

Fostering Inclusive and Effective Education: Insights from Bangladesh (Editorial for Teacher's World: Journal of Education and Research, Vol 50, Issue 1)

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ABSTRACT

The inaugural issue of the 50th volume of Teacher's World: Journal of Education and Research features a collection of ten scholarly articles that explore the challenges and opportunities within Bangladesh's education sector. These articles address various facets of education, such as the struggles of marginalized communities, digital learning, and pedagogical advancements. The thematic synthesis of these articles offers significant insights into the diverse dimensions of education, encompassing issues from the obstacles faced by marginalized groups to the impacts of digital learning and innovative teaching methods. Bangladesh confronts numerous challenges in promoting inclusive and practical education due to its diverse socio-economic landscape. Economic inequalities, gender disparities, infrastructure deficiencies, and technological gaps impede students' access to quality education. The analysis of the selected articles highlights that government initiatives aimed at equitable resource allocation and inclusive education can bridge existing gaps. Strengthening community engagement can address local educational needs, ensuring accessibility and tailored support. Additionally, innovative teaching methods, such as the flipped classroom model and experiential learning, can enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. The role of public-private partnerships in mobilizing resources, expertise, and technology is crucial for improving educational infrastructure and quality. Collaborations between the government, private sector, and NGOs can create comprehensive solutions to educational challenges. Addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities requires a multifaceted approach involving policy reform, community engagement, innovative teaching methods, and strategic partnerships. By fostering inclusive and practical education, Bangladesh can pave the way for a brighter and more equitable future for its students. Furthermore, participation in global educational initiatives and networks can introduce new perspectives, resources, and best practices, enriching the local education system and fostering continuous improvement.

Key Words: *Inclusive Education, Effective Education, Teacher's World, Journal of Education and Research, TWJER, Pedagogical Advancements, Digital Learning, Bangladesh's Education Sector, Local Education System*

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Welcome to the 50th Volume of Teacher’s World. We explore transformative education themes in this landmark issue by synthesizing ten insightful academic articles. These studies in Bangladesh delve into the challenges and innovations shaping the educational landscape. Your contributions, as educators, policymakers, and researchers, have provided a rich tapestry of research on topics ranging from the educational experiences of transgender individuals to the role of social media in learning, highlighting both obstacles and opportunities for progress. Your work is not just important, it is integral to the educational landscape of Bangladesh, and we deeply value your insights.

As we present the latest issue of Teacher’s World: Journal of Education and Research, Vol. 50, Issue 1, we are reminded of the dynamic and multifaceted nature of education in Bangladesh. This edition features ten peer-reviewed articles that delve into critical aspects of our educational system. Each article, using a variety of research methodologies such as qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, and mixed-methods approaches, provides invaluable insights and practical recommendations for fostering a more inclusive, effective, and technologically integrated learning environment. The articles featured in this issue highlight critical education areas, addressing challenges and innovative approaches in the Bangladeshi context. For instance, the study on transgender students’ educational aspirations provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges they face and the potential solutions. These studies underscore the importance of inclusive, adaptable, and research-based educational practices.

The first article, “Education Failure: Untold Tales of Bangladeshi Transgender’s Unquenchable Educational Aspirations,” sheds light on the persistent challenges faced by transgender individuals in their educational journeys. Despite legal recognition and policy efforts, transgender students continue to grapple with societal stigmas, bullying, and a lack of supportive learning environments. This study underscores the need for more inclusive policies, targeted teacher training, and anti-bullying measures to create safe and accepting educational spaces. By addressing these issues, we can help ensure that all students, regardless of their gender identity, have the opportunity to pursue their educational aspirations and contribute meaningfully to society. Educators, policymakers, and researchers can use these findings to advocate for and implement more inclusive policies and practices in their respective roles.

The second article, “The Effect of Teacher-Student Reciprocal Relationships on Academic Performance in Bangladeshi Primary Schools,” highlights the profound impact of positive teacher-student relationships on academic achievement. Through a mixed-methods approach,

the study reveals that mutual respect, trust, and effective communication between teachers and students are pivotal in enhancing student engagement, motivation, and overall academic success. The findings advocate for professional development programs that equip teachers with the skills to build and maintain supportive relationships with their students. Policies that reduce class sizes and foster a collaborative school culture are essential to facilitating these positive interactions.

The third article, “Learning through Facebook and YouTube: Perceptions of Students of the University of Dhaka,” explores the role of social networking sites in supporting formal and informal education. The study demonstrates that platforms like Facebook and YouTube are integral to students’ learning experiences, providing avenues for attending online classes, accessing academic materials, and participating in group discussions. This highlights the importance of integrating technology into educational strategies to enhance learning outcomes. As digital literacy becomes increasingly crucial, educators must be adept at utilizing these tools to create engaging and effective learning environments.

“Linguistic Politeness while Exercising Teacher-Power in the English Language Classrooms in Bangladesh” examines how teachers balance power dynamics and politeness strategies to foster a productive learning environment. The study emphasizes the need for teachers to employ positive politeness strategies that support student motivation and engagement while exercising their authority in the classroom. This approach enhances student-teacher relationships and promotes a more respectful and collaborative classroom culture.

The thematic synthesis of health and scientific literacy articles reveals a significant gap in the population’s ability to engage with and apply scientific knowledge. Studies indicate that health and scientific literacy are crucial for informed decision-making and critical thinking. Integrating health literacy into the science curriculum and promoting public awareness can improve these literacies and address the population’s broader health challenges.

The comparative study on environmental literacy among primary students in urban and rural areas identifies a stark disparity in knowledge and awareness. Urban students generally exhibit higher environmental literacy, attributed to better access to educational resources and involvement in sustainability projects. To bridge this gap, curriculum developers and policymakers must enhance environmental education, particularly in rural areas, to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

The research on learning style preferences among French learners in Bangladesh underscores the importance of recognizing and catering to diverse learning styles. By incorporating a mix of visual, group, tactile, and kinesthetic teaching methods, educators can create more inclusive and compelling learning experiences. This approach ensures that all students can achieve their full potential, regardless of their preferred learning style.

The penultimate article on action research for developing teachers' pedagogical skills in non-formal education settings highlights the transformative potential of your work. By engaging in action research, you can continuously improve your instructional methods, address contextual challenges, and enhance the quality of education provided in non-formal settings. Your work has the power to transform the educational landscape of Bangladesh.

The final article, titled "Exploring Peer Perceptions of Students with Disabilities: A Study at the University of Dhaka," investigates the attitudes of students towards their peers with disabilities. The research employs the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) to analyze responses from 105 students through a structured survey. Findings reveal predominantly positive perceptions, with students showing empathy, willingness to assist, and inclusive behavior toward their peers with disabilities. However, some respondents expressed doubts about the independence of disabled students, indicating a need for further support and awareness initiatives. The study underscores the importance of fostering inclusive educational environments. It suggests policy recommendations, such as integrating students with disabilities in residential halls, conducting awareness programs, and establishing support centers to enhance inclusivity and support within higher education institutions.

Bangladesh faces challenges in promoting inclusive and practical education due to its diverse socio-economic landscape. Economic inequalities, gender disparities, infrastructure deficiencies, and technological gaps hinder students' access. We understand the complexities of these issues and the efforts required to overcome them. Your work is crucial in addressing these challenges. Government initiatives, community engagement, innovative teaching methods, and public-private partnerships can bridge these gaps. Collaborations between the government, private sector, and NGOs can create comprehensive solutions. A multifaceted approach involving policy reform, community engagement, innovative teaching methods, and strategic partnerships is needed. Participation in global educational initiatives can introduce new perspectives, resources, and best practices, enriching the local education system and fostering continuous improvement.

The synthesis of these studies provides a comprehensive view of Bangladesh's educational challenges and innovations. By addressing the specific needs of marginalized groups, fostering positive teacher-student relationships, leveraging technology, and enhancing literacy, we can create a more inclusive and effective educational environment. This issue of *Teacher's World* serves as a call to action for educators, policymakers, and researchers to collaborate and implement strategies that will drive meaningful change in the education sector. With your continued efforts, we can look forward to a brighter future for education in Bangladesh.

The research presented in this issue of *Teacher's World* offers valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of education in Bangladesh. The articles support us in gaining a better understanding of the existing context when dealing with diverse challenges and opportunities.

The findings from the articles have policy implications. By addressing these diverse themes through targeted policies and interventions, significant strides can be made in creating a more inclusive, supportive, and effective educational environment. We hope these studies inspire educators, policymakers, and researchers to strive for excellence in education. By implementing targeted policies and interventions, educational stakeholders can work towards creating a more inclusive, supportive, and effective learning environment for all students.

This issue of Teacher's World brings to the forefront the interconnected themes of inclusivity, teacher-student relationships, technological integration, and literacy in various forms. As educators, policymakers, and stakeholders, we must embrace these insights and work collaboratively to implement the recommendations provided. Doing so can create an inclusive, supportive, and equipped educational landscape to meet all learners' diverse needs. We hope this volume inspires new ideas and fosters dialogue among our readers, contributing to the ongoing effort to advance education through inclusivity and innovation. Let us commit to fostering an educational environment where every student can thrive and contribute to the betterment of our society.