

for the Holiday

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# Needed photographic education

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Photography is one of the most powerful universal languages of all times. Its authenticity, reliability, truthfulness, dependability, fastness, and many other qualities have made it so acceptable. In education, scientific research, medical diagnosis, security, criminology, aerial weather forecasting, metallurgical tests, and other fields, photography is being used with success.

Photography is one of the most important communication media. In journalism, television, motion picture industry, advertising and printing industry photography plays a very important role.

Photography is known to be the mirror of the world. Any development of a country is better understood through its photography. Tourism and exports develop through photography.

Modern photography practically is everything—a business, a technological, scientific, artistic or cultural occupation.

Photography is contributing to developing human character every day. Millions of people of the world facing the camera are requested to 'Smile' by the photographer. From the president of the state down to the unknown beggar in the street, all try to smile or behave better in presence of a camera.

Photography has many other attributes. In short, it can be said that photography is vital for the socio-economic growth of a country. That is why photography is used by all.

A country like Bangladesh with a hundred million people is without a photographic training centre. And the same is the case in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal,

Bhutan, Burma, Maldives which and many other developing countries have a total population of over one thousand million.

In developing countries, photography is not developing for many reasons. Some are given below:

1. Some of the governments or the people of the developing countries consider photography a hobby, a luxury or an anti-religious activity.

2. The definition and the fields covered by photography have not yet been defined properly.

3. The status and the remuneration of photographers have been very low.

4. Meritorious educated students are not encouraged to take up photography as a career.

5. The absence of a photographic industry in the country.

6. The photographic societies/associations are not developed and do not get adequate support from the government.

7. There is no regular provision for national awards in the field of photography.

8. The cost and taxes of photo-consumables and equipment are high.

9. The professional qualifications given by the learned photographic bodies are not honoured by the country.

10. Photographers keep themselves isolated.

11. Photographic books and periodicals in the local languages are not available.

12. Government photographic education institutions are not established.

Most of the policy makers, planners, executives in the country are photographically illiterate or amateurs and, as such do

not understand the importance of photographic education in the country.

Photography is one of the vocations which is the combination of science and art. All the photographic industries are based on science. The products—the films and sensitized materials, the chemical, the equipment—all are the outcome of scientific research.

In application, photography is commerce, technology and art medium.

Photographic salesmen, photo technologists and the photographers are the main divisions of photography.

Photography is not only science, art, commerce, language, technology or industry; it is a combination of all. So "Photography" is photography.

The studio photographers, movie and T.V. cameramen, process cameramen in the printing industry, the aerial or under water photographers, reprographers, micrographers, audio-visual experts, projectionists, radiographers, photo journalists, forensic experts, photo technologists, photographic inventors etc., although different, all belong to the photographic group of people.

The people who use photographic material, photo equipment, and photochemicals are photographers. Modern photography is not just painting with light on sensitized materials. There are many photographers who take photos but do not do film processing, printing etc., yet they are photographers.

A photographer today not only uses light rays (the visible rays) but he also uses other rays like X-ray, ultra-violet rays, and infra-

red waves etc. Photography used to be carried on with silver halide materials but nowadays we can get images on non-sensitized material under electrostatic, thermal and diazo processes. Video-still photography, holography, photography from satellite on various bands are giving us new concepts of photography.

Therefore, to study photography, cross sections of various scientific knowledge are required. To produce artistic photos in addition to the above science-oriented knowledge one should acquire the principles of aesthetics.

There are many specialized branches of photography. For example, the underwater cameraman should know the effects that may affect his body due to pressure of water. He must know good swimming as well as the proper use of oxygen to be used at various depth, underwater. The aerial photographer, in addition to his photographic works, should understand a little bit of theory of flights, navigation, preparation of aerial mosaic of photos etc. A medical photographer must know the terminology of the various parts of human body. A process cameraman must be conversant with the use of screens that are needed for better printing and so on.

Advanced training is necessary for specialized photographic service. Unfortunately, in the developing countries where normal photographic training is not available, how can we think of advanced training in the specialized branches?