



Issue 3
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Skills 21 Bulletin

Skills 21 project is a joint initiative of the Government of Bangladesh and the International Labour Organization, funded by the European Union. The partnership seeks to increase productivity and employment opportunities by promoting a market relevant, environment friendly and inclusive, skills development system.

Highlights



Skills training: 2,709 youth enrolled and 1,237 complete courses (27% of all students are female)

Skills training in welding, graphic design, electrical installation and maintenance, plumbing, refrigeration & air conditioning,



wood working machine operation, sewing machine operation and driving has been

ongoing - via a blended learning system - throughout the pandemic at BS Polytechnic Institute Kaptai; Feni Polytechnic Institute; Gaibandha TTC; IMT Bagerhat; Jamalpur TSC; Khulna Mahila Polytechnic Institute and Sylhet TSC.



Centres for Skills Excellence (CSEs): Teacher Training

Over 1922 trainers and assessors have been trained in Level 4 Competency Based Training and Assessments through the CSE's and partner institutes. In addition, 504 teachers completed the training for materials development and training delivery system, using the online platform.



550 complete entrepreneurship development training

Skills 21 partner institutes and SIYB Foundation conducted blended Entrepreneurship Development Training (EDT) for 550 prospective entrepreneurs. In addition, 13 master trainers and 60 trainers trained to roll out EDT programme



E-Campus: 176 online training materials

A team of trained TVET teachers produced 176 e-learning products ranging from video lectures and supplementary text materials. The content is now available in the e-campus, and the respective Facebook and YouTube pages of the respective TVET institutes.



RPL: 2,327 workers assessed

2,311 (1999 Male, 312 Female) took part in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) assessments. In total, 1787 (1556 Male, 231 Female) obtained skills certificate level 1 in different occupations.



45 master trainers trained

Six master trainers trained 45 trainers on online materials development and training delivery through a two-months long distance learning programme facilitated by ITCILO.

News Corner



Skills 21 project and Ministry of Expatriates' sign deal to recognise migrant workers' skills

To ensure decent work for migrant workers, the Skills 21 project and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on skills development and skills recognition system in Bangladesh. The MoU will address skilling, re-skilling and upskilling of migrant workers and skills recognition through improved capacity for skills anticipation, better qualification standards for the trainers, and improved access through e-RPL and national skills passport platforms.

The Skills 21 project will provide 3,000 returnee migrants and their families support relating to market-driven skills trainings, enterprise development, RPL and job placement.



The National Steering Committee approves a 10-level Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF)

Since 2017, the Skills 21 project has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh to establish the Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF). The BNQF development is steered by a National Steering Committee chaired by the honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Dipu Moni, MP. The TMED Secretary, in coordination with the SHED Secretary, provides oversight to seven Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in the overall development process.



The proposed 10-level BNQF was endorsed during the second BNQF National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting at the Ministry of Education on January 31, 2021. The BNQF structure has undergone 40-plus consultations, meetings and workshops with stakeholders from the government, employers and workers' groups.



Sector Wide Integrated Framework for TVET (SWIFT) proposal submitted to TMED

The Skills 21 project supported Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED) in developing a Sector Wide Integrated Framework for TVET (SWIFT). The framework aims to guide the sector for



improved coordination between GoB and development partners. The project officials submitted the document to Mr. Md. Aminul Islam Khan, Secretary of TMED on 23 December 2020. After reviewing the draft report, TMED will disseminate it among stakeholders for implementation.

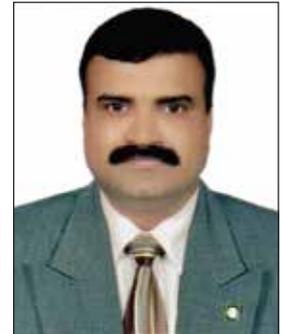
Changemaker

Principal's Interview



How is the Skill 21 project helping your institution to address the challenges facing the TVET system?

The Skills 21 project has brought many qualitative changes not just to my institute but the TVET system as a whole. The changes are intangible i.e. mandatory competency based training & assessment system which is market driven, qualified teachers, partnerships with the industries for on the job training and job placement. The modern equipment provided to the institutes is also very useful for the students - especially over the past year where we adapted to an e-learning model.



Mohammad Abdul Matin Howlader
Principal, Bangladesh Swedish Polytechnic Institute, Kaptai, Rangamati



What is the difference between the Skills 21 project and other projects in this sector?

The Skills 21 project is working to make the skills training system inclusive. The focus on self and wage employment makes the project different from many other projects. One key differentiator is the Institutional Management Advisory Board (IMAB) and Employers' Forum which are formed in partnership with the private sector, industry people to not only help manage the institute but also produce a demand based skilled workforce and link graduates with the future job market. In addition to this, Skills-21 project supported to develop and implement action plan for gender mainstreaming, disability inclusion and greening TVET institutes, which are also some unique efforts.



How can TVET institutions proactively drive innovation and contribute to the promotion of competitiveness, employability and social cohesion?

A modern TVET institute can make the critical linkage between underprivileged citizens in remote areas with industries who need skilled workers through a market-driven skills training. If the inclusion policy and action plan is implemented effectively, the vulnerable and the underprivileged people can access to the institutes and the job market. That will help a huge number of people to be ready for the future job market and contribute to the economy.

TVET awareness raising strategy and campaign plan

The project is supporting partner TVET institutes in developing an awareness raising strategy and a national enrolment campaign. This campaign hopes to raise awareness on TVET education and change its perception among youth, parents and employers.



Success: Investing in Skills Pays Off

Pavel Al Amin
Master Trainer

In 2018, Pavel Al Amin used to work for the Institute of Marine Technology, Bagerhat as a senior instructor.

IMT Bagerhat is one of the seven Skills 21 partner TVET institutes selected to become a model institute, wherein having quality teachers, instructors, assessors and a blended learning system are some of the features to become a model institute.



Pavel was selected to participate the very first round of Master Training programme took place in International Training Centre (ITC) in Turin, Italy followed by four weeks home based distance learning training supervised by ITCILO experts.

During the training, Pavel learned several software tools to help create the online materials platform, graphics work and how to make short training video. He used PowToon, pictochart, canva etc. to develop visual content. He also learned how to use Adobe Photoshop and illustrator.

Not long after completing his training, Pavel entered a Canva Competition for a poster design, which he entered and - to his delight - won. The prize was a one-year free subscription to the Canva Pro software.

Pavel said, "My passion for graphic design started after the training I received from the Skills 21

project. The funny thing is that marine engineering requires key design skills as well. Learning and mastering the latest skills is the key to success in all jobs and this has helped me immensely."

Pavel is now working at IMT Chandpur where, following his design success, he has set up a short course on graphic design. The European Union funded Skills 21 project supported building the capacity of instructors in designing online materials, learning the latest software, and building online learning platforms.



In 2019, the Technical Teachers' Training Centre, Dhaka organized training for their staff and instructors and more recently in January 2021 the Skills 21 project organized another online training seminar for 45 participants for developing online platform and visual content. Pavel was one of the master facilitators for the trainings. Like Pavel, five other master trainers are further building the skills capacity of other trainers to develop online materials and content.

Stay in touch

The Skill 21 Bulletin aims to inform our stakeholders about all project activities taken by Skills 21 in Technical and Vocational Education and Training and share success stories from partner TVET institutes.

Readers can find out more about the Skills 21 project on our website. The Bulletin is published every quarter and available in English and Bangla.

If you have any feedback/suggestions on the bulletin, please contact Farhana Alam, Communications Officer at alamf@ilo.org