

Textile Education In Bangladesh

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WORLD famous "Muslin" of Dhaka bears the testimony of the craftsmanship of the weavers of Bangladesh. But the glorious "Muslin" of Dhaka has long been lost. It now only remains as history to tell its tragic death. What is more surprising is that when India was partitioned in 1947 Bangladesh inherited only nine cotton textile mills and not a single jute mill was there in this part of the Sub-Continent.

However, from the year 1947 Bangladesh has built a large and thriving textile industry localised mainly around Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna city areas of the country. The textile industry of Bangladesh at present consists of an organised spinning and integrated textile units sector (both cotton and jute) and a large number of cottage hand-loom weaving units. There are about 80 composite jute mills, 40 specialised jute spinning and twine mills, 80 cotton textile mills, 100 specialised textile mills, 1300 garments, six carpet mills and over 2000 hosiery units.

In addition to these organised sectors, there are more than 0.3 million cottage weaving hand-loom unit producing various types of diversified fabrics and meet about 50 of the local cloth demand. This hand-loom sector of the textile industry also plays an important role in national economy

and employment. It is, however, now generally realised all over the world that the growth of the textile industry can alone ensure proper utilisation of the available cash crop resources like jute, cotton, wool, silk etc. This is the short history and background of the textile industry of Bangladesh.

In view of the gradual expansion and progress of the textile industry since 1947, it is imperative to have enough facilities of education and training in the field of textiles. Because the overall progress and development of the industry depend to a great extent mainly on the availability of a suitable number of highly qualified textile technical people. It is, however, roughly estimated that the industry needs about 6000 textile technologists and engineers for its proper running and better management.

In this connection it can be mentioned that the previous Bangladesh Textile Institute offering Diploma level courses in textiles was first established in 1950. This Institute was capable to provide Textile Technical personnel required by the rapidly growing textile industry of the country for its better and scientific operation, management and administration. This was upgraded to a College of Textile Technology as a constituent College of the University

of Dhaka in 1978. It offers a four-year B.Sc. Degree course in Textiles over a wide spectrum of Textile Technology. The entry requirement for the B.Sc. Degree course is Higher Secondary, pre-engineering level or its equivalent. The B.Sc. in Textile Technology Degree course with Clothing and Computer Science studies is so designed that a broad textile technology education is provided, covering the main stream areas of Fibre, Yarn and Fabric Manufactures, Dyeing and Finishing and Clothing studies, in addition to related subjects like Statistics, Testing and Quality Control, Industrial Management, Mill Engineering and Services. Moreover, there are six District Textile Institute to offer technician level courses to the Secondary School standard students to meet the demand of mid-level management and supervisors of the textile industry. These six Institutes are going to be upgraded very soon to offer Diploma level courses in Textiles. Moreover, there are 27 mobile Textile Training Centres.

Conclusion

In the light of the above discussion, we can conclude here by suggesting that the Textile Education and Manufacturing Technology in Bangladesh can be well developed by

acquiring the knowledge and information of the latest technology having an institutional linkage academic project between the College of Textile Technology, Dhaka, and the Universities like Manchester, Leeds, etc. of the UK.

Moreover, there is a tremendous scope to establish a strong economic and textile trade link with the developing country like Bangladesh which needs appropriate technology to exploit its natural fibre resources such as jute, cotton, wool, silk and synthetic materials.

It is, however, very encouraging that in the meantime, UNDP has come forward for strengthening and further development of the College of Textile Technology of Dhaka University in respect of:

★ Staff development by awarding short long fellowships;

★ Foreign expertise assistance in the field of Textile Technology Education Development; and

★ Procurements of new modern machines and equipment for the practical laboratories of Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, Dyeing and Testing for students practical demonstration and project work under the technical aid programme of UNDP. (The writer is Associate Professor (Tech.), College of Textile Technology, Tejgaon, Dhaka.