

Interview with Md. Mostafa Hossain

“Bangladesh needs more expansion of research based programs”



Md. Mostafa Hosain is currently serving as Assistant Professor at School of Law, BRAC University, Bangladesh. In a candid discussion with BiLD, the young educationist shares his perception about the present status of legal education and research in Bangladesh with some prospects.



We all know that you are teaching law for a long time. How do you see the scope of legal education and research in Bangladesh?

Legal education has been expanded. The establishment of private universities mostly in last twenty years has widened the forum of receiving legal education. Many public universities have opened law department in the same time. Thus, in terms of availability of forum, we have many. The question and challenge is about quality education.

Research ambience and productivity is not well developed as part of the curricula. However, faculty members are publishing in reputed journals and publication houses as part of their obligation to promotion and service requirements. Nominal research grants are also available.

As a legal educationist, how would you evaluate law schooling in Bangladesh? What is the future of law schooling of our country?



Law schools are doing good at undergraduate level. But in order to be relevant to the international market, developing analysis and application based curriculum is important. Post graduation curriculum is not up to the mark.

The future is truly prospective. A good number of young researchers are pursuing higher research degrees and remarkable changes will be imminent if they return and are properly placed in the institutions.



Generally, students have formal academic course on research in graduation and/or post-graduation level. Are these courses really enough to encourage students in future to conduct research activities?

The courses are certainly not enough. But we cannot deny that these courses give orientation to the youngsters to make entry in the horizon of research. Bangladesh needs more expansion of research based programs. I am aware that many universities do not have research methodology course at undergraduate level. In my view, they are far behind.

Where would you like to see the legal research of Bangladesh in near future?



I would like to see that a huge expansion of research based organizations and universities are happening. This will result in creating more opportunities for the researchers. Also hope that quality research work publishers are getting better privileges in the workplace.



What would be your suggestions to legal researchers of our country? Do you think that there is enough environment and culture of legal research in the country?

The prospective researchers should plan to join preferably in teaching at universities. The university teaching provides ambience to pursue research and also helps in getting motivation of research. Some researchers are publishing excellent pieces while being part of judiciary and international organizations.

No doubt that there is environment and culture is growing. But, the question is whether existing facilities are sufficient or not. It is very significant that more funds should be allocated in legal research. The recent venture of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs of Law Ministry is praiseworthy. It has undertaken several projects on filtering the laws. UGC, universities and research organizations should come forward.

You know that there is no specialized law university in Bangladesh and on the other hand, Bangladesh Institute of Legal Development (BiLD) has decided to establish a specialized law university in the country. So, what would be your suggestions to BiLD?



Building a university specialized in law would really be a brilliant step in the development and flourishing of legal education in Bangladesh. However, it is really important to formulate standard curriculum beforehand and do some exercise before. What I mean is to follow the updates and modus operandi of National Law Universities in India.