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## Internship: A New Dimension—II

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2. Internship provides with the rare opportunity to get the feel of and access to the corporate world before graduation by working on a daily basis for several months.

3. Internship, at a reputed organisation, adds an impressive dimension to a resume.

4. Internship establishes contacts and networking becomes possible.

5. Contacts established during internship may help to get a job.

As both the parties substantially benefit from internship programme, it seems like a "win-win situation." It is gradually becoming popular in Dhaka, but many universities and companies located outside Dhaka are yet to realise the importance of the programme so that local graduates can train and prepare themselves for the job market. A poor country like Bangladesh has an overwhelming number of unemployed university graduates. They remain unemployed for four basic reasons. They

1) Lack appropriate information on job vacancy,

2) Lack proficiency in English

3) Lack computer literacy

4) Lack internship/job experience

The fourth point is as important as the other three points. As they have no internship experience, they have not been able to gain nominal professional experience or establish a networking system which is important in getting a job.

As our educational system is predominantly text-based, inclusion of internship programme as an academic component is an exception to the norm. Internship is all in all a "hands-on" practical programme geared toward acquisition of empirical knowledge. Those students who are getting the opportunity through their academic institutions are certainly in a better situation than those who are not being able to get it. In a couple of years, this difference will acutely impact the nation when pre-

ference of placement of graduates in the job market will be determined by the internship experience criteria. The unemployed graduates living outside Dhaka will once again feel the deprivation of the benefits of the new incorporation (internship-as an academic component) and realise the age-old fact that concentration of benefits are skewed toward the nation's capital.

In Dhaka, the few institutions that have incorporated internship in their academic programme, are already facing competition in placing students in well-known organisations. It has two-fold impact. It creates tension among universities but this is also a positive sign because graduating students are getting the feel of the real world before graduation.

This transition is helping them to perceive the "demand-supply" situation of the job market and appraise themselves accordingly.

The internship market has not

saturated yet but with the increase of student enrolment, this arrangement might need more cooperation from the corporate world. Gradually serious collaboration will be needed between universities and organisations as both have been mutually benefiting from the arrangement.

As for now, universities with internship programme can be congratulated for their foresight, good intentions and sincere efforts. Internship programme is a positive development in our educational system and in our professional arena. However, the elitist group that is benefiting from the arrangement, need to cater more thoughts to the needs of the rest of the nation. They could work toward impacting the educational system as a whole. This is essential for making the system more functional and practical as a minor preparation for the next century.

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