

UK to give Tk 700cr to develop English language skill

Britain will provide 50 million pound, equivalent to Taka 700 crore, under a programme called "English in Action" to develop English Language skill in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The 9-year programme is expected to significantly increase the quality of education for 25 million

people, contributing to economic and social development in the country.

Commenting on the programme, UK Minister for International Development Shahid Malik said in an increasingly globalized world, having a workforce with

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UK

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good English language skill, is a definite advantage.

"It can help people get better paid jobs and improve the chances of poorer people lifting themselves out of poverty," a DFID press release quoted him as saying on Thursday.

Malik pointed out that the ordinary Bangladeshis have the desire and ability to change their lives for the better and the UK is proud to work with the government to give them the chance to do that.

"Our two countries enjoy a good relationship based on a shared history and a vibrant Bangladeshi community in the UK," he also said.

The British minister expressed his happiness for being able to support economic and social progress for the poorest people in Bangladesh and ensure their brighter future.

According to the DFID press release, English in Action is an innovative and comprehensive programme that will target a number of different ages and groups. It will provide teachers at primary and secondary levels with a firm foundation for teaching English.

Besides, the press release said, the programme will offer opportunities for using and practicing English in a variety of economic and social contexts.

By raising the standard of English language, the programme will also address a major skill gap in the workforce and help the country become more competitive in both internal and international labour markets.

English in Action will make use of rapidly expanding mobile phone technology in Bangladesh. It will use television and radio to stimulate interest and debate, and to reach the maximum number of people with appropriate learning programmes.

The programme will also provide a wide range of supportive printed and audio learning materials, which will be available to a wide range of learners, the press release concluded.