

Research Study on Cross-border Higher Education in Bangladesh

Introduction to the Research Study

Objectives of the Concerned Research Assignment:

The overall objective of the concerned assignment is to make research study on the students coming from different countries to Bangladesh who are already here for study, and for that purpose have already been enrolled at different technical/academic institutions for higher education, and to study foreign education franchises status in Bangladesh.

Scope of the Concerned Research Assignment:

The scope of the concerned research assignment is to collect statistics of foreign students who took admission in the higher educational institutions in Bangladesh. Also to collect data on foreign education franchises in Bangladesh.

Methodology Used in the Research Study

As we were not previously aware about any authentic/reliable sources from where we could get the list of technical/academic institutions in the country where foreign students are now pursuing higher study and Bangladeshi students staying in Bangladesh pursuing higher education through adopting syllabus/ education system, question setting, evaluation and certification of foreign academic institutions, we have sent researchers in all Cites and old towns in the country for collecting the following major information:

01. Name and address of the technical/academic institutions in the country, including Prospectus where foreign students are now studying, and Bangladeshi students staying in Bangladesh pursuing higher education through adopting syllabus/education system, question setting, evaluation and certification of foreign academic institutions;
02. Wherever applicable/available, name of the students, country of origin, study discipline, reasons for studying in Bangladesh etc.. In other case, name/no. of students from Bangladesh, name of foreign academic institutions and the countries etc.
03. Other relevant information, including interviewing sample students and concerned academic institution authorities.

Besides above, we have sent 02 researchers at the Office of Director General, Health, British Council and University Grants Commission Office.

Study Approach and Sampling Method:

In the research study, we have used the following sampling methods:

First Stage:

In the first stage, found out all concerned technical/educational institutions and dealing organizations/ Ministries/Directorates/Council (as the case may be).

Second Stage:

In the second stage, wherever found, collected lists of foreign students studying in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi students pursuing higher education through adopting syllabus/education system, question setting, evaluation and certification of foreign academic institutions

Third Stage:

In the third stage, randomly selected 100 foreign students pursuing higher education in the educational institutions in Bangladesh for interview purpose on relevant issues, and interviewed them on relevant matters.

Fourth Stage:

In the fourth stage, interviewed persons from the concerned organizations/Ministries/Directorates/ Departments/Council on relevant matters.

Conclusion:

01. It is highly encouraging to note that, thousands of foreign students of different countries of the world, particularly from SAARC countries, viz. India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives have been studying at different Universities, Colleges and other academic and technical institution in the country, and with the passage of time, this is expected to increase.
02. The above state of situation, on the one hand, has been bringing name and fame for the country, and on the other hand, has opened a new avenue for foreign exchange earning.
03. The glaring contributor to this achievement is the SAARC, and out of the SAARC countries, Nepal is in the lead.
04. We could achieve lot more than the present situation, if we could ensure the following two things:
 - a) Political stability; and
 - b) Better educational environment.
05. The most important reasons for selecting Bangladesh for study are comparatively low cost of living, low tuition fee, nice behavior and amiable disposition of the people and tropical environment.

Recommendation:

01. Government should consider this as the thrust sector, mostly because, this is one of the big potential foreign exchange earning sources.
02. Side by side with above, it is the responsibility of the Government to maintain political stability in the country. Otherwise, for this single simple reason, accompanied by its by-products, like corruption, gangsterism, kidnapping, harassment, social insecurity etc., with the passage of time, instead of increasing, the trend of admission of foreign students in the country will decrease.
03. The overall environment of the existing academic institutions in the country having foreign students and potential ones, including class room and other internal environments, inter-alia, teaching aid, hostel and food facilities, medical treatment etc., particularly for the foreign students should be substantially improved.
04. Inter-alia, the authorities of the concerned academic institutions should be vigilant and careful about the teaching and support staff, so that the foreign students, after going back in their home countries laud about the quality and fineness of our academic institutions, and over and above the soundness of our country.