



# EDUCATION FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT (EYE)

## Summary:

EYE program work to empower adolescents and youth in Bangladesh building their skills and capabilities, whilst also working with businesses and employers to help youth and adolescents to transition to decent work and become active citizens. The fact sheet will provide you an overview of EYE program and its key aspects.

## Context

Bangladesh is the most populous country with around 160 million inhabitants. Over 50% of the population is younger than 24 years old. Different studies show that unemployment rate is 3.6% whereas underemployment rate is 36% in Bangladesh. Besides, a large number of children and adolescent work for pay, many in hazardous condition. Countries with young populations need to invest more in education, skills development & entrepreneurial education.

## Program Design

Our aim is that vulnerable children, adolescents and youth in urban and rural areas are economically, socially and politically empowered to build better futures in Bangladesh.

## Specific objectives:

1. To improve access to decent employment opportunities for working and vulnerable adolescents and youth;
2. That adolescents and youth are capable of becoming active citizens, and guardians are responsive to and respectful of the rights of adolescents and youth.

## Current coverage:

Currently the program reaches 190,000 adolescent and youth in 11 city corporations and 17 districts of Bangladesh including 90 Upazilas through partnership with 22 national organizations and 50 corporation along with Government of Bangladesh.

## Impact:

The program saw 94% of the participants complete their grade 5 education and around 80% of those who completed the skills training went on to secure decent work within a year of graduating.

## Ambition:

EYE program aims to reach 1,000,000 adolescents and youth in urban and rural Bangladesh for 5 years (2017-2021).

## Specific objectives:

The program will directly work with 1 million adolescents and youth, 500 employers in the informal sector and 70 formal sector corporations, 500,000 parents and community people, officials of 20 district and 100 Upazilla's and relevant ministries and department of Bangladesh Government.

## Beneficiaries:

The program will directly work with 1 million adolescents and youth, 500 employers in the informal sector and 70 formal sector corporations, 500,000 parents and community people, officials of 20 district and 100 Upazilla's and relevant ministries and department of Bangladesh Government.

## Model to scale:

- Accelerated education for out of school adolescents and youth
- Vocational skills training for the marginalized adolescent and youth
- Apprenticeship program through partnership with corporations
- Transferable life skills (TLS) including business skills, financial literacy and youth led advocacy
- Facilitate youth clubs to empower adolescents and youth through peer 2 peer approach
- Promoting microenterprise development

**Geographical Coverage:** 12 city corporations and 20 districts including 90 Upzillas in Bangladesh

**Implementing Partners:** 22 National NGOs and 1 civil society platform (TWC-Together with Working children and youth) and 1 Multi Stakeholder Platform

**Project duration:** 11 years (2010-2021)

## Contributors:



## Key Achievements:

- EYE program has reached and transformed 383,803 (195,039 girls, 188,764 boys) vulnerable adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years in urban and rural Bangladesh.
- Developed 18 trade specific vocational training curriculum.
- 94% enrolled children and adolescents passed grade 5 examinations. 75-80% of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates secured a decent job within 12 months of completing their training; a year after graduating from the programme.
- Moreover under World Bank support, EYE program provided Technical Assistance (TA) to the government to design and implement accelerated education for urban slum children and adolescents (USCE) and Pre-vocational training (PVT) through mobile vocational training setup to reach rural adolescents and youth.

## Lessons learnt:

- Basic education is necessary for vocational training as well as placing youth in decent jobs or self-employment.
- Youth led advocacy actions contribute to helping the adolescents and youth address their challenges and ensure their rights.
- Through vocational skill training, young people can change their future by getting a decent job and fair salary. This allows them to support their siblings' education as their income increases; adolescent mothers contribute to their own child's education and health.
- The apprenticeship process supports making the link between vocational training and industry needs. And through these, we are able to identify the gaps in our training program and take measures accordingly.
- Engaging Community based groups are very effective to assess and introduce work place improvement plan (WPIP) as well as capitalizing their engagement will bring more success.
- Through youth empowerment initiatives, adolescents and youth play a role in their own development and the UN child rights business principles affirms their rights to freely express their opinions and be involved in decision-making and actions that affect themselves.



In July 2014 I started my own business (a mobile repair shop) with BDT 20,000. Currently, I am earning BDT 15,000 in each month after paying shop rent, installments and other cost. Now I am supporting my two younger brothers' and sister's studies. I intend to establish a large shop in a renowned market of Dhaka city

**- said Nazmul**