

# SKILLS TALK

Vol. 14, May 2025



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As we progress into 2025, the landscape of work continues to evolve with rapid technological advancement. Industry 4.0—characterized by automation, artificial intelligence and digital transformation—is reshaping the global demand for skills. At UCEP Bangladesh, we are committed to ensuring our students and graduates are not just prepared for this future but are positioned to thrive in it.

As climate change becomes one of the most pressing challenges of our time, UCEP Bangladesh is turning its attention to green skills—those that contribute to a sustainable economy and environment. From renewable energy installation to eco-friendly construction and sustainable manufacturing, green jobs are the future, and we must prepare our youth accordingly.

We are reviewing our training modules to integrate environmental sustainability into both core and specialized courses.

We are actively working to create safe, supportive and inspiring learning environments for women. This includes expanding scholarship programs, enhancing career guidance services, and building partnerships to ensure equitable job placements. Our vision is to ensure that every UCEP graduate becomes not only economically empowered but also environmentally responsible. Together, we can nurture a workforce that contributes to a greener, cleaner, and sustainable Bangladesh. To that end, we are strengthening our curriculum to include digital literacy, soft skills, and practical experiences aligned with emerging industry standards.

Our goal remains clear: to bridge the gap between skills and employment, and to transform every learner into a confident contributor to Bangladesh's economy .

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**Dr. Md. Abdul Karim**

Executive Director  
UCEP Bangladesh

# Embracing Industry 4.0: Future-Proofing Our Workforce



## UCEP Bangladesh Launches 'UCEP Skills Academy' to Empower 4 Million Domestic Workers



UCEP Bangladesh, with support from Global Affairs Canada and Oxfam in Bangladesh, has launched the UCEP Skills Academy, a digital platform (<https://ucepskills.com>) aimed at enhancing skills, training, and job opportunities for over 4 million domestic workers in Bangladesh. This milestone initiative is part of the SUNITI Project. The platform was officially inaugurated at Lakeshore hotel, Dhaka by Brigadier General (Retd.) Dr. M. Sakhaawat Hossain, Advisor to the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Labor and Employment.

Highlighting the platform's relevance, he stated, "In today's competitive job market, technical knowledge and practical skills are essential. The UCEP Skills Academy is a timely initiative for our youth." The event brought together key stakeholders, including Ashish Dhamle, Country Director, Oxfam in Bangladesh, who emphasized the platform's potential to uplift domestic workers and support their inclusion in labor laws and rights



frameworks. He remarked, "This initiative recognizes and prioritizes domestic workers, paving the way for systemic change." Ms. Uzma Chowdhury, CPA, Vice Chairperson of UCEP's Board of Governors, shared UCEP's long-standing commitment to empowering marginalized youth since 1972. "This digital expansion will make technical education more accessible nationwide," she said. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh, noted that UCEP trains over 30,000 youth annually in 42 trades.

The new LMS (Learning Management System) will allow youth to access training anytime, anywhere, reducing barriers and boosting employability. The occasion was graced by the august presence of Ms. Nasreen Afroz, Executive Chairman (Secretary) of NSDA, as the special guest. For the first time in Bangladesh, Domestic Work has been formally recognized as a trade, making the system more inclusive, progressive, and impactful.

## UCEP Bangladesh and MetLife Foundation Launch "Aponjon" Caregiver Training Program



UCEP Bangladesh, in partnership with MetLife Foundation, has launched "Aponjon", a transformative program aimed at training and certifying 1,000 caregivers across the country. Targeting underprivileged youth, women, and persons with disabilities, the initiative offers professional caregiver training aligned with the growing demand for elderly and patient care both locally and globally.

With Bangladesh's average life expectancy now at 73 years, the need for skilled caregivers is more urgent than ever. Graduates of the program will receive certification from the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA), enhancing their employability in hospitals, institutions, and private care, both at home and abroad. Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, former Chairperson of UCEP Board of Governors, emphasized UCEP's commitment to empowering under-served communities through workforce development. Ala Ahmad, CEO of MetLife Bangladesh, highlighted the Foundation's dedication to driving social impact by supporting essential caregivers who serve thousands in need.



## UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), Dhaka Hosted the Orientation Program 2025 & Job Fair



UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), Dhaka, hosted the Orientation Program 2025 & Job Fair at UCEP Bangladesh Head Office, Mirpur-2. The event welcomed new students of the 2025-26 academic session, providing valuable insights into technical education and career opportunities while connecting them with industry leaders and potential employers. Dr. Md. Mohiuddin, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare, attended as the Chief Guest. Before joining the UIST program, he also attended an orientation program for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) under the Prottoy project at UCEP Head Office. The event was graced by Mr. Ahmed Ismet, Chairman of Bangladesh Development Bank, PLC, Sachindra Nath Samaddar, Deputy Managing Director, Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, presided over the program, along with the presence of Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh.

## UIST Inauguration and Job Fair 2025 in Chattogram



UCEP Bangladesh hosted the "UIST Inauguration and Job Fair 2025" in Chattogram to connect skilled UCEP-trained job seekers with top employers. The event marked the official launch of the UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), inaugurated by Labour Secretary Mr. A.H.M. Safiquzzaman, who praised UCEP's role in advancing technical education and inclusive development.

The fair featured 14 companies, resulting in 42 job offers and 293 CV submissions. Distinguished guests, including UCEP Chairperson Dr. Ubaidur Rob and Executive Director Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, highlighted the strong public-private collaboration in creating employment for youth.

## Job Fair 2025 at UCEP Barishal Region



To strengthen the country's skilled workforce, UCEP Bangladesh has been working in close collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. As part of this ongoing effort, the "Job Fair 2025" was held at the UCEP Barishal Regional Office in the presence of the Honourable Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Mr. A.H.M. Safiquzzaman.

The fair served as a significant platform for connecting UCEP-trained youth with prospective employers from various renowned industrial organizations. A total number of 230 students participated in the event, where they attended interviews conducted by multiple reputed companies. This initiative reflects UCEP's commitment to ensuring decent employment opportunities for underprivileged youth through technical and vocational education and training, contributing to the national goal of inclusive socio-economic development.

## Job Fair 2025 at UCEP Gazipur Region



In an inspiring initiative to promote youth employment, UCEP Bangladesh hosted the Job Fair 2025 at its Gazipur Regional Office premises in a festive and inclusive atmosphere. The fair brought together employers and job seekers, creating a dynamic platform for interaction and opportunity.

The event was chaired by Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh's Board of Governors. The Chief Guest was Dr. Md. Mohiuddin, Honorable Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Special Guests included Ms. Nafisa Arefin, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur; Dr. Md. Nazmul Karim Khan, Police Commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police (GMP); Md. Rezaur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur and Dr. Md. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of UCEP Bangladesh.

## UIST Students Shine in National Competitions with Outstanding Achievements



Students from UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST), Dhaka have recently earned national recognition for their outstanding performance in a series of prestigious academic competitions, reinforcing the institution's commitment to excellence in technical and vocational education.

The Civil Engineering Department of UIST secured the Champion position in the Poster Presentation category for their project on Dream Dhaka and emerged as the First Runner-Up in the Project Showcasing Category for their innovative concept on Sustainable Waste Management Systems at the Civil Fest 2025, organized by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, North South University (NSU).

In a separate achievement, Tabassum Hossain Suraya, a 7th-semester student from the Computer Engineering Department, was honored with the SDG Achiever Award for securing 1st Place in SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities at the ZERO Olympiad Grand Finale 2025, held on 8 February at the BIAM Auditorium. Her contribution highlights the role of youth in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and advocacy.

Additionally, Tanvir Khan, a 3rd-semester student of the Mechanical Engineering Department, achieved 3rd Position in the Nationwide Online Automobile Quiz Competition, organized by the Bangladesh Automobile Olympiad, showcasing his expertise in automotive technology and awareness.

These remarkable achievements reflect UIST's continued dedication to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of innovation, leadership, and social responsibility among its students.

## Issue-Based Community Awareness Program

UCEP Bangladesh has consistently prioritized community engagement and social awareness as part of its mission to address critical social issues affecting individuals and communities. As part of this commitment, the Social Inclusion team has organized a series of issue-based awareness sessions across all regions, focusing on topics such as women empowerment, gender-based violence, child marriage, child labor, climate action, and mental health.

These sessions are designed to educate and empower participants, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges facing vulnerable groups. By engaging community members in meaningful dialogue, these programs aim to encourage participants to actively promote social change and raise awareness on issues that impact women and children, while driving collective action for climate sustainability and mental well-being.

During the reporting period, UCEP Bangladesh successfully conducted 33 community meetings, reaching a total of 2,224 participants, of which 75% were female. The sessions covered important topics such as women and child rights, women's economic empowerment, and climate action initiatives, providing participants with the knowledge and tools to combat social injustices and promote equality.

## Refresher Training on Child Protection and Safeguarding Conducted Across All Regions

UCEP Bangladesh remains firmly committed to upholding the highest standards of child protection and safeguarding across all levels of the organization. In line with this commitment, a series of refresher training sessions on Child Protection and Safeguarding were successfully conducted during the reporting period, covering all staff members across eight regional offices.

These sessions were facilitated by members of the Safeguarding Committees along with trained staff, and aimed to reinforce the organization's safeguarding policies and procedures. The training focused on raising awareness among staff regarding issues of child exploitation, abuse, and harassment, while also enhancing their understanding of UCEP's Safeguarding Policy, reporting protocols, and response mechanisms.

By delivering this training, UCEP Bangladesh seeks to create and sustain a safe, inclusive, and supportive working and learning environment, ensuring that all staff are well-equipped to prevent, identify, and respond appropriately to any safeguarding concerns. This initiative is part of UCEP's broader strategy to institutionalize a robust safeguarding culture throughout its operations.

# Story of Change



## **A Journey of Hope, Struggle, and Acceptance: Sadek Ahmed's Story**

In the serene village of Kohaigor in Sylhet, a child named Sadek Ahmed came into the world with a heart full of dreams but wrapped in a body and identity that society refused to understand. Born into a loving yet bewildered family, Sadek's childhood was marked not just by affection, but by silent questions, suppressed truths, and a longing to simply be seen. From the earliest days, Sadek felt different. What began as innocent curiosity soon turned into cruel whispers and mocking eyes. School became a battleground. Streets, a mirror of judgment. Even within his own home, love often wrestled with denial. He learned to shrink to survive in a world that left no room for someone like him to exist openly. But even in the darkest corners, hope has a way of finding its way in.

In 2024, Sadek stepped into UCEP Hafiz Mazumder Sylhet TVET Institute and into a new chapter of life. There, he was not questioned. He was not judged. The Social Inclusion Team welcomed him not as a problem to solve, but as a person to empower. For the first time, Sadek felt seen, not as different, but as whole. He chose Electrical Installation and Maintenance, not just to learn, but to reclaim his worth. Every wire he connected, every light he lit, was a spark in his own healing. His teachers didn't just instruct, they believed. His classmates didn't just work alongside him they stood beside him. With support from UCEP's Job Placement Team, Sadek secured a position at Pran Group. To some, it was just employment. To him, it was validation that he could contribute, earn, and stand tall. That he belonged.

Today, Sadek is the Divisional Coordinator of Bondhu Welfare Society, earning 25,000 BDT per month, advocating fearlessly for transgender rights. His family, once hesitant, now stands proud offering prayers of protection, not pity. Sadek's journey is more than inspiration. It is proof of what's possible when someone is finally allowed to live in their truth. As Sadek says, "I didn't need the world to change overnight. I just needed someone to believe I belonged."



## **Breaking the Silence: Shirina's Journey of Strength and Skill**

Shirina was born into a world of silence. A speech disability kept her voice unheard, but not her spirit. In every quiet moment, she gathered strength. In every overlooked glance, she found courage. Her parents, Abdul Barek and Bifola, became her world's anchors. Abdul, with calloused hands and tired eyes, labored each day without complaint. Bifola wrapped her daughter in love so deep it drowned out society's indifference. While others saw her silence, they saw her spark.

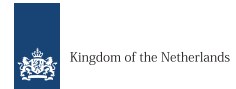
School was hard for Shirina. Not because she couldn't learn but because the world often fails to listen to those who cannot speak. Yet, her teachers learned to reach her with signs, smiles, and patience. Poverty pressed in, but Shirina pressed harder. She began working young, never letting her disability become her definition. Then came a lifeline: UCEP's Ambagan TVET Institute. There, she found not just training, but a place where silence wasn't a barrier. She enrolled in the Sewing Machine Operation course and poured her soul into every stitch. Her quiet determination caught the attention of the Decent Employment team, who opened the door to her first job.

Today, Shirina works at Blue Sky Fashion Ltd., earning Tk. 14,400 each month. But more than money, she's earned dignity, purpose, and the right to be seen.





THANKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND  
**WELL-WISHERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT**



UCEP Bangladesh Celebrates International Women’s Day 2025



UCEP Bangladesh, led by its Dhaka North Region, observed International Women’s Day 2025, on 8 March, 2025 with a high-level discussion and inclusive activities aligned with the theme “Rights, Equality, Empowerment: Advancing Women and Girls.”

Executive Director Dr. Md. Abdul Karim presided over the event, while Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, joined virtually as Chief Guest. She stressed the need for multi-level efforts to address gender inequality and promote women’s rights. Dr. Karim reaffirmed UCEP’s commitment to inclusive education and economic empowerment for women.

The day featured awareness sessions, competitions, and recognition of women’s contributions, with active participation from UCEP staff, educators, and students—all aimed at fostering gender equality and inclusion.

Advisory Council Meetings Reinforce Inclusive Governance and Strategic Direction for TVET



Two Advisory Council meetings were held during January-April, 2025, to strengthen the governance and strategic direction of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiatives. A total number of 26 members attended the meetings, representing a diverse group of stakeholders including social workers, educationists, industrialists, professionals, and local elites. Among the participants, nine were female, reflecting a commitment to inclusive representation. The meetings facilitated active engagement and valuable input from council members, with discussions focused on aligning TVET programs with evolving market demands, improving the quality of training, and enhancing the international competitiveness of the workforce. These efforts underscore the importance of collaborative decision-making in driving a more responsive and future-ready skills development framework.



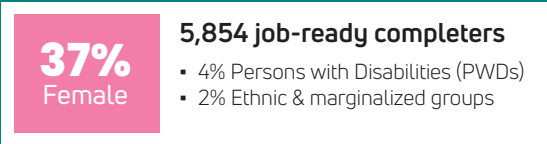
Overview: Community reach through digital platforms

January-April, 2025

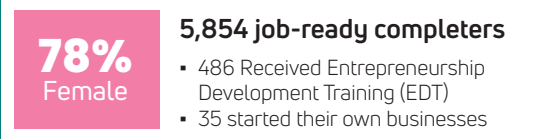


TVET Impact Overview

Employable TVET Graduates



Youth Entrepreneurship

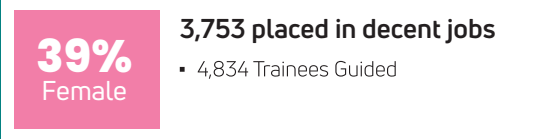


Skills Covered:  
Business Planning, Finance Management  
Marketing & Legal Basics

Job Placement Success



Career Counseling



Focus Areas:  
Self-awareness, CV writing, Workplace  
etiquette Skill & interest mapping