

ANNUAL
REPORT

2018

Annual Report 2018

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About us

The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) is a not-for-profit policy research organization which aims to create a platform for public discussion on important matters of national policy in Bangladesh. Analyzing key challenges facing the nation, CRI explores through people-centered debate the political ideas and the policy reforms that will define progressive politics and policies in a new, digital Bangladesh. With a focus on youth engagement and democratized debate, CRI aims to bring politics closer to the people.

By bridging the gap between people and politics, CRI hopes to empower citizens and afford them a stake in their society. CRI aims to generate high quality research and data on the opinions and views of young people in Bangladesh through creative methods.

CRI combines its resources and expertise to produce publications and online content taking into the concerns and priorities of young voters and the youth demographic in Bangladesh. Most publications and online contents are focused on different areas of national development using high quality design and production standards. CRI also provides a unique platform for voicing the opinions of young Bangladeshis, organising open dialogues among the youth and policy makers through our signature programmes Let's Talk and Policy Café.

Youth Engagement at 2018 CRI Events and Publication Distribution

400 Let's Talk	300 Policy Cafe	700 Youth and the Manifesto	250 National Children's Day	100 Focused Group Discussion	35,000 Joy Bangla Concert
55,000 Online following		4,38,031 Mujib Graphic Novel		2,60,000 Newsletter receivers	40,000 Publications Distributed



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

CRI organized a number of policy dialogues and events, which created opportunities for youth groups/individuals to interact with policy makers, voice their opinions and provide inputs for future policy making. Over a thousand youth were engaged in policy discussions throughout 2018, sharing views, suggestions and ideas at the different events organised by CRI.

Policy
Cafe



Let's Talk with Sheikh Hasina

On 23rd November 2018 CRI organized a 'Let's Talk' with the HPM Sheikh Hasina with around 150 young people. The premier interacted with a diverse group of youths and listened to their dreams, hopes and aspirations regarding the course of future Bangladesh. The participants discussed at length the government's policies and measures to take the country forward, including employment opportunities, quality of education, women empowerment, entrepreneurship and research, the growing demand for mental health services, fighting the menaces of corruption and violent extremism as well as ensuring transparency in governance. The participants also had the opportunity to ask questions about the Prime Minister's youth and personal life.



This was the first ever such event in the political history of Bangladesh where the prime minister directly spoke to the youth and asked the participants to share their ideas and thoughts on the development of Bangladesh.

Taking up this opportunity, the participants also inquired about the struggles the Prime Minister had to endure throughout her life, including the tragic event of 15th August 1975, her days as an opposition leader, and her time in prison during the military backed caretaker government era.



Interactive Dialogue on Manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League

In collaboration with #IamBangladesh, CRI organized an event with over 450 youths titled “Youth power, prosperity of Bangladesh” to generate a view-exchange on the election manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League. Eminent scientist, writer and educationist Prof Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, State Minister for Information Tarana Halim, Saima Wazed Hossain, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and chairperson of National Advisory Committee on Autism, Atiur Rahman, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, Atiqul Islam, former president of BGMEA and National Cricketer Mehidy Hasan Miraz were among the discussants. The Participants said right use of the potentials of country's youth will accelerate the ongoing national development.



Series Focus Group Discussion: 'Tarunnyer Chokhe Bangladesher Rajniti' Youth Opinions on Bangladesh Politics

CRI conducted four Focus Group Discussions to capture the views and preferences of around 80 youths regarding the political situation and culture of Bangladesh. The main objective of this exercise was to draw a set of recommendations which could be forward to political parties. The sessions were conducted with 70 with participants including students, service holders, entrepreneurs and representatives of youth-led organizations.



Let's Talk with Sajeeb Wazed

On 15th April, 2018, CRI organized 'Let's Talk' with ICT Adviser to the HPM – Mr. Sajeeb Wazed which was attended by a group of 270 youths. The discussion was divided into three segments – Bangladesh Graduation from a Least Developing Country (LDC) to a Developing Country (DC), Digital Bangladesh, Youth Development and Contemporary Bangladesh. The youth raised questions about the decrease in foreign aid due to the DC graduation, the sustainability of the ongoing infrastructural developments and the future of the ICT sector in Bangladesh. The youth also shared their views on issues like the traffic situation in the capital, problems in the education sector, corruption in the public administration, student protests on road safety etc.





Policy Café on Redefining Employment

CRI organized a 'Policy Café' with the youth entrepreneurs and ICT Adviser to the HPM-Sajeeb Wazed. The topic was "Redefining Employment". Around 300 youth entrepreneurs from a cross section of society took part in this interactive discussion. The event was also attended and addressed by a group of six panel speakers including Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister for ICT, Hussain M Elius, CEO, Pathao, Md Sadruddin, Managing Director, Sadeeq Agro & Shahi Mithai, Armin Khan, Co-Founder & Business Lead, Sheba.xyz, Humaira Chowdhury, Managing Director, Water Filtration Enterprise and Professor Roshidul Hasan, Team Leader, E-Village Project. The policy café was specially designed to explore what are the enabling factors behind these massive employment generations in non-traditional sectors, what are the challenges to be faced and expected policy support required to maintain constant growth in these sectors.



Youth Voice in Policy and Politics

The collective opinions, concerns and suggestions raised by the youth during various CRI programs were fed back to relevant bodies and Bangladesh Awami League (AL). This feedback played a crucial role in shaping the Awami League Manifesto for the 2018 National Elections. The HPM Sheikh Hasina also promised to look into issues raised by the youth and gave them advice on various concerns like mental health, career in politics etc.

The issues raised by the youth were also used to make amendments of certain policies such as the equity sharing clause in the Digital e-Commerce Policy which now allows foreign investors to own more than 51% shares of a company. The CRI partnership project with E-Village was also a result of youth suggestions on the digital and agricultural sector reformation during different policy dialogues.

Centre for Research and Information (CRI), in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Department of Youth Development (under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh) organized the "Workshop on Finalizing National Youth Policy 2016".

Reaching the Youth

The participants are selected using four principal methods: first, from CRI's own alumni network of participants who previously attended the Let's Talk and/or Policy Café sessions from 2013 onward. Second, from Young Bangla and its extended grassroots youth and campus networks. Third, recommendations from CRI-YB's partner organizations throughout the years. Fourth, participants from online applications or via CRI's online social media platforms. For filling up some essential sub-divisions within each criteria (such as gender distribution, age etc.), recommendations have also been collected from personal references.

Participant Profiles:

The participating audience for CRI events generally consist young people from diverse backgrounds from a cross section of Bangladesh. These youths aged between 18-35 included university students, young professionals, young entrepreneurs, members of different university social clubs and members of the Young Bangla network.





CELEBRATIONS WITH THE YOUTH

Joy Bangla Concert

On 7th March 2018, Centre for Research and Information (CRI) organized the Joy Bangla concert for the 4th time to pay a tribute to historic 7th March, 1971 speech by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The concert held in Dhaka, sought to inspire the youth with the messages and the spirit of 7th March speech.

Featured bands



The concert at a glance

On 7 March 2018, Centre for Research and Information (CRI) and its youth platform Young Bangla, organized the Joy Bangla concert for the fourth time to pay a rich tribute to the historic 7 March, 1971 speech by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The concert sought to inspire the youth with the messages and the spirit of the 7th March speech, featured leading rock and pop bands of Bangladesh. A tribute was paid to

Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech and celebrated the strong spirit and courageous zeal of the Bangladeshi youth. What made this year's celebration more special is that it was the first Joy Bangla Concert after UNESCO recognition of the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu as part of the world's documentary heritage at the end of 2017. The concert features renditions of the famous patriotic songs as well as the bands' own music.



'Road to 7th March Concert'

To spread the essence of Joy Bangla Concert two musical show 'Road to 7th March Concert' outside Dhaka covered Sylhet and Khulna respectively on 2nd and 5th March 2018. The tour titled 'Road to 7th March Concert' was held at the Abul Mal Abdul Muhit Sports Complex playground with the performance of the leading rock bands Mechanix and Nemesis who performed again on Monday (5th March) at the Circuit House ground in Khulna.

Outreach and Youth Engagement

The entry to the concert was free this year, while the participants needed to do an online registration which continued from March 1 to 6. In order to ensure smooth travel to and from the venue, 4 shuttle bus services were arranged from various strategic locations of Dhaka. Hundreds of volunteers from both CRI/Young Bangla and the event management partners were present at the venue for the full duration of the event to ensure the hassle free enjoyment of the people attending. Large number of security personnel from private security firm Aegis Security, Military Police and Dhaka Metropolitan Police were present to ensure full proof security for all.

The venue, Army Stadium was packed with nearly 40,000 people while millions joined across the country, watched the event telecasted live on Channel 9. People also listened to the concert live on radio through Radio Dhol 94.0 FM. There was also arrangement for people across the globe to enjoy the event live online through the

live-streaming services made available in the websites and social media pages of CRI, Young Bangla, bdnews24.com, banglanews24.com and other news media.





CRI Celebrates Father of the Nation's Birth Anniversary and Children's Day

Centre for Research and Information (CRI) for the third year in a row organized an interactive event marking the 98th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka.

Comic contest

The main attraction of the event was the comic contest held from 10am to 1pm where a total of 30 children from different schools of the capital participated in the contest. CRI Trustee and chief guest Radwan Mujib Siddiq handed over crests and awards among the top six participants. Alongside, a quiz contest based on the life and work of Sheikh Mujib was also held while top three winners were also awarded with gifts.



The Celebration at glance

The attractions at the venue featured several attractive displays and installations including a wall for painting Bangabandhu's images by children, a segment for reading all four parts of the graphic novel series 'Mujib', a photo booth where children could take their pictures with Bangabandhu, as well as a caricature corner where four cartoonists were painting cartoon images of the children with the Father of the Nation.

It also featured photo wall consisting of Bangabandhu photos taken with his family and different occasions. A screening room was arranged to play the documentary on Bangabandhu titled 'Rahman: The Father of Bengal' by Japanese filmmaker Nagisa Oshima along with the coloured version of Bangabandhu's 7th March, followed by computer graphics of the Mujib Graphic novel series and clips from the previous year's event. Children attending were given complimentary copies of the graphic novel series, Mujib. The

biggest attraction of the first day however, was a comic contest as well as a quiz contest. To popularise Bangabandhu, an initiative has been put in place since 2014 to bring a graphic novel series based on the unfinished memoirs of Bangabandhu. Under the supervision of CRI, the first part of the graphic novel series in Bangla was launched on the 98th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation and the National Children's Day on March 17, 2015. Later the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th parts of the graphic novel series were also released on different occasions.



Publications on National Development



Publications

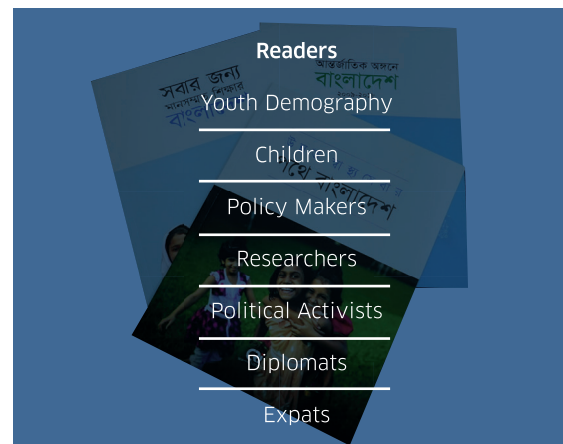
CRI has the expertise to generate quality research publication on development, youth preferences and attitudes, public policies and strategic and international issues. In 2018, CRI generated publications capturing development updates on Health, Education, Macro-economy, Social Security, Woman, ICT, Agriculture, Energy sector. A total of twelve publications on sectoral development were being produced in print last year. Web versions of those publications were made available in the CRI website. Nine of those were also available in Bangla. Based on these publications, CRI produced several Computer Graphics (CGs) as well.

On the creative side, CRI brings out comic's series, audio-visual, quotations, etc. based on the life of the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and HPM Sheikh Hasina. The main aim of these creative projects is to help children and youngsters find interest in reading about the life of Bangabandhu and know about the history of Bangladesh. Fifth episode of graphic novel series Mujib came out in 2018. Last year also saw English version of Mujib part 2 and 3 and also a Japanese version of Mujib being published. Moreover, a compilation of Bangabandhu's hundred quotations in Bangla language was published by CRI in 2018.

Readers:

The publications were disseminated to most of the foreign embassies in Bangladesh and global events. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has been accessing those publications. Every year, CRI prepares a set of publications to represent Bangladesh in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). A large pool of youth, partners, government and political organizations and international community have accessed those publications.

All CRI publications are available free of cost for download on the CRI website. Hard copies are disseminated during different events and distributed to different organizations.



CRI's annual publications

'Bangladesh: Development and Progress' and 'Bangladesh on the International Stage' are CRI's annual publications. Last year, those two came out in a larger frame covering Bangladesh's progress in terms of socio-economic development and role in international stages in the decade of 2009-2018.

A Decade of Development: Bangladesh 2009-2018: This publication looks into Bangladesh's remarkable progress in almost all major economic, social and human development indicators in the last ten years. There have been major infrastructural undertakings, massive digitization, efforts to protect the environment, build resilience to natural disasters and climate change and ensure food security for the people.

Bangladesh on the International Stage 2009-2018 This publication illustrates at Bangladesh's landmark diplomatic breakthroughs, role on the international stage and accolades as an active member of the international community from the last ten years. In the last decade, Bangladesh became a major actor in the world stage owing to the strong and robust leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Publications on sectoral development

Bangladesh: Quality Education for All: This booklet explores Bangladesh's success in terms of human development particularly in the education sector. In the last decade, the government has expanded access and opportunities at the primary, secondary and tertiary level of education during this period. The country now boasts of one of the largest education system in the world catering to over 35 million students.

Bangladesh: Towards Better Healthcare: The publication illustrates Bangladesh's health and nutrition success in spite of an array of challenges. The Government of Bangladesh played a key role in policy and strategy development and implementation of health and nutrition interventions during the last decade. Bangladesh's healthcare system has also successfully addressed the first generation of poverty-linked infections, and nutrition and maternity related diseases.

Bangladesh: The Next Economic Tiger: This booklet looks into Bangladesh transformation, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, from a low income least developed one to a lower-middle income and a developing nation. The country despite all odds, remained resilient and continued with immense efforts towards economic growth trajectory. Significant economic



Secretary-General of the United Nations-António Guterres, looking at CRI publications

uplift of the people from the capital to the grassroots was possible due to various pragmatic steps taken by the present government.

Power and Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth:

This publication covers the major initiatives and flagship projects under the power and transport sector along with the greatest successes and challenges. Bangladesh earmarked on a host of mega infrastructural projects to transform the future of the country and to change the course of national progress. To this end, a good number of projects have been put under the Fast-Track scheme, resulting in full swing progress being accomplished.

The Bangladesh Model in Agricultural Growth: This publication documents the contribution and accomplishment of the government in achieving food self-sufficiency and making the agriculture sector a contributing factor for the constant economic growth. The sector has remained priority to the government to ensure a profitable, sustainable and environment-friendly agricultural system and also crucial for long-term food security for the people of Bangladesh. The agriculture sector expanded at a rate of 4.19 per cent confronting the odds like reduction of cultivable land due to population density.

Bangladesh: Leading in Women Empowerment:

This booklet looks in to the Bangladesh government's efforts to ensure women's development through participation in socioeconomic activities and remove various impediments to their empowerment. In the last decade, the country has improved gender parity across all sectors by ensuring greater participation in socio-economic and political activities. The country is now regarded as an example for the empowerment of women in the world.

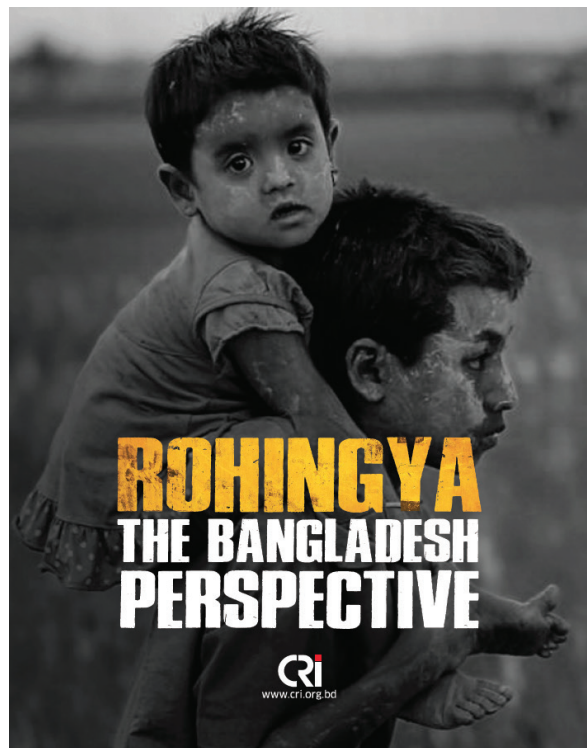
Social Security in Bangladesh: This publication explores government's safety net programmes that have contributed in the attainment of the long-term vision for inclusive growth. The current government has succeeded in creating an umbrella of safety net that has to a large extent solved the problem of extreme poverty and vulnerability of a section of the population. In the last decade, allocations for social security has been increasing along with rise of the number of beneficiaries.

Bangladesh: Peace and Security: This booklet illustrates Bangladesh's commitment to combating extremism and terrorism has received glowing

appraisal at both home and abroad. The country has ceased being a safe haven for national and transnational terrorists. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has also joined in the global efforts to maintain peace and security in the conflict-ridden parts of the world through being one of the highest contributors of troops to various United Nations Peacekeeping missions.

Building Bangladesh's Digital Future: This publication covers some of the key achievements of the ICT sector and the steps being taken by the government for continued growth.

Rohingyas in Bangladesh: The Crisis in Numbers: This booklet covers the steps taken for the safety and wellbeing of the displaced Rohingyas and the challenges ahead for their repatriation. Bangladesh is now a host to one of the largest groups of displaced people in the world – the Rohingyas.





Creative Content

Graphic novel series Mujib

Graphic novel series Mujib based on his autobiography is the first of its kind which share the remarkable story of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with a new generation of readers in Bangladesh and beyond. This 12-part graphic novel series depicts the political activism, ideology and political wisdom of Bangabandhu in a youth friendly manner that also appeals to adults and comics enthusiasts alike. The first episode of the series was launched on March 17, 2015. The series has gained immense popularity with countless young readers, creating a lasting impression, shaping their values and making them politically informed.

Mujib 5 unveiled by HPM Sheikh Hasina

The fifth episode of graphic novel series 'Mujib' has hit the shelves on Friday, 7th September, 2018. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the fifth episode of graphic novel at her official residence Gono Bhaban



English version of Mujib 2 & 3 released

A translated English version of the series has been released for non-Bangla speaking audiences at the Lit Fest 2017. This time, the translated versions of part 2 and 3 were being released at last year's Lit Fest. Both the Bangla and English versions of 'Mujib' were available at the designated corner of Mujib Graphic Novel stall of Bangla Academy premise at Dhaka Lit Fest.



Graphic novel Mujib in Japanese launched

Japanese is the first foreign language after English to which this graphic novel had been translated to. The comic would introduce Bangabandhu to the Japanese children and help them understand his lifelong struggle to achieve freedom for his people.

Ms. Akie Abe, spouse of the Japanese Prime Minister, unveiled the cover of the Japanese version of graphic novel 'Mujib' together with Ms. Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Rehana, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mr. Radwan Mujib Siddiq, publisher of 'Mujib', and Bangladesh ambassador to Japan Ms. Rabab Fatima in a festive ceremony held on 26th November at the Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo. Mr. Masaaki Ohashi and Mr. Imran Sharif, the translators of the graphic novel into Japanese, were presented with crests for their valuable contribution.

Chief Guest Ms. Akie Abe highly lauded the initiative and hoped that children of Japan will be able to know Bangladesh's founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through this graphic novel. She also praised the leadership of Bangabandhu in liberating Bangladesh and in rebuilding the country.

Reading sessions of the Japanese translation of the graphic novel 'Mujib' were held at two prestigious schools in and around Tokyo and received very positive response from the Japanese children.



'Bangabandhu Udhriti' published

A new publication by CRI on the 100 quotation of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman titled "Bangabandhu Udhriti" is also being released at the Lit Fest 2018. This book contains the Father of the Nation's quotes on his many political philosophy, his thought on Bangladesh as an independent state, his visions on developing Bangladesh, the 1971 liberation war as well as the post war era of Bangladesh long with his thought on literature and culture.



HASINA

A DAUGHTER'S TALE

'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' in theatre halls and television channels

The docudrama 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale', on the life of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was released in movie theatres first and later on television channels. The docudrama was an extensive, five-year-long collaboration between the Centre for Research and Information (CRI) and Applebox Films. It was directed by Applebox Films founder Rezaur Rahman Khan Piplu, with Sadik Ahmed as cinematographer, Navnita Sen as editor, and Debojyoti Mishra as music director.

The docu-drama was first premiered on the screens of Star Cineplex, Block Buster Movies and Modhumita and Silver Screen in Chittagong. Later, it was screened on many other theatre halls across the country and most of the leading national TV channels. The production received loud appreciation from audiences, critiques and media personalities.

“

A riveting story of a daughter out of a tragic backdrop; the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Rezaur Rahman Khan Piplu
Director of Hasina: A Daughter's Tale

“

“As an editor we always think about the structure. She has so many past, childhood, assassination memories, different countries...and intermingling those with her present as prime minister, as a mother, as a grandmother, as a girl who loves Tungipara was a big challenge,”

Navnita Sen, Editor

Music Director Debojyoti Mishra, whose parents left Bangladesh during the 1947 partition, considers his work in the film a “homage” to his ancestral place.

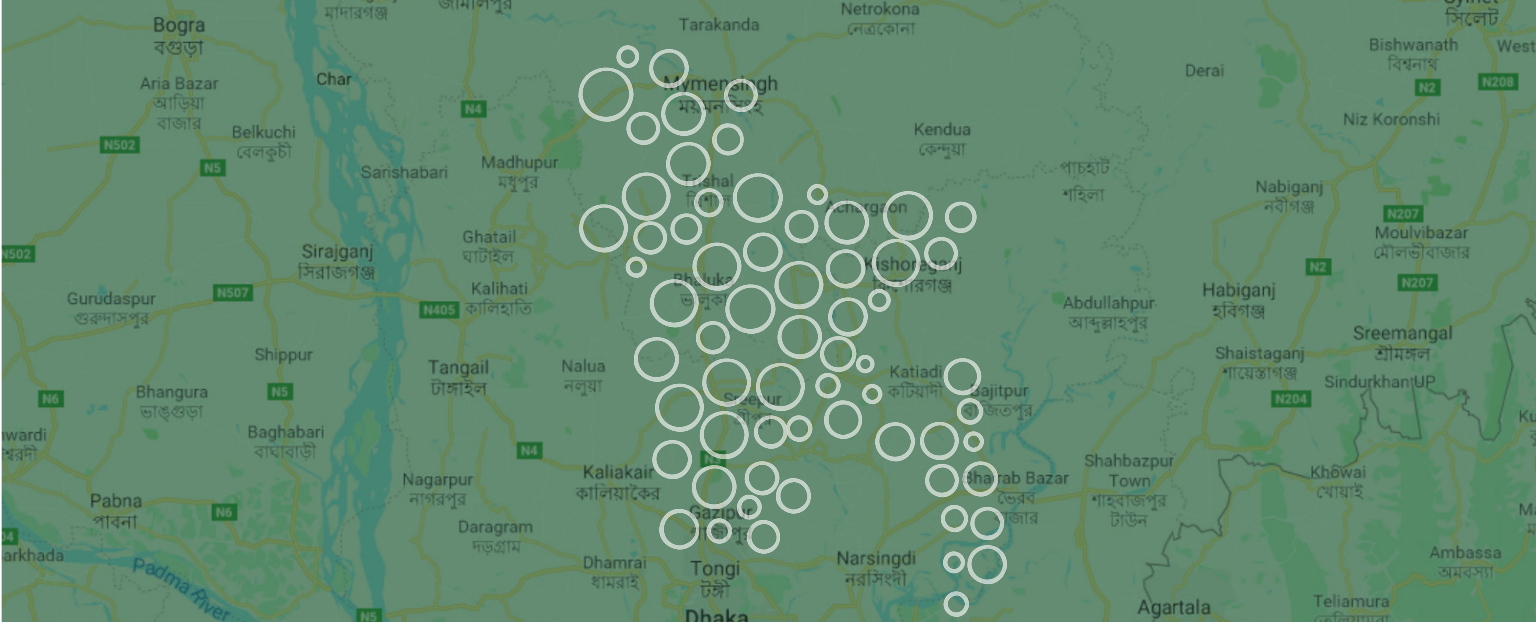




The Journey
of Young Bangla
began with 1500
members in 2015
and **now in 2018**
it is more than
2,00,000.

Youth comprises a major portion of the population - approximately 47.6 million. This youth segment is the key to advancing Bangladesh from a developing country to a developed one.

Young Bangla prides itself on being the catalyst to this economic progress as it is the juncture via which youth can initiate change, and achieve this national revolution in the next few decades. Young Bangla aims to equip the youth-led initiatives in Bangladesh with necessary resources, in order to ensure sustainability and build prospective leaders who will accelerate national development.



Connecting the Dots

There is no denying that the future rests on the shoulders of young people. It is their optimism and creativity that drives innovation, entrepreneurship, and the march forward of human rights. When applied to tackle the world's leading peace and development challenges, young people are creative, passionate, and energetic, and there is no limit to the innovative solutions that they can come up with.

Young Bangla started its journey with the goal to support the youth generation involved in community work throughout Bangladesh. From challenging the abhorrent norms of child marriage, to fighting the battle against illiteracy, gender inequality and drug abuse, thousands of young adults are struggling to make positive impacts in their communities. Channeling the youth momentum into constructive outcomes, Young Bangla is recognizing the efforts of these young individuals and providing a distinguished platform to the young change-makers of this century.

Young Bangla launched itself as a youth forum back in 2014, which has now become the largest youth platform in Bangladesh. Young Bangla hosted several divisional meets throughout the years with vibrant participation of 5000 young grassroots activists at each division. The journey began with 1500 members in 2015 and now in 2018 its 2,00,000.

Young Bangla's primary objective is to identify young individuals who are responding to

national and societal issues such as child marriage, children's rights, access to education and gender equality to name a few. During the past few years Young Bangla has managed to shed light on the stories of these youth who working tirelessly to bring positive changes in their communities; and also support them in their journey to embody their dreams and aspirations, by granting them the platform through which they can continue their work more effectively.

Vision

Young Bangla shares Bangladesh's national vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. The enormous 47.6 million youth population will have to play the leading role in achieving those goals. Young Bangla, as an organization, envisions itself as an inclusive platform that harnesses and enables the youth to be strongly in the run up to that comprehensive transformation.

Mission

Young Bangla strives to empower youth to build future leaders who can contribute to local and national development. The long-term mission is to ensure sustainability for youth-led initiatives and dispersal of winning ideas and endeavors.

Objective

Young Bangla aims to unlock the potential of youth, give them opportunities to shine, recognize their talents and achievements and help them shape the future of the nation.

Joy Bangla Youth Award



Joy Bangla Youth Award

Joy Bangla Youth Award- the flagship event of Young Bangla, recognizes the young proponents of social reform

Young people are the most viable human resources with tremendous potential in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh has been strongly promoting policies, plans, and programs for youth welfare and their implementation through government and non-government organisations. Simultaneously, young people are also coming up with ground-breaking ideas and projects for social welfare. In order to recognize these efforts and achievements Young Bangla presents Joy Bangla Youth Award; one of the biggest national events for Bangladeshi youth that strives to empower youth to build future leaders who can contribute to the local and national development by their collective and be the voice in the policy-making process.

JBYA journey started in 2013 with a notion of bringing out and connecting the youth-led organizations from all over the country. In 2015, Young Bangla hosted Joy Bangla Youth Award 2015 for the first and awarded 30 achievers for their outstanding contribution for the community. To continue the process 50 grassroots youth led organizations awarded in 3 categories in 2017 and 50 awarded in 2018 in 10 categories. This award is given to leaders who have worth mentioning contributions and long-term



Impact-focused performance in the fields such as Education, Gender, Skill Development, Environment & Climate Change, Community Development, Health, Culture, and Sports.

One of the important learnings of Joy Bangla Youth Award is that, we have an incredibly talented youth group scattered all over the country. They carry the spirit of our liberation war and demonstrate patriotism through their contribution for country's socio-economic-cultural development. The concept of Joy Bangla Youth Award connects our youth with the history of independence through its motto - What is your Joy Bangla? Furthermore, the uniqueness of Joy Bangla Youth Award is that, compare to other award this event sturdily ensures much greater acceptability of youth in their communities along with respect and exposure.

Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018

Young Bangla calls an elaborate application process through online and offline channels to reach the youth-led organizations. During this process Young Bangla team and its members organize divisional meetings, townhall and campus activations for promoting the Young Bangla's vision & mission with the youth of Bangladesh.

Through evaluation of forms organizations from all over Bangladesh were shortlisted, following which, Young Bangla teams paid field visits to each of these organizations and prepared a list of finalists.

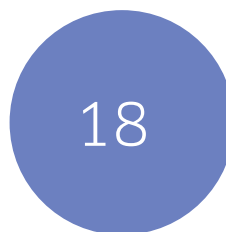
In 2018, Joy Bangla Youth Award includes District Level Multi Stakeholders Meet, Upazila Level Town Hall Activations and University Campus Activations.



Multi Stakeholders
Meet



Subdistrict Town
Hall Activation



University Campus
Activation

Through these promotional events Young Bangla secretariat ensures a massive youth participation across the country:

1,08,000

Youth's direct
participation

2,88,000

Visitors

720

Local level youth
achievers

The selection category of this year Joy Bangla Youth Award was:

Gender- Promoting Gender Equality, Empowerment and Development of Women

Sports and Fitness- Sports Club (Indoor/ Outdoor), Fitness & Self Defense

Environment & Climate Change- Environmental Awareness, Environment, Community & Biodiversity Conservation, Ecotourism

Cultural Activism- Cultural Education & Training, Community Library, Awareness on Heritage & Culture, Liberation War Awareness

Skill Development- Formal TVET, Para Vocational/ Trade Education, Digital Education/ ICT Training, Career Counselling

Community Development- Health/ Mental Health/ Counselling, Poverty Reduction, Anti-Drug Awareness, Hazard & Disaster Risk Reduction, Blood Donation, Humanitarian Aid, Local Community & Livelihood Development

Education for Inclusion- Child Education, Adult Education, Education Awareness

Innovation & Entrepreneurship- Agriculture & Livestock, Information Technology, Renewable Energy

Empowerment of Specially Challenged People



Capacity Development of Youth through the Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018 National Event

Almost two hundred youthful souls have come together in the two-day residential camp before the award giving ceremony at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute. They experienced a day full of interactive sessions where they mingled and shared experience and learnt from each other. There were some meticulously designed sessions that allowed the participants to connect with similar minded youths from all over the country and gain insights on Young Bangla and its working areas.



'Career Talk'

This was a new addition in the roster of events in the 2018 award ceremony. This session was both very serious and exciting at the same time. The participants and the guest speakers together explored the new avenues for building career. The session was an unforgettable one with mind-blowing presentations by some veteran HR officials. Representatives of CRI's partner organizations SOLshare, Augmedix, Priyoshop.com, Sheba.xyz, Kormo, Gemcon Group, Beximco LPG, Summit Communication, Square Toiletries, BanglaCat, Microsoft-Young Bangla internship, E-village project, Aamra participated and shared some tips upgrading skills for future job search and entrepreneurship ideation.



Guest speakers were available to interact with the youth participants and discussions were held on future scopes to widen partnership with Young Bangla. The speech and presentations were vibrant as well as motivating for participants. They also gave hands-on tips regarding CV writing and facing interview. There was a shared view that today's youth are much more interested in entrepreneurship and risk taking than the previous generation.



Let's Talk on Joy Bangla of Youth

Let's Talk – the signature CRI program which is organized traditionally to engage with Members of Parliament, ministers and other prominent politicians and debate topical issues which are of relevance to them. This time however, it consisted of an all-youth panelist including previous Joy Bangla Youth Award winners, the first Bangladeshi woman to summit Mt. Everest, a teacher and an entrepreneur. The session consists of four segments – 1. Physical and Mental Health, 2. Education, Skill and Employment, 3. Role of Youth as a Citizen and 4. Future Bangladesh in the eye of Youth. Apart from the panelists, the participants had the opportunity to share their views, questions and suggestions on various youth related issues.



Gender session on #BE BRAVE End Violence Against Women and Girls

The 2-hour gender session on the second day of boot camp called "BE BRAVE" was a part of an upcoming gender training that will be organized by Young Bangla. The session consists of a series of co-curricular community-centric activities aimed at developing a positive mindset among the youth, especially men regarding the rights of women and girls. Every participant has to reflect on how he interacts with and treats the members of the opposite gender, discuss their perspectives and stigma surrounding gender stereotypes and address issues surrounding gender-based violence in the local and national level.



Award Giving Ceremony

The award ceremony was held on a houseful auditorium at the Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute on October 28, 2018. The program got rolling with a welcome note from Nasrul Hamid, MP, honorable state minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and one of the trustees of CRI. The chief guest Sajeeb Wazed handed the Joy Bangla Youth Award crest to the top 30 winners of the award. In his speech, Sajeeb Wazed said: 'the confidence you have shown is outstanding, you must keep this up. You, the Young Bangla awardees have set examples by serving people of the country.' Each of the nominated 50 organizations received a laptop – courtesy the ICT Division of Bangladesh government. They received a smartphone and a tab – courtesy Aamra Companies and Gemcon group.

Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018 winners' stories



All for One Foundation, Dhaka

All for One Foundation's mission is to promote menstrual hygiene practices and make hygiene products more available and affordable in Bangladesh. Founder Kamrun Nesa Mira from Dhaka took this initiative for deprived women and create access to basic menstrual education for women all over Bangladesh.



Jibon, Rangamati

Jibon is the sole organization in Rangamati which manages blood for those who in need. Sazid bin Zahid the founder of this organization is operating this work in nonprofit way through social media network. Right now, they have 6000 beneficiaries, 1500 volunteers and 300 members.



Lalmonirhat Taekwon-Do Association, Lalmonirhat

Lalmonirhat Taekwon-Do Association's aim is to teach women and children of any age the self-defense training. Swantana Rani Roy founded this organization in 2016 in Lalmonirhat and till now she is working to raise awareness on self-defense among parents and children.



Prothom Surjo Agro Farm, Jessore

Prothom Surjo Agro Farm provide training on management of farming and give financial assistance in establishing agro farm to new entrepreneur. Kamrun Nahar has started this organization in 2016 and this organization has now 855 beneficiaries.



BD Assistant, Rangpur

Bd Assistant has been working with two objectives. One is to provide technical training to college-dropout students and the other is to provide one step door-to-door technician service. Abu Sayed from Rangpur has started this company in 2016.



Brihonnola, Dhaka

Brihonnola aims to provide education and training to transgender community who are the most deprived and neglected group in the society. Sadikul Islam from Dhaka has founded this organization in 2017 and right now they have 50 transgender beneficiaries, 21 members and 50 volunteers.



Bridge Foundation, Dhaka

Bridge Foundation's mission is to empower and promote sign language users and physically challenged people. Co-founder Swarna Moya Sarker from Dhaka has an online platform from 2013, where they promote their graphics skill, internet marketing and arts and painting for their self-employment.



University Tea Student Association, Moulvibazar

University Tea Student Association ensure education for tea workers children for this they provide free education, promote education awareness program among them. Raju Kurmi from Moulvibazar has founded this organization in 2012 from that onwards they have 2000 beneficiaries, 4000 volunteers are working.



Salandar High School Women's Basketball Team, Thakurgaon

Salandar, a basketball team in the remote area of Thakurgaon, has been struggling from the beginning. They started without a proper basketball to practice with. Now, four of their team mates have already been selected in national basketball team, which has started its journey in 2018.



Youth Net for Climate Justice, Barishal

Youth Net for Climate Justice is led by young people in Barishal to fight against climate crisis and prepare everyone to be resilient against the changing climate. It was established in 2016 and chief coordinator Shakila Islam is working from the beginning and till now they have 500 beneficiaries and 1200 members involved.





YOUNG BANGLA PARTNERSHIP ON EMPLOYABILITY & VOLUNTEERISM

Throughout the year, Young Bangla's major activities comprised the wide range of partnership with government and private sectors. In 2018, Young Bangla also take some successful initiatives to develop collaboration with renowned start-up companies which are playing a significant role in the vision of digital Bangladesh and increasing employment.





MICROSOFT YOUNG BANGLA

Digital Bangladesh is surely one of the boldest dreams by Bangladesh of all time. One of the main aspects of Digital Bangladesh was to connect the academia with the corporates and Microsoft – Young Bangla Internship Program was one of the main indicators. The door of opportunities was open for the students through this program and student's objectives were fulfilled successfully.

The major projects of this partnership to facilitate the Young Bangla members with necessary ICT literacy and skills are:

MS-YB Internship

The Microsoft – Young Bangla Internship was designed such that an individual may find a real-life problem that he/she thinks most of the people faces in our country including him/herself. Basis of common or similar problems, groups were formed to solve that problem using the technology. In the MS-YB Internship program, focuses on the feasibility and sustainability of that solution. The participants pitch their plan as a startup business in front of the specialists from Microsoft Young Bangla Team.

More than 2100 interns were placed and 63 Young Bangla members were appointed as Microsoft Bangladesh Brand Ambassador among them 50 are women.

Microsoft Young Bangla 2017-18 Internship and Start-Up Fund

More than 1600 students applied for the internship where over 300 were allowed to participate in 2017. A total of 100 groups pitched their projects that solves one real life problem. Top three teams were announced in the 'Joy Bangla Youth Award -2017' to furtherly receive seed fund worth BDT 5,00,000 each. These projects covered up a wide area and provided opportunities to work in sectors like: Medical, Education, Agriculture, Gaming, Community Build Up, Research, Road Safety, Female Security and Support, Banking & Finance, Virtual E-Commerce and Blood Banks, Children Safety and Parental Control, Energy, Vehicles and various Safety Devices.

In 2018, 610 students applied for the internship where over 150 students were allowed to participate in the internship and more than 60 teams participated in the Microsoft Imagine Cup- 2018. For the first time two teams were from colleges (grades 11 & 12) and one of them is in the short list. This inspires us to take this internship in schools and colleges very soon.

MICROSOFT YOUNG BANGLA SUMMIT- BIGGEST TECH- ENTREPRENEURIAL CELEBRATION KICKS OFF

3-6 October 2018

The biggest tech-entrepreneurial celebration of Bangladesh, 'Microsoft – Young Bangla Summit_2018' witnessed the youth making a mark in history with their ideas and innovations on October 3-6, 2018 at The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

The summit kicked off with the 'Microsoft – Young Bangla Internship Program' for the September – 2018 batch where more than 1000 university students across the country applied and 650 Students got enrolled in the opportunity.

The Top 5 Microsoft – Young Bangla Startup Awards Winners were:

- Team Bangla Sign Language (BSL),
- Team Blaze Warriors,
- Team Finance Wizards,
- Team Eco-Farmers; and
- Team Gorur Doctor



Microsoft – Young Bangla Partnership announced the successful completion of the phase-1 of this partnership where

2,100

interns are already mobilized throughout the country

64

tech-hubs are being established in 64 districts

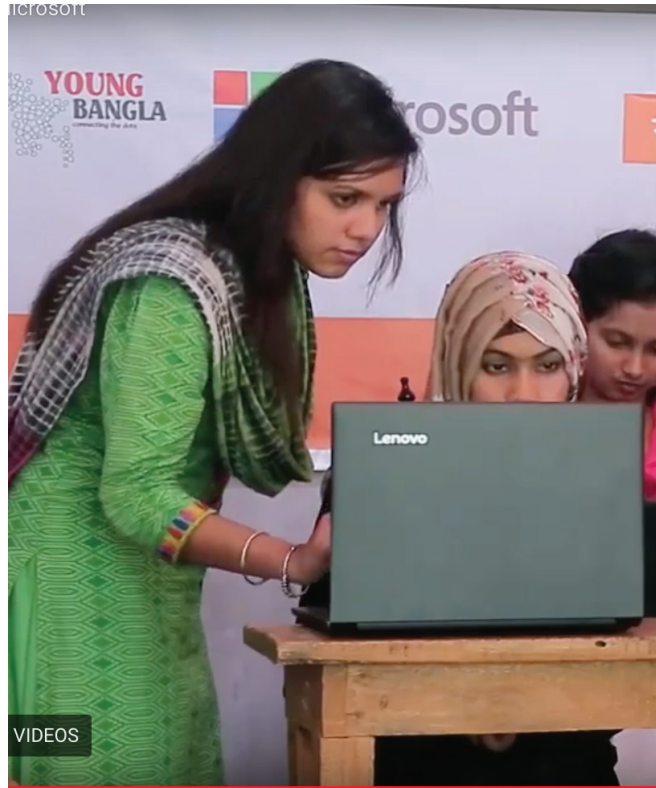
400

Service engineers enrolled to provide technical repairing support in grassroots throughout the country

MICROSOFT YOUNG BANGLA TECH HUB

In order to prepare the university students to face the technological uncertainty of the future job market, Microsoft Young Bangla Partnership has introduced an Internship program to promote tech-entrepreneurship throughout the country. Under this initiative Microsoft Bangladesh has taken the initiative to provide the Young Bangla members with a Computer Lab known as Tech Hub.

Microsoft Bangladesh will establish Tech Hubs in 64 districts to connect rural people with startups to create employment and partnership opportunity for the Young Bangla members. Till date 63 tech hubs were installed.



Tech Hub creates an opportunity to work with some of the renowned startups like Augmedix, Sheba.xyz, E village, Priyoshop and Solshare. MoU will be signed by MS-YB with these companies:



Sheba is a service startup and its objective is to create micro entrepreneurs. Through Young Bangla, Sheba aims to reach all 64 districts and to help create around 10,000 micro entrepreneurs.



Augmedix partnered with Young Bangla to create scribes for U.S. doctors through Young Bangla from urban areas for job recruitment. 240 Young Bangla Members were called for preliminary written exam in August, 2018. Shortlisted applicants went through another daylong screening process and the final list of applicants is going to be provided a paid six-week training at the end of which the job of a Scribe will be waiting for them. Augmedix will also be accepting more Scribes as per their demand for services and carry on their recruitment initiatives in partnership with Microsoft-Young Bangla in the future.



Kormo is focused on the youth employability having a career app for fresh job seekers and employers. Young Bangla Campus Ambassadors from more than 25 universities across the country participated in a workshop where participants were briefed on the Area 120 incubator program inside of Google and its focus on solving real world problems through innovation and experimentation.



Priyoshop.com is e-commerce platform which is transforming rural Bangladesh by connectivity. Through Young Bangla partnership, Priyo will provide skill development training on selling, marketing and technology for the youth.



Vision 2021 Internship with Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resource

Vision 2021 Internship is for Young Bangla's meritorious members who want to enrich their work experience. From this 4-month internship programs, the interns get the opportunity to work for Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resource.

Kormoshopan Pataton Career Camp

Korposhopan Pataton Career Camp is a unique initiative under the Shikka (education) 2 Employment Program (S2EP) organized by Advancing Public Interest Trust (APIT) and Aamra and supported by Young Bangla.

In this camp, participants were given training so that they could enhance their capabilities in job search and application, facing interviews, communication skills in English, basic computing and other issues such as career planning, office decorum, team-building, problem-solving, decision-making, time management, organizational policies and management. Since its inception so far, a total of Seven career camps have been organized.

Young Bangla placed

204

Interns at Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MoPEMR) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among them 108 interns were placed in 2018.

In 2018 Kormoshopan Pataton Career Camp held in Chattogram (10-12 May, 2018) and Rangpur (1-3 July, 2018) where 375 Young Bangla members received training and among them

95

trainees placed in different organizations.



E-village

E-village is a Chinese government supported and Bangabandhu Agricultural University (BAU) and Centre for Research and Information (CRI) initiated agricultural initiative which main goal is to reduce digital divide, provide management support to farmers during the crop cultivation period, provide early prediction precaution support, aim to provide economic benefit to the farmers.

Initiatives have been taken by Young Bangla in 2018 to ensure:

54,200
Young Bangla
members' families
will be benefited

10,000
technicians will
be engaged
countrywide

PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE NETWORKING & VOLUNTEERISM



SHEIKH
RUSSELL
DIGITAL
LAB

51,000

School students are trained with Digital Literacy Program through Sheikh Russell Digital Labs established throughout the country.

Currently there are 2,900 Sheikh Russell Digital Labs operating in Bangladesh and 4,000 more labs will be established countrywide. Joy Bangla Youth Award winner and Young Bangla members are appointed as the District Coordinator of Sheikh Russell Digital Lab (SRDL). The District Coordinators appoints the Lab Coordinators. Young Bangla provides the technical support to design and develop curriculum for the courses conducted at Sheikh Russell Digital Lab (SRDL).

Till 2018, 7,885 trainers provided training at 4,176 Sheikh Russell Digital Lab (SRDLs) and this already created 2,80,100 IT skilled students at school level. Decision has been taken to build 250,000 SRDL labs.

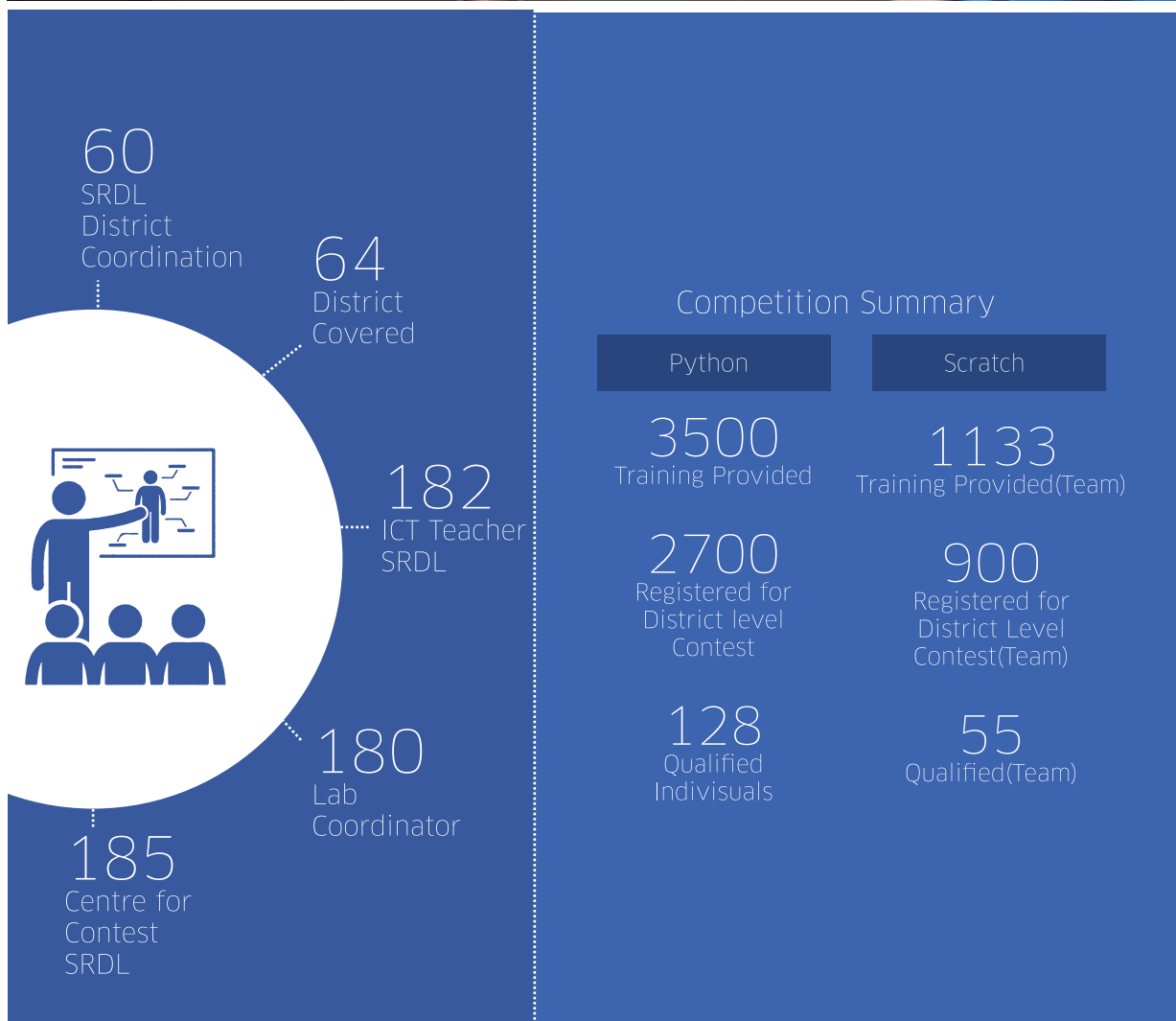


NATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING CONTEST - 2018

Schools with Sheikh Russell Digital Labs will be initially the center for contest. The program was held in Krishibid Institute Bangladesh and had 360 ICT teachers of schools from all over the country and Lab Coordinators of Sheikh Russell Digital labs.

There are two phase competition for primary schools and high schools this year. Students from 64 districts will be invited to participate and Winners from the districts will be invited to Dhaka for the final round:

- Scratch is a visual programming language targeted primarily at children where they can make their own interactive stories, games and animations and share with online community. Students of class 3-5 can participate in this phase of competition.
- Python Students of high schools (Class 6-10) will compete in Python. Python is a general-purpose interpreted, interactive, object-oriented, and high-level programming language.

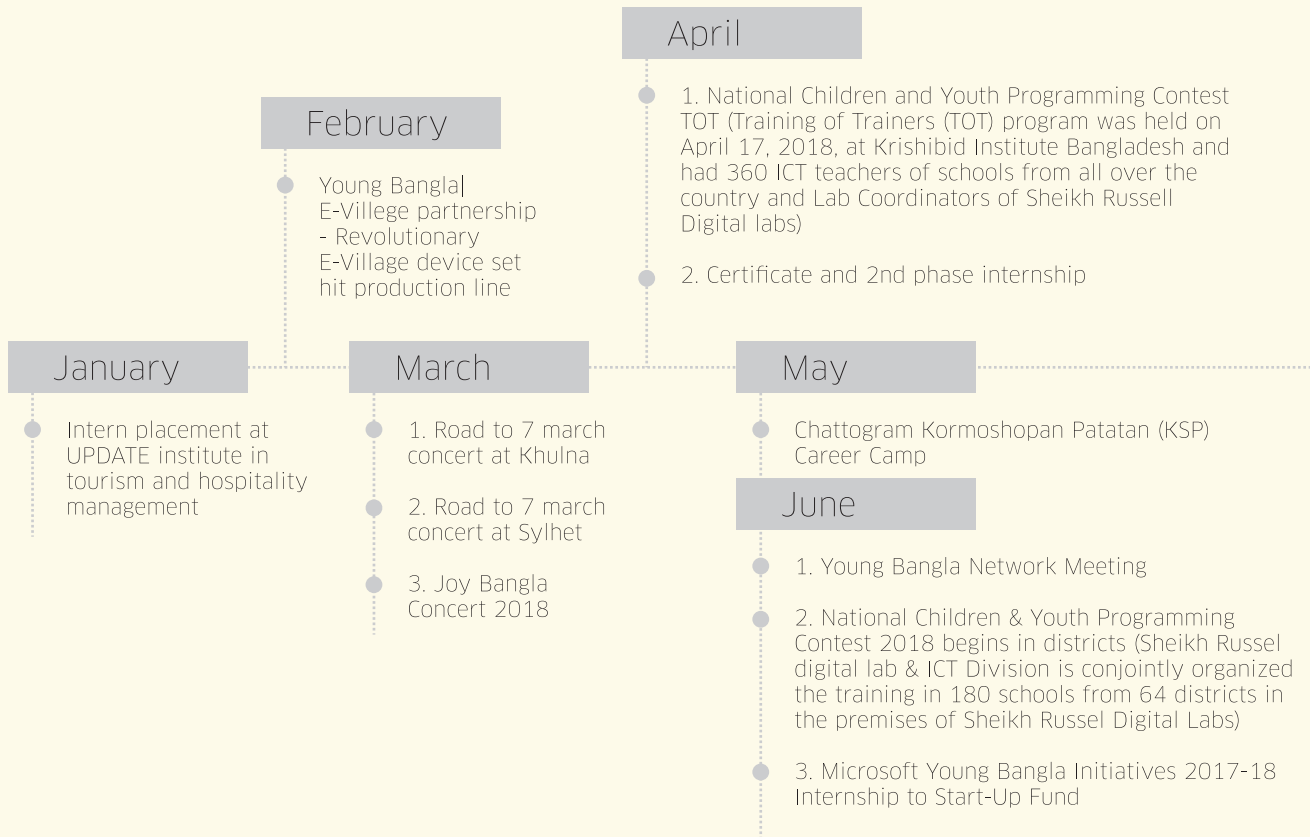
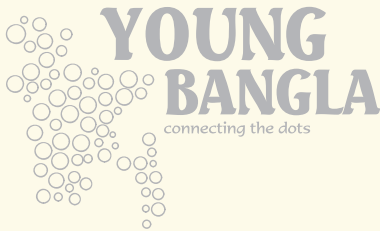


ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

The websites for CRI - cri.org.bd and Young Bangla youngbangla.org contains detailed reports on our events along with publications and other communicative materials. CRI and Young Bangla maintains a strong presence in the social media for easier access and instant updates as well as informal communication with followers. In order to provide easy access to our video contents we also manage YouTube channels that showcases clips and full length videos of our events among others.



TIMELINE



VIEW 2018

July

- 1. Rangpur KSP Career Camp
- 2. Microsoft Young Bangla partnership (Showcasing Tech-Entrepreneurship as Accomplishment)

August

- 1. Young Bangla Network Meeting with Multi Stake holders
- 2. Journey for Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018 process begins

September

- 1. 34 District level Activation & Multistakeholders meet
- 2. Reaching out in 144 Upazila through day long campaign

October

- 1. Microsoft-Young Bangla Summit
- 2. Joy Bangla Youth Award 2018
- 3. Career Talk with Sol Share, Priyo Shop, Sheba XYZ, Audmedix, Microsoft, Kormo, E-Village, Gemcon, Bangla Cat, Aamra Group of Companies, Beximco, Square and Summit Group
- 4. Gender Session #BeBrave with YB stakeholders
- 5. Sheba.xyz, Kormo & Priyoshop" mark their footprints to work with Young Bangla Network
- 6. Closing ceremony of National Children & Youth Programming Contest 2018

November

- 1. Follow-up on Young Bangla network

December

- Online Showcasing in social media platforms

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Centre for Research and Information would like to acknowledge everyone who have been a part of our journey since 2013. It has been an incredible 5 years since the inception of our organisation. There has been challenges throughout the years but we have also had fruitful year which was only possible due to your endless support. We would like to express a heartfelt gratitude to all of our sponsors, partners as well as all the government and non-government entities who have collaborated with us over the years. It was your support and guidance that has enabled us to further expand our network and see the most productive year in 2018. On behalf of Young Bangla, we would like to thank all the private sectors, non-profit organisations and agencies who have worked with us at different occasions in the past and we are proud to have made several new partnerships this year. Finally, we would also like to thank all the guests, participants, volunteers who have taken their valuable time out to attend our many events and helped us ensure its success.

It has been an absolute honor to have each and every one of you on board and share this experience with us. Moving forward, we invite you to once again stand with us during the next phase of our journey as we continue our current initiatives and explore new areas of work with the youth of Bangladesh in the coming future.



Annual Report 2018

Published by Centre for Research and Information(CRI)

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