



Information Technology and Development: Bangladesh Perspective-III

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2. Quite a few Bangladeshi skilled IT professionals have been working abroad. They can be encouraged to return to the country and collaborate with Bangladeshi entrepreneurs.

3. Universities in Bangladesh are turning out an increasing number of graduates in computer related subjects every year.

4. A large number of Bangladeshi students are studying overseas in computer related subjects.

5. A wide range of hardware platforms, from Mainframe to PC, is available.

6. Reasonable skills exist in the following areas:-

6.1. Operating system: Windows(95,97,98,2000, NT, XP), MAC/OS, Novell Netware, Linux, Unix, OS/400 etc.

6.2. Programming Languages: C++, Visual(C++, Basic, FoxPro, J++), COBOL, RPG, OOP etc.

6.3. RDBMS: Oracle, Informix, DB/2 etc.

7. Besides, Bangladesh offers a very attractive cost-effective wage level, viz.

	Bangladesh		
Programmers (per month)	US\$ 400-800	US\$ 1,200	US\$4,500
Data Entry (per 10,000 keystrokes)	US\$ 3-5	US\$10	US\$ 30-50

(Source: Internet)

Constraints in IT extension:

1. Non-availability of Bangla software in computers of the government offices.

2. Mere coordination between IT academia and industry.

3. Lack of cyber law in case of e-commerce.

4. Increasing trend of brain drain of IT scholars.

5. The lack of trained teachers, laboratory facilities, Internet and e-mail connection and above all incomplete and not up to date course curricula is seriously hampering the IT education in Secondary and Higher secondary levels.

6. Taking high fees for IT training by private institutions.

7. One of the major drawbacks in IT development is the lack of skilled manpower in english language and communication.

8. Software piracy may be

the impediment in IT extension.

Conclusion and recommendation:

Although we enter into the information superhighway, it is too late in comparison to the developed countries. A complete overhaul should be brought in all of the IT-related activities. So, in order to make IT as a potential field, following action plans are highly recommended:

1. The public and private universities and BITs should double the intake to produce sufficient number of IT graduates.

2. Due emphasis must be given to produce qualified IT teachers or trainers.

3. National information infrastructure should be built to ensure Internet access to all of the citizens. In this case, cyber kiosks in all of the districts, thanas or upazilas can be established.

4. Setting up separate ministry to expedite the growth of IT industry.

5. A national standard IT course curriculum and certification/examination procedure should be introduced.

6. A National Software Development Plan (NSDP) may be formulated in order to develop domestic software market and minimize dependencies on foreign

made Softwares.

7. The Nationalized Commercial Banks (NCBs) can offer venture capital to help entrepreneurs establish centers for software development.

8. One Information Technology University (ITU) and a Telecom University should be established.

9. Computers and Internet access shall be made available in every school, college, university, BIT, polytechnic, public medical college and hospital in country.

10. Steps should be taken by the Bangladesh Bank to computerize all banks in the country with electronic and credit card based transactions.

11. Hardware industries should be established in the

country to produce motherboards, peripherals, accessories etc. with joint venture and technology transfer agreement.

If the condition is like that mentioned above, then the days are not far away when IT applications in Bangladesh will not only spread to various private and public sector offices and industrial units but also the country will emerge as a regional hub for software development.

Name of the profession	Country		
	Bangl	India	USA