



SheSTEM: Career Knows No Gender

Seminar & Workshop: Empowering Future Female STEM Leaders

Concept Note

June 23, 2025



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Seminar and Workshop

SheSTEM Conclave: Bridging Gaps, Building Futures

Date: **June 23, 2025**

Time: **2:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Venue: **Dhaka university Faculty of Engineering and Technology**

Organizers: **Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Dhaka and SheSTEM Consortium (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherland, a2i, LightCastle Partner, 10 Minute School, DevLearn and Policy Exchange)**

1. SheSTEM Background

The SheSTEM project is designed to address the significant underrepresentation of women in STEM fields in Bangladesh, where female participation in these roles stands at a mere 14%. This disparity reflects deep-seated gender inequalities in both education and the workforce, hampering the country's potential for inclusive economic development. Research indicates that nearly half of all girls interested in STEM lack exposure to female role models, and by age 16, only 25% of girls envision scientists as women. Societal biases that favor boys in mathematics and girls in reading and domestic tasks lead to a marked decline in interest and self-confidence among young girls.

By creating supportive educational environments, promoting female role models, and enhancing teaching methods, SheSTEM aims to foster skills, engagement, and inclusion in STEM careers among university students. This comprehensive strategy will empower more women to pursue and excel in STEM careers, thereby advancing gender equality and driving economic growth in Bangladesh.

2. SheSTEM Overview

SheSTEM, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is a collaborative effort among five esteemed consortium partners – 10 Minute School, a2i, DevLearn Consulting, LightCastle Partners, and Policy Exchange Bangladesh. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between public university students and public/private businesses – fostering skills, engagement, participation, equity, and inclusion in STEM careers. The overarching objective is to not only encourage a greater number of women to pursue STEM fields but also ensure their continuous progression, empowerment and success in these areas.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Seminar are as follows:

1. **Discussing Crucial Policy Proposals:** Facilitate discussions on essential policy recommendations aimed at fostering an inclusive and equitable STEM ecosystem for women.
2. **Exploring Collaboration Opportunities:** Facilitate interactions among industry, academia, ministries and decision-makers to identify potential partnerships and collaborative projects.
3. **Sharing Best Practices:** Sharing best practices by industry experts to stakeholders to exchange successful strategies and initiatives that promote women in STEM.
4. **Co-Create Solutions:** Engage participants in discussions to develop innovative solutions addressing the challenges faced by women in STEM.
5. **Finding gaps and recommendation:** Analyze existing frameworks to pinpoint challenges and collaboratively develop actionable recommendations to address them.

4. Seminar Speakers & Guests

Sector	Speakers
Industry Leaders	<p>Farzana Afrin Tisha Azure Data AI Security SMB Lead Microsoft</p> <p>Nahida Akter Manager Oracle</p> <p>Shaela Quader, SMB Account Specialist, X (Formerly known as Twitter)</p> <p>Shaila Rahman Head of Service Delivery & Experience Grameenphone (GP)</p> <p>Gyongshim An Program Leader for Sustainable Development Bangladesh and Bhutan World Bank</p>
Government Officials	<p>Nasreen Jahan Director, Chief Scientific Officer Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission</p> <p>Md. Rashidul Mannaf Kabir Project Director (Additional Charge) and Joint Secretary a2i - Aspire to Innovate, ICT Division</p> <p>Md. Moynul Haque Bhuiyan Deputy secretary, (human Resource Development Branch) ICT Division</p>

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	<i>Mushfiqua Zaman Satiar</i> <i>Senior Policy Advisor</i> Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh
Academia Members	<i>Chairman, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering</i> <i>Chairman, Department of Computer Science and Engineering</i> <i>Chairman, Department of Nuclear Engineering</i> <i>Chairman, Department of Applied Chemistry & Chemical Engineering</i> Professor Dr. Naureen Ahsan Department of Physics, University of Dhaka
Moderator	<i>Md Sahariar Hasan Jiisun (Moderator)</i> <i>Lead, Resource Mobilization,</i> <i>a2i, ICT Division</i>

5. Session Plan

Seminar	
Date: June 23, 2025 Dhaka	
Venue: Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of	
Time	Details
Introduction and Interactive Sessions	
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Welcome remarks Md. Afzal Hossain Sarwar Policy Analyst, Lead Future of Education, a2i Chairman Different Departments
02: 15 PM – 2:45 AM	Session on: AI for Excellence (Use in study and career) Speaker: 30 Mins
2:45 PM – 03:15 PM	Session on: How to pursue career with Hi-Techs Shaela Quader, SMB Account Specialist, X (Formerly known as Twitter)
03:15 PM – 04:00 PM	Interactive Panel Discussion - Topic: Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration - Panelists Nasreen Jahan Director, Chief Scientific Officer Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission

	<p>Abdullah Al Fahim Programme Management Lead, a2i, ICT division</p> <p>Nahida Akter Manager, Oracle</p> <p>Gyongshim An Program Leader for Sustainable Development Bangladesh and Bhutan World Bank</p> <p>Professor Dr. Naureen Ahsan Department of Physics, University of Dhaka</p> <p>Md. Moynul Haque Bhuiyan Deputy secretary, (human Resource Development Branch) ICT Division</p> <p>Md Sahariar Hasan Jiisun (Moderator) Lead, Resource Mobilization, a2i, ICT Division</p>
04:00 PM – 04:30 PM	<p>Session on: <i>Understanding Perceptions of STEM Careers in Multinational Corporations</i></p> <p>Shaila Rahman Head of Service Delivery & Experience Grameenphone (GP)</p>
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>Session on: <i>Exploring Careers in the Pharmaceutical Industry: Opportunities for STEM Graduates</i></p> <p>Speaker: 30 Mins</p>
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM	<p>Closing Ceremony and Summary of key takeaways</p> <p>Md. Rashidul Mannaf Kabir Project Director (Additional Charge) and Joint Secretary, a2i - Aspire to Innovate, ICT Division</p> <p>Mushfiqua Zaman Satiar Senior Policy Advisor, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh</p> <p>Dr. Upama Kabir Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Dhaka</p> <p>Bijon Islam CEO, Lightcastle partners</p>