

Making Learning More Fun

Sourav Akib Sarkar

“Education is the backbone of a nation”; a quote taught in every school of this modest, yet promising nation, but, prior to the current education facilities and the frauds in our education system, are we truly seeking towards a better generation to come?

Alongside the lack of facilities provided, the interest upon seeking a proper education in this country has always stood as a huge wall between prosperity. For a start, the country has few flaws for which the education is never up to the mark:

About 31% of the country's people, unlikely, live in the country's 'below poverty line'; to such families, providing education to the younger ones is quite 'pointless'. Even today the act of child labour in the country is utterly familiar and the reason is so, that the destitute families

of the nation feel it's better if their offspring rather lend a hand on their family income than on the books.

The other conspicuous reason shall be the education system itself. The fact that the system values grades more than merit have led to a devastating fall in the interest to study among those upon whom the country's progress is dependent. It has created a hole in the minds of the pupil to become innovative; to seek education to learn something, not just to gain a clean-cut certificate.

So let's come to the business end. The major reason for today's breakdown shall be the lack of interest. But standing out straight don't our students already have what is necessary for them to continue their studies, like: books; pens; and due to recent contributions, also the internet. Yet, is it enough?

People don't learn as much from books as they learn from experience. According to recent studies; humans remember only 10% of what they read, whereas, 20% of what they hear and seemingly 30% of what they examine visually. Further conclusions stated that we remember even a higher percentage when learning in combinations of the three major senses - reading; listening; visualizing - per se, we remember 50% of what we both hear and see. And so the point is clear; we have to involve our pupils while they are learning. For the solution to our problem, why not take the aid of the state-of-the-art of human innovation, i.e. technology. Everyone is quite familiar with the term 'school bus', why not take it a step further. Let's introduce a new scheme of learning, and for the time being, let us call it, "The Digital Bus".

So, what is this Digital Bus? For an instance, let's take an ordinary bus and replace the seats with televisions and VR sets; where the televisions will fill the criteria of learning visually and the VR sets will fill the criteria of learning both visually and by listening in sync. The Digital Bus could be an alternative to a modern education-hub; it will be more like a mobile education-hub, which can travel through districts; from schools to schools. Trained operators can help regain student's interest upon studies and also influence them to achieve higher education with the aid of videos and VR simulations. The bus itself can fulfill all the requirements that will induce the students to learn alongside a new experience.

Now, why a Digital Bus? Well, currently there are more

than 80,000 primary schools throughout the country and most of them lack in facilities. Rather than providing modern equipment to all schools or building or establishing infrastructures throughout the country, it is way more cost efficient to have a mobile house than could be transported from schools to schools for a short period, and hence the idea of a bus comes in. The main target shall be conveying the futuristic machine to the rural areas, where proper facilities lack the most. For the making of the bus, first of all we will require an air-conditioned bus –where a minibus would do just fine - then about 4 to 5 television sets and about 5 sets of VRs and smartphones. Advancing to the cost of it, a mini bus would likely cost around Taka 45 lakh to buy and renovate; televisions Taka 30,000 each; VR sets Taka 1000 each; smartphones Taka 10,000 each.

ITEMS	COSTS
Mini Bus x1	45,00,000 TK
Televisions x5	30,000 TK
VR x5	1,000 TK
Smartphones x5	10,000 TK
Total	45,41,000 TK

Which pulls out the total cost be approximately Taka 45.5 Lakh (with 5 sets of television and 5 sets of VR and smartphone each) for a complete Digital Bus. We can organize 7 Digital Bus for the 7 divisions of Bangladesh; where the buses could be involved in a year-long campaign to travel throughout all the primary schools in the country and to persuade the young generations to the lights of education.

This goal involves a lot of promises, and silver lining the possibilities, we can seek towards a better future to come if can make it happen. The task is never easy; it requires a lot of hard work and dedication, as well as a decent amount of funding by a lot of people. But if we don't, who will? The nation has been already in a state of slow progress and as we are the change makers of today, they are of tomorrow. It's our duty to make sure they get everything we never could, to make them understand how much the country depends on them. And so we must come here for this together, as our involvement will slowly but surely imprint a mark on tomorrow's success; it's the least we could do. We must teach them as well as their families the importance of education and make them realize the fact: Suffer today, prosper tomorrow. ■