

The Policy Forum

The Policy Forum titled “Empowering Youth” was jointly organised by Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) and ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) on May 25, 2016 in Khulna, Bangladesh.

The idea was to create an open and conducive environment for grassroots youth to engage in candid discussion with high level policy actors on key policy issues.

The Policy Forum series is a regional extension of IID's Policy Breakfast series. For more about Policy Breakfast series, visit: www.iidbd.org/pb



Local level policymakers and government officials, politicians, academics, youth leaders and activists engaged in a lively discussion at the Khulna Policy Forum.

Key issues on the table



Employment & education

Need to increase opportunity for inclusive education and employment



Drug abuse

Civic awareness needed to stop drug abuse among youth



Terrorism & extremism

Without cautious use of technology, terrorism and cybercrime may increase



Child marriage

Widespread social movement and activism is needed to stop child marriage



Youth leadership & collective voice

A platform for collective youth voice, recognition from leaders and opportunities to act can flourish youth leadership



Countries like Japan and Singapore are worried about their negative population growth. They are now encouraging people to have more kids. Therefore, if we can convert this large young population into skilled human resources, it will be a blessing for our country. Through the use of technology and technical skills, we can do this.



Jahangir Hossain
*Addition Deputy
 Commissioner (ADC)
 Khulna*

Youth Ministry has a project to empower youth with technical skills. Seven vans/cars have been designated to 7 districts each carrying 10 laptops. The vans are equipped with generators and AC. Youths are being trained on how to use computers in these mobile training centres.



Md. Motiar Rahman
*Deputy Director (in charge)
 Department of Youth
 Development
 Khulna*

There are extremely low opportunities for youth for civic engagement or social work... On the other hand, drug abuse is a major problem. Those with leadership qualities don't know what to do because there is no proper channel and lack of mentorship. The older generation needs to create the opportunities for the youth.



K. M. Humayun Kabir
*Councillor
 Khulna City
 Corporation*

To give something to society, we must become qualified enough to make a difference. Therefore, we have to prepare our youth to be effective leaders.



K. M. Azizul Hasan Dulu
*Businessman
 Hasan Enterprize
 Vice-President,
 Bangladesh Sheccha-Shebok Dol, Khulna*

If we can make taxation progressive, then we can redistribute income and wealth towards development and equity, especially towards education. We need to spend more on quality education? ... Unfortunately, in our education budget, most of the funds go to non-development expenses instead of development.



Shahnewaz Nazimuddin
*Head
 Economics Discipline
 Khulna Univeristy*

We have to have confidence in young people. As parents, we have a tendency of overindulging our children. But kids learn by doing things, so we need to entrust them with responsibility. Parents are the first and most important teachers in a child's life, so parents must instill the right values in their kids.



Hasna Hena
*Programme Officer
 Department of Women
 Affairs*



Md Abdul Jabbar
*Professor
 Dean, Social Science
 Khulna University*

With the rise of Digital Bangladesh, we are also seeing a concurrent rise in cybercrimes, especially terrorism and extremism aided by the use of the internet. In my opinion, we have to make sure youth do not get attracted by the world of cybercrimes.