

Education system needs overhaul

The Daily Star roundtable told

Star Report

The country must change its education system to create enterprising and creative people rather than job-seeking robots if it wants to accelerate economic growth.

This was the conclusion of a roundtable sponsored by The Daily Star on "Entrepreneurship Education and Training in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges as an Alternative HRD Strategy".

It was organised by Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals (YEP) Forum in collaboration with the British Council and Professional Development Programme (PDP) of North South University and was held at the British Council auditorium.

The roundtable aimed to inspire the young graduates to take risk of becoming entrepreneurs by using their acquired knowledge and creativity.

Attended by academics, aspiring entrepreneurs, fresh graduates as well as university students, the roundtable also emphasised introducing entrepreneurship development education from school level.

"Education should be designed in a way so as to enable people to think intelligently and make them creative and

courageous to take risk. But unfortunately that is what is lacking in our education system," said Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star.

The major impediment to development, he said, was the national mindset where everybody tends to think that this nation is poor and incapable of doing anything.

He urged the young people to take the responsibility to change the attitude.

While pointing out that it would not be possible for any government to provide job for everybody, Anam said young people have to think of setting up their own organisation, make the best of their creative thinking and add value to the society.

As young people do not have any voice in the country due to politicisation of student organisations, Mahfuz Anam maintained that young people should have a say through forums like this.

Vice-chancellor of North South University Hafiz G. A. Siddiqui said Bengalis by nature is shy. "But the young people have to get out of this shyness and show the nation the light through their enterprising enthusiasm."

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Pointing that entrepreneurship can be developed, he said, "For that people have to transform their character from one of risk averter to risk taker." But it does not mean somebody has to take risk foolishly.

Professor of Finance Department of Dhaka University Habibur Rahman said the saying that entrepreneurs are born, not developed is partly true. There are some qualities of an entrepreneur which are in-born but some others can be developed and a person could be a successful entrepreneur through education and training, he added.

"Education gives the insight to identify the opportunity and training provides the skill to make it real," Rahman said.

Dr Md Alaaddin hoped that the young entrepreneurs would take the challenge to establish themselves without becoming tax evaders and bank defaulters.

Others who spoke on the occasion are Qazi Mahmud of YEP Forum, Afreen Huq of Independent University, young entrepreneurs and faculty of private universities.