

Educational Aspirations and Brain Drain: A Study of Bangladeshi Undergraduate Students' Perspectives

**Md. Nawshin Navin*, Tonmoy Sarkar, Sharmin Sultana Punom,
Mahe Alam Mahi, Md. Sobahan Hasan Saikat**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
American International University-Bangladesh
Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh

*Corresponding Author Email: 23-50079-1@student.aiub.edu

Md. Mortuza Ahmmed

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
American International University-Bangladesh
Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh
mortuza@aiub.edu

Abstract

Brain Drain among undergraduate students in Bangladesh has emerged as a phenomenon causing concerns over the capacity of the country to keep skilled talent. Identifying the motivations behind students choosing to study abroad will provide insights into the problems at hand. The purpose of this research is to understand Bangladeshi students' perceptions of the local education system, educational opportunities abroad, the prospects of employability upon return and quality of life abroad. An online structured survey collected over 90 responses of students studying in various public and private universities. Qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed to show trends that emerged concerning students' educational and career choices. The research is expected to pinpoint the main reasons such as higher academic quality, more career opportunities and financial gain which make students prefer foreign universities even if those universities are ranked lower than their current universities. Bridging the local quality education gaps, increasing the research fund and coordinating academic programs with industry needs are the key steps to prevent brain drain. The Bangladeshi Government will benefit from having talented graduates working in the country in terms of economic growth and sustainability.

Keywords

Brain Drain, Career Aspirations, Educational Reform, Migration.

Biographies

Md. Nawshin Navin is an undergraduate student (6th Semester) of Computer Science and Engineering at the Faculty of Science & Technology, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Bangladesh. He has completed his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) program at Notre Dame College, Dhaka. His research interests include machine learning, technology-driven solutions and policy analysis. Currently working on several research projects under the supervision of his university teachers.

Tonmoy Sarkar is currently studying his undergraduate degree at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB). He completed his Higher Secondary Certificate (H.S.C.) program at Mohipal Government College Feni and his Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C.) at Feni Government High School. He has received scholarships during his SSC programs and has participated in various seminars, workshops and similar activities. His research interests are in Computational Fluid Dynamics and Thermal Engineering.

Sharmin Sultana Punom is currently studying for her B.Sc. degree in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at American International University Bangladesh (AIUB). She completed her SSC and HSC programs at Amirjan High

School and College, respectively. She has an intense passion for graphic design and aspires to make significant advancements in the field, both domestically and internationally.

Mahe Alam Mahi is a dedicated and passionate student of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), where he is working towards his Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree. He passed his SSC and HSC exam from Police Lines school and college, Rangpur. His research interest is in Computational Complexity and Human-Computer Interaction.

MD Sobahan Hasan Saikat is studying for his bachelor's degree in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at American International University-Bangladesh with a passion for technology, creativity and growth. He completed his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) from RCCI Public School and College, Rangpur. With an interest in research work, he participates in academic case studies and idea competitions.

Md. Mortuza Ahmmed is an associate professor at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) under the Department of Mathematics. He is a statistician with an extensive range of research interests. His interests are mainly application based -- how to apply different statistical techniques in different sectors to perform more accurate and precise analyses as well as projection. His core academic research areas are public health, education and machine learning. One of his primary goals concerning students is to assist them with technical knowledge to turn their thoughts into successful outcomes to form a modern society.