

# Skill Development Programs of Uttaran



UTTARAN

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## Introduction

Of our country's total population of 170 billion, almost 49% is among the age of 24 or less. Around 75% of this age group resides in rural areas where quality education is scarce let alone opportunities for skill development. With technological advancements and globalization changing the skill demands around the world, it is imperative to arm this key demographic with international standard skill based education and knowledge to help realize their full potential.

However, for a country so full of youth population it is unfortunate that we fail to benefit from our crucial demographic shift for the lack of quality education as well as skill development and employment opportunities. In the light of these global phenomena, recognizing the importance of developing our youth, our Government has also been implementing "National Skill Development Action Plan Phase 2 (2017-21)" to ensure maximum utilization of our youth potential. Uttaran echoes the same sentiment and has therefore been implementing youth based skill development programs since its inception. Our working areas include rural marginalized areas where intersectional disadvantages are acute. Along with existing socio- economic barriers and limited access to services these regions regularly battle with overlapping natural disasters. Child labor, dropping out of school, early marriage, migration and human trafficking are also rampant in such underprivileged communities. Obstacles such as these are even more magnified for young girls and women. That is why we have been implementing market relevant skill development programs that have good economic prospects, are gender transformative and improve climate resilience. We believe to cope with the current fast paced and skill driven global informal sector, these technical and vocational trainings will play an even bigger role in future, especially in the wake of COVID-19 where economic and employment scenarios around the world have been observing major changes. Therefore, we must prepare the future population of our country to ensure that they not only survive but thrive and prosper and help Bangladesh make its mark worldwide

## Reaching Out of School Children(ROSC) PhaseII:

Uttaran implemented a vocational training program titled "Reaching Out- Of- School Children (ROSC), phase-II" from March 2017 to June 2021 for children who were forced to drop out of schools due to various socio-economic reasons. It was implemented with financial support of World Bank through the Directorate of Primary Education. Technical support of this project was provided by Save the Children International. Uttaran implemented this project in Ramu and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district, Nagarkanda and Boal Mari upazila of Faridpur district and Jajira upazila of Shariatpur districts.

**Aim:** To create employment opportunities by providing technical training to 15- to 24-year-olds who have dropped out of school.

### Trainings Offered:

- Industrial Sewing Machine Operation

- Beauty Care
- Tailoring & Dress Making
- Electric House wiring
- Electrical house wiring and solar system
- Refrigerator and Air Conditioner
- Electronics and mobile phone servicing
- Petrol and diesel engine mechanics (Motor cycle servicing)
- Block Batik and screen printing
- Computer and ICT Skills
- Housekeeping
- Tour guide and photography

### Achievements:

- **1375** youths received 3 months duration skill training on 12 trades. Among them 761 were female and 614 were male.
- **424** became self-employed through entrepreneurship.
- **559** received jobs in relevant sectors.



### Nasrin's Dreams

Nasrin Sultana, a dedicated student of our ROSC project always radiates positive energy. Her father is a truck driver and due to the COVID-19 crisis it became increasingly difficult for him to manage their big family of seven. Even though Nasrin had to drop out of school because of financial difficulties she did not give up. She believed in herself and her creativity.

Nasrin has completed a block batik and screen-printing course and plans to open a boutique with some of her course mates.

“ We plan on promoting local products and bring innovative designs” – Nasrin’s friends chime in with enthusiasm



### Saiful’s Story

18-year-old Saiful Islam may be the youngest out of all 6 children in his family, but he is definitely wise beyond his years. An electrical student of our ROSC project, Saiful does not only want to use this training to earn money. “My father is the only earning member of our family and it is heart breaking for me to see him work like a machine but still struggling to manage our big family. As much as I’d like to start my own business and help my family, I also think my training would go to waste if I do not use it to help others. Therefore, I’d also like to teach what I have learned free of cost to the underprivileged youth in my

community. I understand not everyone will be as lucky as me to get this amazing opportunity and so after I get my own bearings, I would like to help others become self-sufficient ” – Saiful tell us with a sparkle in his eyes

### Pre-Vocational Skills Training Program-March-2017 to Deceber-2018

SL	Name of Trade	Number of Trainees	Employment Status		
			Employment in Organization	Self-Employment	Location
1	Industrial Sewing Machine Operation and tailoring	199	74	63	Nagarkanda and BoyalmariUpazila under Faridpur district, ZajiraUpazila under Shariyatpur district
2	Beauty Care	70	36	19	Do
3	Tailoring & Dress Making	18	8	7	NagarkandaUpazila under Faridpur

4	Electric House wiring	21	4	11	Nagarkanda Upazila under Faridpur
5	Electrical house wiring and solar system	75	30	38	Nagarkanda and Boyalmari Upazila under Faridpur district, Zajira Upazila under Shariatpur district
6	Refrigerator and Air Conditioner	122	55	47	Nagarkanda and Boyalmari Upazila under Faridpur district, Zajira Upazila under Shariatpur district
7	Electronics and mobile phone servicing	73	24	37	Nagarkanda and Boyalmari Upazila under Faridpur district, Zajira Upazila under Shariatpur district
8	Petrol and diesel engine mechanics (Motor cycle servicing)	74	28	35	Nagarkanda and Boyalmari Upazila under Faridpur district, Zajira Upazila under Shariatpur district
9	Block Batik and screen printing	124	42	39	Nagarkanda and Boyalmari Upazila under Faridpur district, Zajira Upazila under Shariatpur district
<b>Total Trainees</b>		<b>776</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>296</b>	

### Pre-Vocational Skills Training Program-August-2019 to Jun-2021

SL	Name of Trade	Number of Trainees	Employment Status		
			Employment in Organization	Self-Employment	Location
1	Industrial Sewing Machine Operation and tailoring	125	72	18	Ramu and Teknaf Upazila under Cox's Bazar district.
2	Beauty Care	75	27	12	Ramu and Teknaf Upazila under Cox's Bazar district.
3	Electrical house wiring and solar system	149	85	21	Ramu and Teknaf Upazila under Cox's Bazar district.
4	Electronics and mobile phone servicing	50	19	15	Ramu and Teknaf Upazila under Cox's Bazar district.

5	Computer and ICT Skills	100	40	16	Ramu and TeknafUpazila under cox's Bazar district.
6	Housekeeping	25	6	8	RamuUpazila under cox's Bazar district.
7	Tour guide and photography	50	7	24	RamuUpazila under cox's Bazar district.
8	Block Batik and screen printing	25	2	14	Ramu and TeknafUpazila under cox's Bazar district.
<b>Total Trainees</b>		<b>599</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>128</b>	

### Community Cohesion Program:

From June 2020 Uttaran is implementing a project titled 'Community Cohesion Program' with the funding support from Global Affairs Canada through UNDP. According to recent reports, poverty has risen by 3% in the host communities since the beginning of the Rohingya influx. We hope, this much needed support will be able to provide sustainable solution to tackle this crisis. Through implementing this project 2100 ultra poor youths of Ukhyia and Teknafupazila are getting technical training as well as tool support and job placement support. Ukhyia and Teknafupazilas of Cox's Bazar district have been selected for implementation of Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar project. And all these upazila youth groups have been targeted especially 18–35-year-olds.

**Aim:** Provide alternative livelihood options to youths in Rohingya and host communities by building their skills and enhancing community cohesion

### Trades Offered:

- Beauty Care
- Industrial sewing Machine and tailoring
- Electric House wiring and solar system
- Poultry rearing
- Refrigerator and air conditioning
- Petrol and diesel engine mechanics ( Motor cycle servicing)
- Candle making
- Electronics and Mobile phone servicing
- Blouque batik and screen printing
- Handicrafts ( Bamboo and Caine)
- Handloom ( Komortat)
- Plumbing
- Tiles Fitting
- Street food production and service ( Pickles)
- Dry fish processing
- Driving

### Achievement:

- Uttaran has been trying to provide financial assistance to the trainees by liaising with various departments of the Upazila Administration. In this context, the Department of Youth Development, Ukhia and Teknaf included a total of **430** trainees for certificates and loans
- **366** participants who found employment six month after receiving training
- **322** trained participants have completed apprenticeship
- **95** have found job through job placement.



### Marzia Moves Forward

“My father has not been able to earn for a long time due to physical illness and my elder brothers take care of the family. I wanted to be self-employed so that I could support myself and support my family as well. Uttaran has given me this opportunity, I have completed two months training on block batik and screen printing from Uttaran's training center as well as one month apprenticeship program. Later Uttaran also

gave me cash support and I started a shop through working together with a few friends.

I am thankful to Uttaran and UNDP for helping underprivileged girls like me”- Marzia Ahmed. Teknaf, Cox's Bazar



### **Arafat is doing what he loves**

"I never thought I would have to work at such a young age. My father is too old to work anymore. Besides, my brother couldn't run our family of 7 alone, so I had to step up to help my brother in managing the family. But the beginning of the story was not so easy for me, I did not know how to earn, but I knew I had to earn. Amidst such difficulties I found the Uttaran Technical Training Center from where I learned electrical house wiring and solar system. I was always fascinated with this subject and wanted to learn it professionally. That is why I chose this particular subject. I then completed three months of training and then two months of apprenticeship. During my apprenticeship, I was also fortunate enough to get a job. With financial support from Uttaran I bought necessary tools after I finished my training. I got a new job a few days ago where most of my coworkers are my friends from the training centre. It feels great to know that all of us are now skilled enough to be working in different sectors. – Md Arafat, Satghoriapara, Whykong, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.



### **Shafikul becomes solvent**

"My father has been suffering from different health diseases for a long time due to his old age. His worsening condition made it impossible for him to do any kind of work. My elder brother then started taking care of the family, but it was becoming difficult for him alone, so he asked for my help.

To support my family, I kept looking for job opportunities, but as I did not have any skill set or experience, I couldn't find any work. Fortunately, I got to know about Uttaran Technical Training Center which offers extensive trainings on an array of skill sets that are high in demand. I decided to learn mobile phone servicing and got admitted.

Later I completed this three-month course as well as two months apprenticeship. I have been given many tool kits from Uttaran with which I have already started working. I even have my own shop now. I am very happy to be self-sufficient and I hope I will get even more work when the current Covid-19 situation improves.

I will be forever grateful to those who have helped change my destiny."- Shafikul Islam, West Satghoriapara, Whykong, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.



## Training Progress and Next Plan

Name of training	Completed		Total	Next target/ongoing		Total	Remarks
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
Candle making	9	111	120	0	0	0	
Cap Making	0	100	100	0	0	0	
Poultry rearing	55	165	220	45	105	150	
Fishing Net Making	0	80	80	0	0	0	
Driving	100	0	100	109	1	110	
Block-Boutique and Screen Printing	0	60	60	11	34	45	
Beauty-Care	0	60	60	0	0	0	
Refrigeration and Air-conditioning	20	0	20	15	0	15	
Petrol and Diesel Engine Mechanic	20	0	20	15	0	15	
Electrical House Wiring and Solar System	60	0	60	47	0	47	
Electronics and Mobile Phone Servicing	37	0	37	0	0	0	
Industrial sewing Machine Operation and Tailoring	0	40	40	15	34	49	
Food and Beverage Production	20	0	20	0	0	0	
Food and Beverage Service	17	3	20	0	0	0	
House Keeping and Laundry	0	17	17	0	0	0	
Computer & ICT Skills	0	0	0	67	33	100	
Handicrafts (Bamboo and Cane)	0	0	0	30	100	130	
Dry Fish Processing and packaging	0	0	0	30	15	45	
Street food production and service (Pickls)	0	0	0	30	65	95	
Plumbing	0	0	0	75	0	75	
Tiles fitting	0	0	0	120	0	120	
Handloom (Komortat)	0	0	0	60	70	130	
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>1126</b>	

## Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP):

With support from PKSf, Uttaran has been ensuring demand driven skill-development training among the poor people under the SEIP project with a view to creating productive self and wage employment. The Finance Division of Ministry of Finance, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is working as the executive agency to implement this project and has established 'Skill Development Coordination and Monitoring Unit' (SDCMU) to execute it. Uttaran became a partner of SEIP project in December 2015. The Asian Development Bank, the Government of Bangladesh and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) are jointly financing the project. The objectives of the project are to impart skills training linked to gainful wage or self-employment, increase access for targeted poor (both male and female) people to market responsive skills development training programs and ensure job placement of the trainees after training.

**Aim:** The aim of the project is to develop skilled workforce through skills development training and therefore placing them in productive self and wage employment which will improve their sustainable livelihoods.

### Trades Offered:

- Sewing Machine Operation
- Auto Mechanics
- Welding
- IT Support Service

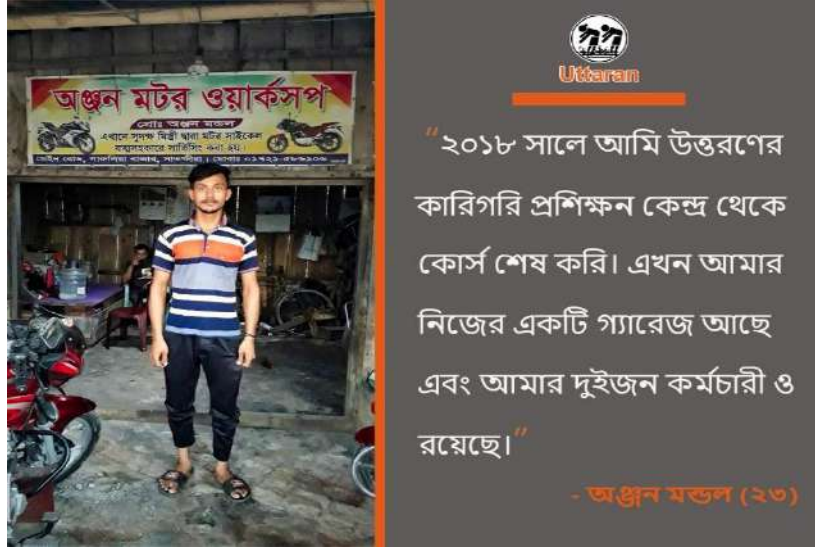
### Achievements:

- **850** participants have received different market relevant skills
- **306** participants are now employed in different organizations
- **212** participants are self employed

### Anjan secures his future

Anjan belongs to an underprivileged family of Satkhira's Debhata Upazila. At the mere age of 7 he lost his father. His mother immediately stepped in and worked as a day laborer to raise him and his two sisters. But her limited income did not allow her to bear their educational expenses. But Anjan did not lose his hope and always wanted to do something of his own. He even worked as a construction worker in Bengaluru at a very young age. But the harsh and inhuman work

environment took a toll on him, and he fell seriously ill. Unfortunately, he had to return home, but he never stopped harboring his ambitions. Under Uttaran's Seip Project he completed a training on auto mechanics and eventually saved up enough to have a garage of his own.



The boy who once had nothing is now able to employ other people. We believe in the future he will help others to reach where he is today.

## Mehedi is thriving and happy

Mehedi Hasan dropped out of school at a very young age due to financial hurdles. "Being a dropout I always feared that my younger siblings will have the same fate as mine. Ensuring their education was my top priority and for that I needed a job. But I did not know what to do as I lacked basic skills. When I finally came across Uttaran's skills training program for unemployed and dropout youths, I saw a glimpse of hope. The training was full free along with stipend. I also learned through Uttaran that after the training, the youths would have access to various job opportunities. I seized the opportunity and decided to take part in a 4 month long training on Welding. In total I have received 95 classes and successfully completed the course. Soon after the training, through Uttaran's job placement officer I received proper entrepreneurship consultancy and along with the financial aid. I also borrowed some money from my parents and

relatives to establish my own business. With the money I brought necessary equipment, machineries and tools for my store and soon enough I made a name for myself in the community. After a year I was able to pay all my debts and started fully supporting my family and the education expenses of my siblings. Now my monthly income is BDT 52000 and I have 3 employees in my workshop. With Uttaran’s help I was able to lift my family out of poverty and change my fate.” – Mehedi



## Pre-Vocational Skills Training Program-December, 2016 to August, 2021

SL	Name of Trade	No of Batch	Number of Trainees	Employment Status			Job Location
				Employment in Deferent Organization	Self-Employment	Total	
1	Sewing Machine Operation	13	325	108	95	203	Dutch-Bangla Pack Ltd, Narayanganj & Dhaka
2	Auto Mechanics	10	250	94	56	150	Akij Jute Mills Limited, Nowapara, Jessore
3	Welding	8	200	78	42	120	
4	IT Support Service	3	75	26	19	45	Uttaran Microfinance Program & other Org.
<b>Total Trainees</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>518</b>	

## Prevention and Elimination of Hazardous Form of Child Labour in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh:

From January 2021 Uttaran started to implement a project titled 'Prevention and Elimination of Hazardous Form of Child Labour in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh'. The project is funded by Educo Bangladesh. With poverty rates moving upwards amidst the pandemic, child labor has also significantly increased across the whole country. The crisis is more prominent in coastal regions as poor households are making use of all their resources to cushion the economic blow of the pandemic. Not only that in these regions children are engaged in hazardous forms of labor such as working in dry fish processing factories and shrimp and crab supply chain industries. To clamp down on this ruthless practice this project is being implemented in Shyamnagar Upazila of Satkhira district where child labor is alarmingly prevalent. The project is significantly contributing to the reduction of hazardous forms of child labour and exploitation in the selected informal sectors in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. It aims to withdraw 500 child labourers from hazardous work through providing them with non-formal/formal education and technical training followed by decent job placement, ensuring implementation of the existing laws and policies through advocacy and capacity building of the relevant duty bearers. One hundred youths are currently getting opportunities to receive technical training through this project. Apart from withdrawing children from the hazardous workplaces, a good number of children will be prevented from entering work at an early age through awareness raising of the parents and promoting Code of Conduct (CoC) for the employers.

Community Cohesion In Cox's Bazar: Uttaran will be collaborating with UNDP and UN Women, who, with assistance from the Global Affairs Canada, have undertaken a project titled Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar (2018-2021). The main objectives of Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar (3C) project is to 'improve economic stability, women's empowerment, and local capacity to address and defuse conflicts as they arise'. The Project has two outputs:

(a) Improve Economic Resilience: Addressing economic tensions at their source, UNDP and UN Women will provide skills development, comprehensive employment support, and sustainable economic opportunities to vulnerable communities

(b) Build Social Cohesion: To dispel narrative myths which perpetuate perceptions of inequality and misinformation between groups, UNDP and UN Women will work with social activists, local media (radio), interfaith leadership and women's groups to implement a series of quick-impact confidence and social cohesion activities in Cox's Bazar. These activities will have both a Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) and a peacebuilding focus.

## **Photo Gallery**



Honorable State Minister of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain provided certificate to a learner of ROSC II project at Ramu



Project Director of ROSC Phase II, World Bank and Sae the Children's representatives visited Uttaran's skills programme



Inauguration ceremony of SEIP project



Uttaran Director Mr. Shahidul Islam gave a speech at the inauguration ceremony of SEIP project





Representatives from Global Affairs Canada and UNDP Bangladesh visited Uttaran's skills programme at Ukhyia



Youths are receiving technical training from UttaranChuknagar Technical Training Centre



Youths are receiving technical training from UttaranChuknagar Technical Training Centre



UttaranShemanto Technical Training Centre, Debhata, Satkhira