

ABOUT BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT POLICIES/ RECENT TRENDS ON HIGHER EDUCATION:

A New Education Policy - 2000 has been approved. Fundamental changes and evolution will be implemented in phases by 2010. The aims and objectives of the policy will be to:

- Undertake wide-ranging programs in the country for the development of education.
- Raise the present literacy rate from 65% to 100% by 2002.
- Remove gender bias in education.
- Ensure quality at each phase of education.
- Encourage people to contribute to the educational process in primary, secondary and vocational education.
- Encourage private initiatives in the education sector. Increase financial responsibility of students (ie their families) for their studies, particularly for college and higher education.

According to a World Bank report - the rapid growth in population in the last 30 years has resulted in an 'excess demand over supply' situation for post secondary education. In 1920 the monthly tuition fee for public universities in East Bengal (presently known as Bangladesh) was the equivalent of 50 cents Canadian. Tuition fees remain at that level, and due to political reasons, the universities have been unable to raise student fees. Due to this financial constraint, there is a freeze in the future expansion of public universities. Government is encouraging the growth of private higher education so that by 2020 at least one-third of university education and one-fourth of higher technical education is provided by private institutions. Higher education will also have better linkages to markets and the world.

The **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, the apex body of universities, was established in 1973. The underlying principle of establishing UGC is that the Government should not deal directly with the universities. It should deal with the UGC, which in turn deals directly with the universities. This arrangement is designed to safeguard the autonomous character of the universities.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh provides information on the public and private universities. Such information is found on the website: www.ugc.org/university.htm
For names and addresses of the universities see Annex 1.2

Institutions under UGC (2001) are:

UNIVERSITIES IN BANGLADESH	46
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	13
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES	21
SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITIES	12