব্যবস্থা থাকলে তারা আরও ভালো করত।

যেকোনো দেশের শিক্ষা ও গবেষণায় উন্নতি করতে হলে জ্ঞানের সব শাখাকেই সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে। শিক্ষকদের জ্ঞান ও অভিজ্ঞতা এবং বিদ্যমান অবকাঠামো ও সুযোগ-সুবিধাগুলোকে কাজে লাগাতে হবে। প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোতেও বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে স্নাতক শ্রেণির পাঠদান শুরু করতে হবে। এতে একদিকে যেমন উচ্চশিক্ষার সুযোগ তৈরি হবে অন্যদিকে ওই সব মৌলিক বিষয়ে পঠনপাঠনে গতি বৃদ্ধি পাবে এবং মজবুত হবে প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তির ভিত। জাতীয় এবং আন্তর্জাতিক গবেষণা সহযোগিতা বৃদ্ধি, বিভিন্ন প্রকার এক্সচেঞ্জ প্রোগ্রাম চালু ও যৌথ গবেষণার মাধ্যমে প্রতিটি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গবেষণা উৎকর্ষ সাধনে সক্ষম হবে। পাশাপাশি, ধরন-নির্বিশেষে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলো নিজেদের মধ্যে বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক প্রতিযোগিতার মাধ্যমে সামনের দিকে এগিয়ে যাবে।

Source:

<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%B2-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%8C%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9E%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8B-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%A8>

Comparative Analysis of Program Outcomes Achievement between Face-to-Face and Virtual Classes during COVID-19 Pandemic

Author: Dr. M. Tanseer Ali et al.

Brief Description:

Outcome-based education is a paradigm shift from traditional knowledge-based education to modern skill-based education. After the Washington Accord, engineering education worldwide has adopted the new pedagogy for Engineering Education. But last year, after the hit of COVID – 19 pandemics, most of the education system has to move online. The online education platform raised a new challenge for Outcome-Based Education. In this paper, online education on the OBEimplemented B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) program has been analyzed. The attainment performance of the Program Outcomes has been presented. With this empirical evidence, careful implementation and encouragement of OBE can achieve its potential even with Online education. Students and Faculties of the B.Sc in EEE program have demonstrated that OBE can be effectively accomplished via an e-learning platform.

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Designing of A Handbag for Women Safety

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Brief Description:

Rape is one of the major problems that entire humankind is suffering from all across the world. In Bangladesh nearly 13 rapes occur in every day. Women are suffering from insecurities and this number is increasing day by day with the increasing population. With the rapid advancement of science and technology and our enormous dependency on technological aspects, we are trying to find a solution of this major problem for the women. In this paper a design of an handbag for women safety has been proposed. The design accommodates smart positioning and tracking system with face recognized image capturing system. Along with that the proposed model has been integrated with electric shock and paper spray module for defense mechanism. Components of the design has been tested and verified with precision to provide most effective safety tool for women.

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