**E- Dialogue on Life Skills Education in the Context of COVID- 19 marking the ‘World Youth Skills Day’:**

Speakers underscored the need for acquiring life skills to compete with the global challenges and to cope with the forth industrial revolution.

They made the call in an E- dialogue on Life Skills Education in the Context of COVID- 19 marking the ‘World Youth Skills Day’ on July 15 Wednesday. The event was organized jointly by a2i- Access to Information project of Bangladesh Government and UNFPA.

Deputy Representative, UNFPA, Dr Eiko Narita and Joint Secretary- Cabinet Division and Joint Project Director A2i, Dr Dewan Mohammad Humayun Kabir gave the welcome and introduction speech.

Director General of Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education, Professor Dr Syed Mohammad Golam Faruk, Member (Curriculum) National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Specialists (Course Accreditation), Bangladesh Technical education Board, Education Specialist, UNICEF, Bangladesh, Iqbal Hossain, Head of Education program, Plan International Bangladesh, Assistant teacher , Holy Cross Girls High School, Dhaka , Kakoli Henryata Rozario and a class ten student of Holy Cross Girls High School, Dhaka , Sarbani Bala were among the panel discussants.

Education Expert A2i, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam gave a Presentation on Life Skills Education in Bangladesh.

Program Analysts – Adolescents and Youth, UNFPA, Dr Munir Hussain moderated the session.

Speakers said, youth empowerment is very important. We need to empower our students and the youth generation imparting knowledge and skills-based learning to cope with the forth industrial revolution across the globe. They also emphasized on ensuring quality education as it can solve all sorts of problems. Students needed to be imparted soft skills – Creativity, Criticality, Morality, Employability, Adaptability, Social Commitment and Health to develop quality education. Several longstanding unsolved problems, natural crisis, human crisis, environment, and health issues problems will be solved if we can establish quality education.

Bangladesh Government has given emphasize on the vocational and technical education beside the general education to ensure skill based learning for the youth generation.

The world has been facing severe challenges in every sector due to pandemic Covid 19. It will never go back the situation before covid 19 rather it would be new world in the post pandemic situation. The pandemic situation, however, has not only deepened the crisis but also created opportunities of learning to cope and to go ahead despite the challenges.  Teachers and students proved their resilience to turn around amid the crisis and to face the challenges of the Earth. They have started online schooling staying at home.

The country has set an example of virtual teaching-learning through Sangsad tv immediately after the pandemic Covid 19 begins. There are also several online schools operating across the country to minimize the academic losses due to the closure of schools, colleges and universities.

They also noted that teachers are the change makers. They must keep up their student’s activities in continuous assessment as it is a very important tool for students all round development. It reduces their dependability on Examination systems. Teachers also need to undergo continuous professional development in order to remain updated in teaching learning for the sake of their students.

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