

# Technical education must be integrated with mainstream education: edu adviser



Technical education must be integrated with mainstream education to eliminate the stigma surrounding it, Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar said today.

Speaking at a seminar titled, "Enhancing the Quality of Technical Education: Opportunities and Challenges in the Global Context", at the International Mother Language Institute auditorium in Dhaka, he said technical education has long been undervalued, often unfairly labelled as merely a "factory for producing mechanics."



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"We must move away from such negative perceptions," Abrar said, stressing that structural reforms are necessary in the technical education sector, which has suffered prolonged neglect.

"There is a severe shortage of trade-based instructors in educational institutions, along with a lack of necessary skills and exposure to new technologies. To overcome these challenges, we must take steps to make technical education more relevant and responsive to modern needs."

Abrar further said that despite acquiring degrees, many graduates remain unemployed, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen technical education as an alternative pathway to employment.

Addressing the ongoing unrest among students, Abrar said those involved in the July movement had experienced trauma, which may cause behavioural differences. "We cannot expect normal behaviour from everyone. Instead, we should treat them with empathy and care during teaching," he added.

He also acknowledged the complexity of the current times, urging all stakeholders to exercise patience. "Demands should be presented with dignity, and a culture of dialogue must be fostered to resolve issues amicably," he said.

The seminar was chaired by Dr K M Kabirul Islam, secretary of the Technical and Madrasah Education Division. Siddique Zobair, secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division; Nasreen Afroz, executive chairman (secretary) of the National Skills Development Authority; and Shoaib Ahmad Khan, director general of the Directorate of Technical Education, were present as special guests