Country Report: Bangladesh
The Trends and Issues of Recognition of Foreign Degrees and Challenges to Ratifying the Convention on Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

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Def. Foreign Degrees

In Bangladesh Foreign degrees generally refer to the degrees acquired from abroad. Diploma and Postgraduate degrees (M Phil. MS, PhD. Postdoctoral degree, etc.) refer to the degrees acquired from abroad.
Evaluation of Foreign Degrees

Such degrees are evaluated according to country and institutional status.

- Degrees from the universities/institutions of developed countries like the Universities of Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford, California, Stamford (USA), MIT (USA), etc are recognized automatically in Bangladesh.

- Higher degrees achieved from renowned universities/institutions in Asia and Australia are well recognized here.
Degrees from other universities/institutions are recognized through the committee of equivalence authorized by the Govt. The following Govt. Bodies are assigned with responsibility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Degrees</th>
<th>Recognition Authorities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Sc.</td>
<td>BMDC (Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Bangladesh Bar Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma, MS, M Phil, PhD</td>
<td>Committee of equivalence constituted by the Syndicate of the Universities.</td>
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Trends of getting foreign degrees

Actual and authentic data is not available. According to the information collected from the Ministry of Education, a dramatic increase can easily be traced in comparison with the previous years. The reasons might be:

- Development of communication;
- Socio-economic development of mass people;
- Increase of co-operation, collaboration with the development partners;
- Skill developments of the learners;
Survival of the learners in the competitive world both in IT and General Education;
Increase of scopes and facilities in different fields of education;
Increase of literacy rate (68% approx.);
Upward trend of female education;
Change of values in line with modern world;
Decrease of gender discrimination;
Increase of per capita income ($1700 ppp);
Increase of awareness of quality education.
Challenges to Recognition of Qualification in Higher Education

- Difficulties in the recognition of credit for students wishing to transfer to the different institutions overseas
- Having no effective arrangement of mutual recognition of qualification among member states of UNESCO
- Limited information on consistent framework that reflects the national system of higher education
Challenges to Recognition… (cont.)

- Impediments to student exchange and the need to develop tools (parameter varies) for recognition of qualification
- Less confidence in one another’s recognition system specially among the countries in Asia
- Lack of mechanism to ensure the quality education
- Impediments to the mobility of students and faculty due to the problem of visa processing
- Limited access to IT world
- Less computer literacy
Challenges to Recognition… (cont.)

- Socio-economic condition
- Expensive foreign education
- Cultural and religious prejudices
- Having no national education policy for long
- Discrimination of public and private institution
- No accreditation council for the assessment of higher degrees
- Insufficient opportunity offered to higher education institutions
- General requirements for access to higher education not fulfilled by considerable number of students in the region
Recommendations to meet Challenges

- Eradication of impediments to credit transfer and visa processing
- Arrangement of mutual recognition of qualification ensuring international standard and authenticity
- Exchange of latest information on the framework reflecting national system of higher education
- Establishment of international network of information on recognition of degrees and quality assurance
- Establishment of International Regulatory/Assessment Body responsible for assessment and recognition of degrees obtained.
Thank you all