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# No alternative to technical training for achieving SDGS

*Speakers tell Prothom Alo roundtable*

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**Staff Correspondent**

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To achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is no alternative to providing technical and vocational education and training to people, said speakers yesterday.

The country lacks skilled manpower and participation of public and private sectors is vital to change that, they added.

The speakers were addressing a roundtable on “Technical and Vocational Education and Training for Professional Skills Development: Public-Private Partnership” at the Bangla daily Prothom Alo's office in Dhaka. The newspaper organised the discussion, in association with International Labour Organization (ILO).

ILO Bangladesh Country Director Tuomo Poutiainen said, “Without investment, it's hard for Bangladesh to achieve SDGs.” It is important to identify and address the investors' requirements.

Ashoke Kumar Biswas, director general of the Directorate of Technical Education, said despite availability of government funds, no technical educational institution sought allocation for skills development programmes.

Alexius Chicham, national project coordinator of ILO, said even being provided with technical education and jobs, students are generally not interested in such jobs.

Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Employers' Federation, said there should be a project to change the mindset towards blue-collar jobs.

Mokhlesur Rahman, senior operations officer for education at World Bank, said many are losing jobs in technical service and policymakers should address the issue. Also, education system should focus more on technical training and education.

Mohammad Alamgir, secretary of Technical and Madrasa Education Board, and Tasmiah T Rahman, head of programme, skills development, Brac, also spoke.

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