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OVERVIEW

160 million people, almost 58 million youth, one of the fastest growing economies of the world, Bangladesh a country which demolishes predictions. The country requires creating at least two and one quarter million jobs per year to accommodate a near doubling of labor force from its present size of fifty five million to hundred million in 2020. With an income per capita of \$1466, the country is keeping its pace with the contemporary world. What makes the country so strong is its large number of youth. To continue such development and to make it sustainable the country needs to nourish its youth to their full potential. But providing employment opportunities for such large number of youth is a challenge. One of the reasons is that the quality of education does not hit the benchmark, making the youth unskilled and narrowing their employment opportunities.

Studies show that the rate of dropouts from primary and secondary education is very high, especially in rural areas, leaving them unskilled or untrained to grasp lucrative employment opportunities. Providing simple training on modern technologies can change this scenario and make them compatible with the contemporary world, which will also reduce the current unemployment rate. With this training they can be self employed and self dependent. Bangladesh has a huge investment opportunity in the informal sector and to flourish it properly, good technical support along with guidance is needed. In this context Uttaran in the 80's has established two fully functional Technical Training Centre in Satkhira and Khulna district. These are: a) Uttaran Simanto



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Technical Training Centre, Parulla, Debhata, Satkhira which was established in 1988, b) Uttaran Chuknagar technical training centre, Chuknagar, Dumuria, Khulna which was established in 1989 and very recently, Tala Technical Training center in Shahpur, Tala, Satkhira was opened in 2015. Hundreds of students from these schools have graduated who are now employed in good places or are entrepreneurs themselves. They now have their own workshop or factory where they are employing more people, also few of them are now training others and helping others to stand up on their own feet. The training centers have emerged to be a change making organization and gave people a new idea and hope through which they will become capable of employing themselves.

Currently Uttaran provides training on Mechanical & Automobile, Mechanical Agricultural Farming, Tailoring & Fashion garments, IT support service and Welding & Fabrication in Uttaran Simanto Technical Training Centre, Uttaran Chuknagar technical training centre and the newly opened Tala Technical Training center. Each trade has the capacity to accumulate 25 students. Currently there are in total 250 students receiving training from these training centers. The courses duration are six months each. Tala Technical Training centre currently has only one trade the IT support service but is planning to open five more trades. These are Tailoring & Fashion Garments, Automobile, Mobile Repairing & servicing, TV repairing & servicing and Beautician.



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DETAILS AND OPPORTUNITY OF TRADES

Automobile

With the increasing number of automobiles in Bangladesh, there is a huge demand of automobiles technicians in the rural areas. Automobile technicians also have a huge scope to move to abroad for better employment. With the aim to create employment opportunities for the youth in the rural areas Uttaran technical schools provide Automobile mechanism training. The trade provides student with sufficient amount of theoretical and practical knowledge about. The trade also has a separate chapter on entrepreneurship so the students have the idea to be self employed.



Welding & Fabrication

This course is specially designed to provide technical knowledge and skills to cope with the requirement of welding occupations of the transport equipment sector. As Bangladesh just emerged to a lower middle income country and it is going through a fast development process. There are constructions going on everywhere, which creates employment opportunities for large number of welding and fabrication mechanics. Uttaran thought of taking these opportunities to train youths from rural areas and to place them on job fields. The course will be implemented to ensure at least 58% of total contact hours on practical/hands on skills training or practice and 42% trade occupations related theory including OHS and soft modules. Along with this they will also learn basic entrepreneurship skills so they can place themselves in the informal sector and start up their own business.



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Fashion Garments

Bangladesh is the second largest garments exporter of the world. The RMG sector has experienced an exponential growth since the 1980s. This sector still shows promising number of employment opportunities as the market is still growing. Even though a lot of youth is working in the RMG sector there is scope for them to earn higher wages by building their capacity even further. Building capacity and enhancing skills in rural areas among the youth will provide supply of good quality clothes thus allowing entrepreneurship opportunity in the rural market. Uttaran fulfills this gap by providing training of fashion garments, additionally; Uttaran also teaches them the basic courses on being an entrepreneur.

Mechanical Agricultural Farming

Bangladesh's agriculture recently became mechanized leaving the traditional tools for crop cultivation. These mechanical tools are used in mostly rural areas and they require regular maintenance and repairing which creates job opportunities for mechanics for mechanized agricultural tools. The mechanical agricultural farming trade teaches student about the basic idea of Mechanical Agricultural Farming, Machine tools operation and Maintenance, Engine Servicing and Led tool bit and System servicing.



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IT support services

The trade is very promising and popular in today's youth. It helps to connect the rural areas of Bangladesh with the global world. This sector has huge job opportunities in the rural market. Students get to learn about basic Microsoft office applications, about internet browsing, Hardware Troubleshooting and Maintenance along with other operations. There is a huge job opportunity in the rural areas for IT support services.

The schools mostly aim to train poor, ultra poor and students who have lesser skills to get that education; also they do not have the luxury to complete their studies as it requires more time & higher cost. Along with that they have to support their family from a very early stage. Through the tailoring and fashion garment training, now there are significant number female entrepreneurs running their own businesses in the rural areas. Some of them with help of different NGOs are even distributing their products in many parts of the domestic market. It has a strong future in the exporting business. Now females are also participating in other trades. Women in this area have already established their capacity and the number of female trainee are increasing each semester. It's a wonderful scenario here in Satkhira to see high number of women entrepreneurs who are still the most suppressed.



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Facilities

There are fixed technical training centers and mobile technical training centers. Uttaran provides accommodation and food for the students of fixed training centers, where as in the mobile technical training centers students usually comes from their home. Uttaran is proficient in running mobile training schools which enables a large number of youth who cannot afford to attend classes, as most the fixed training centers are located in distant places. The demand for these technical education kept increasing and for such reasons Uttaran has decided to deliver door to door technical training assistance which are more convenient for youths.

Conclusion

Unemployed youths create an unstable society. They can easily get involved with negative activities. Thus the youths which are thought as the assets of a country become a liability if they are unemployed. So it is absolutely necessary to ensure that the youths grow up skilled and have a sea of employment opportunities waiting for them. The Government, private sectors, NGOs and the civil society can work together today to ensure a better future for our youths, thus the country.



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