

Introducing ICT as a Tool of Reducing Unethical Activities in Bangladeshi Education Domain

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ABSTRACT

Corruption is one of the major problems that we are facing across the world. Education sector of many countries in the world is corrupted, and this corruption is quite high in the third world countries. Corruption gets its hand everywhere - from education ministry of Bangladesh to local primary schools. While figuring-out some types and forms of corruption in Bangladeshi education sector, this paper describes some ways to remove corruption from education sector using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

CCS Concepts

• Applied computing~E-government

Keywords

ICT; e-Services; Corruption; Education Sector; Digital Bangladesh

1. INTRODUCTION

ICT is a tool that can be used to reduce corruption from education sector in an effective way. Using ICT we can provide e-services by which the percentage of corruption will be reduced to a tolerable level, if not completely. ICT offers countries new approach to create a transparency and promote anti-corruption. Many nations with transparency laws have directly tied the implementation of these laws to the implementation of ICT based initiatives, often through e-government [1]. According to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report [2], the country has lost over 8.75 million USD in the form of petty corruption in primary education in one year. The TIB report was released based on the feedback of 11420 responds from 10 countries.

In Table 1, the rate of corruption at education sector in Bangladesh has been shown. Clearly, it reveals that corruption is being reduced day by day and one of the reasons is the usage of ICT. In Bangladesh, the study divulges that various types of corruption exist in education sector like embezzlement, extortion, question paper leaks, fraud, and bribery.

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Table 1: Corruption at education sector in Bangladesh during 2007-2013

Year	Percent(%) of Corruption in Bangladesh
2007	39
2010	15
2012	14.8
2013	12

[Source: Transparency International report 2013 [2]]

2. UNETHICAL ACTIVITIES

2.1 Embezzlement at education sector

According to the study [3], teachers of primary schools are collecting donations from 90.09% students under various pretexts, and money receipts of 90% donations are not given to the students. In spite of the primary education being free of cost, the admission fees, monthly tuition fees, exam fees, prices for the government books, fees in the name of annual sports, and other irregularities and matters related to corruption appears in the study. In regard to the secondary education the students who do not go to teachers for private tuition get fewer marks in their exams.

2.2 Question Paper Leakage

Question paper leakage is now become a common matter in any public examination [4]. The names of some public examinations where question papers were leaked out before the examination such as Primary School Certificate (PSC), Junior School Certificate (JSC), Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC), Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) admission, and public entity job tests. A group of people manages to leak these questions through their political and economical connections. There is a bad tendency among the students to pass the exam with the help of leaked question paper. As a result, they make good results but on the other hand, talented students are facing real hardship. This is direct form of favoritism.

2.3 Extortion

Students are extorted in various ways at schools, colleges, and universities. The coaching centers and schools extort money from students in the name of various fees [5]. They force the students to pay those fees. Teachers in both public and private schools have come up with many new ideas of extorting money from parents. Both in primary and secondary schools collect fees for books, terminal examination, practical examination, and report cards. There are fees for extra evening lessons, annual renewal of student's ID cards, Parent-teacher association (PTA), sports, and other sundry levies [6].

2.4 Bribery

Bribery is the act of taking or receiving something specially money to gain unlawful advantage. In a survey there has been shown

among total corruption 33.2% corruption occur in education sector and bribe is paid in education sector is 8.8%. More than \$1 trillion in bribes alone are paid out around the world every year and the literature indicates that graft affects the poor and disadvantaged in society the most [7]. Table 2 displays the average briber in rural and in urban areas.

Table 2: Donation or unauthorized payments transacted

Institutions	Average Bribe (USD).		
	Rural	Urban	Overall
Primary	1.4	1.14	4.25
Secondary	10.45	12.61	10.96
College	19.19	2.5	15.01
Madrasah	1.11	5.75	1.51
Other	1.28	13.63	4.36
Overall	33.43	35.63	36.09

[Source: Report of Corruption in Bangladesh [8]]

2.5 Fraud

Fraud in education of Bangladesh is a major crisis. Fraud takes place in local administration, schools, colleges, universities, and even in admission in universities of abroad. There are several types of companies which are faked and illegal. They take money from students to admit them in universities all over the world. There is an objection that sometimes universities could not find any record of student's payment. Through the investigation it is found that students had paid their fees using third party, without using the university's payment system. Tuition fees payment are made by using stolen credit cards and it is being used to pay students debts.

2.6 Nepotism

In education system of Bangladesh, it occurs during the students' admission and in the appointment of a teacher. Someone from higher authority requests an educational institute's managing board to recruit his/her favorite candidate or relative though he/she is not capable of performing his/her task as a teacher. This way the well-deserved candidate misses his/her chance to get a job. Promotions are also affected by nepotism. In Bangladesh teachers and other officials got promotion with nepotism.

3. SOLUTIONS

3.1 What is done?

There are some educational institutions using ICT to reduce embezzlement. Educational institutions encourage the students to pay their academic fees through a online bank account. Status of that bank account is accessed by the institute's administrative body. Messaging services are enabled when a transaction takes place, this way embezzlement has been reduced. Now many schools and colleges start to use online result processing system. Students may see their results through online. As a result, teachers cannot pass those students manually who are failed. Admission results are also published online; hence admission business has been reduced by using ICT. Students can search university information through internet. Students can get all the information about the university from a university website. Students can read all the information and learn about admission fees. This reduces the dependency over agencies and also reduces the rate of fraud.

3.2 What to do?

To reduce the question paper leakage problem, the whole system must be re-developed using ICT. There should be an examination control center which distributes question paper through online and also provides Personal Identification Number (PIN) to a specific person. This particular password will be activated in a particular time so question paper leakage problem might be reduced. Furthermore, in order to reduce nepotism during teacher recruitment, online based exam should be introduced. Result of the examination will be published online so that everyone can have a clear understanding about the result. This system will publish result and score of a candidate instantly. From this discussion, we understand that ICT is helping us reducing corruption from Bangladeshi education sector.

4. CONCLUSION

Corruption is a great threat for our society; thus, it has become more dangerous when it hits the education sector of Bangladesh. It is proved that ICT is a useful tool for reducing corruption. Although people of Bangladesh are not familiar with Computers and ICT, Government, NGOs, and public intellectuals should take initiatives to make people aware of the benefits of ICT. Then the people of Bangladesh will truly get the benefit of "Digital Bangladesh".

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