

The Impact of COVID-19 on Bangladesh's Economy: A Focus on New Employability Trend

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Abstract – The COVID-19 pandemic is having an effect on Bangladesh's economy, disrupting the lives of millions of people and limiting their ability to earn a living. The COVID-19 emergence has exacerbated labor market pressures. Because most organizations have halted their recruiting processes to save money, the pandemic has reduced work possibilities, raising the percentage of graduate unemployment in Bangladesh. As a result, the purpose of this research is to look at the influence of COVID-19 on graduate employability in Bangladesh, which has a negative impact on family income and, as a result, the economy of the country. To assess the effect, a literature analysis was undertaken using secondary sources, which revealed that graduate unemployment climbed from 47 percent to 58 percent in 2020, resulting in a \$53 million yearly loss. The findings also show that low demand and a large supply of graduates in the labor market, a lack of professional skills among graduates, an inefficient educational system, and other factors all play a role in graduate employability. According to the study, the Bangladeshi government should develop policies to address this issue, including ensuring employment subsidies, implementing skills development programs, improving labor market flexibility, launching credit programs to generate employment, and developing entrepreneurial ecosystems in Bangladesh.

Keywords – Bangladesh Economy, COVID-19, Policy Responses, Graduate Employability, Unemployment

I. INTRODUCTION

A cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China, was first reported on December 31, 2019, and a week later identified as COVID-19. On March 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic ([Munim, Shneor, Adewumi, & Shakil, 2020](#); [Murshed, Abbass, & Rashid, 2021](#); [Shahriar, Islam, Zayed, Hasan, & Raisa, 2021](#)). The COVID-19 has had an adverse impact on Bangladesh's economy by affecting millions of people's life and hampering their income sources ([Hossin & Hamid, 2021](#)). Due to the distressing effect of the coronavirus pandemic, massive job losses took place in all employment sectors in Bangladesh. The outbreak of COVID-19 has created more pressure on the labor market ([Hussain, 2021](#); [Salam & Bauer, 2020](#)).

However, graduate unemployment has become the curse for the nation and this situation has become more acute during this COVID-19 pandemic. Bangladesh ranked in 2nd position on graduate unemployment within the South Asian nations, which create an obstacle to obtain the demographic dividend ([Uddin, 2021](#)). More than 2.3 million graduates are unemployed and 350,000 graduates are entering every year the job market in which almost 200,000 are remaining out of work. The graduate unemployment rate has risen to 47% in 2019, but it was 32% in 2015 in which the rate of unemployment among female graduates (45%) was 2.4 times that of their male counterparts (19%) ([Chowdhury et al., 2021](#)). According to [Hossin and Hamid \(2021\)](#), there are some reasons behind this perplexing rate of graduate unemployment in Bangladesh such as low demand and huge supply of graduates in the labor market, lack of professional skills of graduates, ineffective education system, outdated curriculum,

influences of lobbying, corruption and political affiliation in job market, and frequent occurrence of crisis, recession and pandemic (Absar, Dhar, Mahmood, & Emran, 2021; Mukit, Nabila, Islam, & Abdel-Razzaq, 2020).

Various financial crisis, economic recession and pandemic like Spanish flu and COVID-19 increased the graduate unemployment rate across the world. During the financial crisis (2007–2009) the world unemployment rate rose to 10% in which 1 in 5 employees lost their jobs (M. S. Hossain et al., 2021). Thousands of graduates lost their jobs from both domestic and foreign labor markets and, at that time, the graduate unemployment rate of Bangladesh increased from 13% to 17% from the year 2006 to 2009 due to economic slowdown (Ali, Hassan, & Hossain, 2021). During the 1998 Asian financial crisis, Bangladesh was also affected by the depreciation of currency and economic slowdown in which foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign remittance of the country were reduced. Consequently, thousands of people lost their jobs in Bangladesh (Absar et al., 2021).

The outbreak of COVID-19 has engendered unprecedented economic crisis in Bangladesh like in other nations. The startup businesses of Bangladesh have also been affected drastically since mid-March 2020 due to the upsurge of COVID-19 (Murshed, Abbass, et al., 2021; Shahriar et al., 2021). About 24% of businesses reported that they had to stop their operations and 50% reported a drop of revenue, which is intimidating for 1.5 million in employment, with an expected annual loss estimated at \$53 million in 2020. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) expected that the rate of graduate unemployment would increase from 47% to 58% in 2020 because of the economic crisis, which is reducing both national and global demands of goods and RMG products and due to COVID-19; 3 million graduates may lose their jobs out of 25 million salaried employees (Ali et al., 2021; Hussain, 2021; Uddin, 2021).

However, the good news is that, with COVID-19, about 40,000 new job opportunities have emerged in ICT, pharmaceuticals, e-commerce, agro-based foods, healthcare service, and creative media, which require the graduates to acquire employability with hard and soft skills (Dewri, Islam, & Rahman, 2021). According to the Financial Express (2019), the 'Bangabandhu' High Tech Park has received 250 million BDT as foreign investment, which will generate about 2,000 graduate jobs. The Government of Bangladesh has allocated 100 crores BDT (\$11.5 million) to set up 28 Hi-Tech parks in order to improve local startup ecosystem and IT infrastructure development, which will generate ICT-based employment opportunities for the fresh graduates (Hossin & Hamid, 2021).

There are other global impacts that will affect the Bangladesh economy as well as local impacts on demand and supply incountry. At the time of writing, a global recession is a reality, but the jury is still out on the likely duration. Current mitigation measures such as masking, targeted shutdowns, and social distancing will flatten out the trajectory of infections in countries still struggling with controlling infections. However, the focus, in almost all countries by now, is on how to open economies affected by COVID-19, and how businesses can adapt to the post-COVID-19 world (Murshed, Abbass, et al., 2021). Earlier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) opined that the recession will be worse but more shortlived than the global financial crisis of 2008 (International Monetary Fund, 2020). The duration matters greatly for Bangladesh, because its economic fate is closely tied to that of countries that enable the two R's that drive it: ready-made garments (RMG) and remittances.

II. CHALLENGES FOR THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

COVID-19 catches the Bangladesh financial sector at an inopportune time. Banks were trying to come to terms with the Ministry of Finance directive of 6% and 9% caps to interest rates on deposits and loans; vulnerable asset quality; moribund capital markets; and a struggling microfinance sector as access to donor funds and bank financing has become more competitive. It is worth noting that since 2019, private sector credit growth was already declining (M. M. Islam, Al Abbasi, & Dey, 2022). A CEO of a leading private commercial bank suggests that banks were taking time to adjust to the 9% directive, as many were reluctant to lend at this rate (Maitrot, 2021). As effects of COVID-19 intensify, given that there have been several large-scale order cancellations for RMG clients, many loans may go into default, which is worrisome for the sector (Jeris, 2021; Maitrot, 2021).

In the coming months, government sector bank borrowing may increase from levels in the early days of COVID. Government borrowing will take place to finance the large stimulus bill as well as large projects such as the Padma Bridge, Padma Rail Link, Karnaphuli Road Tunnel and the Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project, which will have a positive impact on economic growth (Shahriar et al., 2021). Private sector lending has been greatly hampered by the lending rate cap, particularly, the SME and retail lending space, given that the latter have higher cost of operations, and the 9% interest rate cap is detrimental to business (Jeris, 2021). Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Bank has also attempted to pump cash into the economy. It has cut both the repo rate and cash reserve ratio by 25 and 50 basis points, respectively (Hussain, 2021).

Moreover, the central bank has bought dollars from commercial banks, with the intention of curbing the taka's appreciation against the dollar, has provided guidance on provisions for rescheduled loans, and instructed banks to extend payment deadlines to realize export proceeds, while allowing importers time to make import payments (Chowdhury et al., 2021). Once the current risks of infection subside, the quantitative easing is expected to encourage banks to seek out investment opportunities and some of this liquidity may also find its way into the stock market.

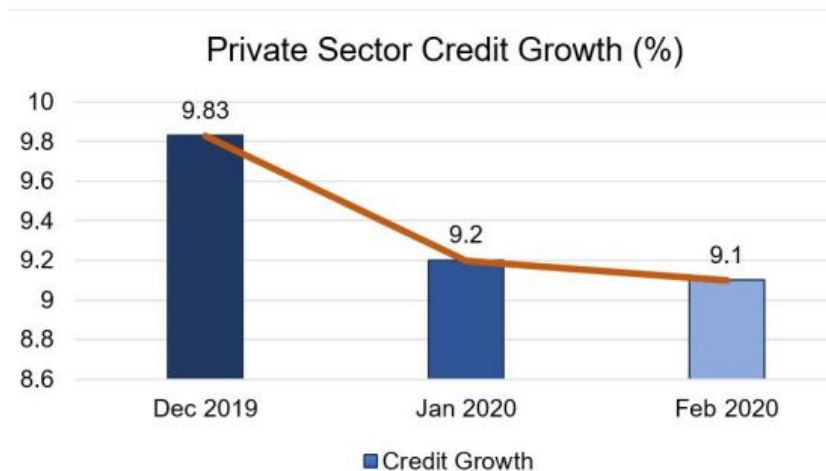


Figure 1: Growth Rate of Private Sector Credit. Source: Bangladesh Bank

Even in good times, raising funds is difficult for small businesses and startups and even more so in times of economic turmoil. When it comes to SME's, in an interest rate environment of 6% and 9%, access to finance will become more difficult as banks will be reluctant to make SME loans at 9%, since SME operations are more expensive and riskier for banks (Hipgrave, Anderson, & Sato, 2019; M. E. Hossain, Khan, Saha, & Dey, 2022). The Government has offered SMEs some reprieve in the stimulus package that is yet to be fully deployed. For Bangladeshi startups, COVID has also had adverse consequences (Uddin, 2021).

E-commerce platforms have been adversely affected. Most of them have been hit with supply-side constraints. Daraz has closed its doors for 10 days. Sheba.XYZ, which is an ecommerce platform for home services, has noticed an uptick in deep cleaning services. Sheba has also shown impressive social responsibility by launching a drive to manufacture and distribute hand sanitizers in partnership with Dhaka University Chemistry Department (Murshed, Ahmed, et al., 2021).

According to interviews, food delivery businesses have slowed down across the board including: Food Panda, Pathao Foods, Uber Eats, and Shohoz Foods. An exception is ChalDal, which, at the time of writing, was experiencing a sharp increase in their grocery delivery business. However, most restaurantbased food delivery businesses have been hit by the fact that people prefer cooking at home at this time. Most of the leading food delivery startups have also launched "contactless" delivery allowing users to pay using cards or mobile payments (M. S. Hossain et al., 2021).

The Bangladesh e-health ecosystem has considerable potential but a limited number of startups that have strong cash runways. Tonic, owned by Digital Healthcare Solutions, formerly by Telenor Health, is experiencing a 30% uptick in telephone consultations and are expected to launch video consultations, shortly. They have also launched a symptom checker in Bangla. COVID-19 has underscored the growth potential of this space (Chowdhury et al., 2021).

Fundraising for startups is difficult even in a healthy economy. At the time of Corona, when public equities are deemed risky and even gold prices have been shaky, startup investing will likely take a considerable hit in the coming months. The silver lining to this economic scenario is that the Bangladesh Government has proactively enacted a stimulus package that will shore up RMG businesses, provide direct incentives to workers, buttress the banking system, ensure liquidity in the economy, support exporters and importers, and other impacted sectors such as tourism, aviation, and hospitality (Bair, Anner, & Blasi, 2020). In the long run, COVID-19 will have exposed areas for improvement in Bangladesh's health care system, IT infrastructure, workplace cultures, and adaptability of public and private sector leadership (Biswas, Huq, & Afiaz, 2020). The virus may also have the unintended consequence of enhancing the country's social protection and emergency response capacity. It may also accelerate the digital transformation curve. This is a curve we do not wish to flatten, but only steepen.

Given the Bangladesh government’s commitment to ensuring quarantine at a time when official figures of COVID-19 affected persons are low compared to other countries; the potential of a well-considered stimulus package; speedy monetary and fiscal interventions; and not to mention, a large informal economy; there is a possibility that the economy may rebound by Q4 2020(Dewri et al., 2021). Of course, much depends on the capacity of RMG and manpower importing countries to recover from economic shocks, and a slowing down of infection rates, which are yet to peak in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the resilience and resourcefulness of Bangladeshi people will surely be tested. Based on the above discussion, the research tries to explore how the employability trends is mitigating the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1. Concepts of Graduate Unemployment

Graduate unemployment refers to the unemployed graduates who possess an academic degree at tertiary level. The concept of graduate unemployment is the term that describes people who are employable and looking for jobs, but are unable to find a job despite having their academic degree and knowledge(Murshed, Ahmed, et al., 2021). Unemployment is the state in which a pool of talent is available for jobs, but unable to get any kind of suitable job; it is the indicator of economic status of a country. The rate of graduate unemployment is measured by dividing the number of graduates unemployed by the total number of employees(Shahriar et al., 2021).

3.2. Scenario of Graduate Unemployment in Bangladesh

The scenario of graduate unemployment in Bangladesh is devastating and it has become one of the vital concerns. Based on the BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics), unemployment rate in Bangladesh is 5%, which is equivalent to the US, but unemployment rate among the graduates is about 47%. According to the CPD (Central for Policy Dialogue), about 5 out of every 10 graduates remain unemployed in Bangladesh (whereas 3 out of every 5 graduates remain unemployed in India and Pakistan)(M. Hossain, Rahman, & Rahman, 2020). About 3.5 million graduates are unemployed of which 63% are male and 37% are female. Bangladesh ranked in the 2nd position regarding the highest graduate unemployment rate in the South Asian countries (N. Hossain, 2019). The EIU showed that the graduate unemployment rate of Bangladesh compared to other South Asian countries is as follow:

Based on the views of the UGC’s (University Grants Commission) report, every year about 350,000 graduates are entering the job market and almost half of them are remaining unemployed. According to the World Bank report, only 19% college graduates are engaged in full-time employment and nearly half of them are unemployed; this study reveals that female university graduates are more unemployed compared to their male counterparts after two or three years of graduation being completed, in which 45% of female university graduates remained unemployed compared to 37% of male university graduates (M. S. Islam et al., 2019; Khan et al., 2019). This frustrating scenario of graduate unemployment has raised questions regarding future economic slowdown. Figure 2 shows that the graduate unemployment in Bangladesh is rising rapidly: in 2015 the graduate unemployment rate was 32%, but in 2019 it rose to 47%(Hipgrave et al., 2019).

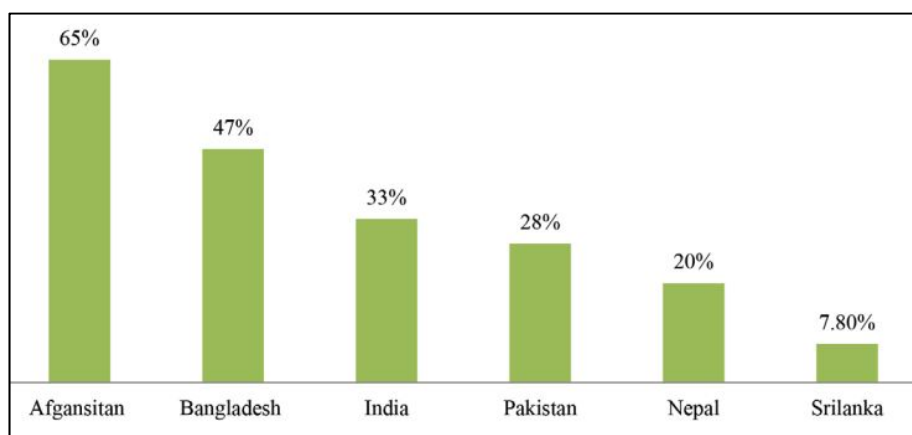


Figure 2: Graduate Unemployment Rate of South Asian Countries (EIU, 2019)

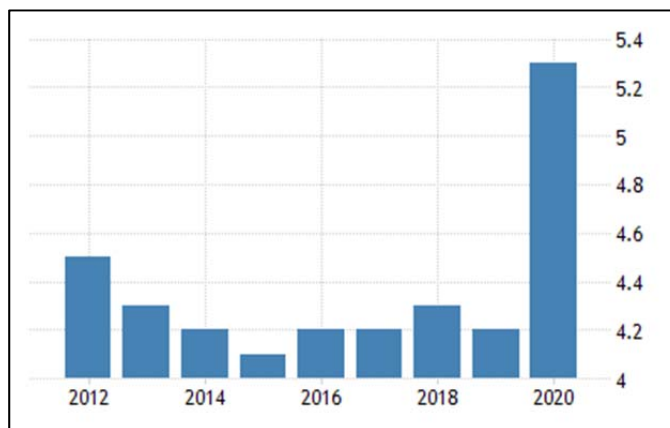


Figure 3: Bangladesh unemployment rate

Bangladeshi graduates are facing challenges for securing white-collar jobs and more than two-third of the job seekers remain unemployed after two or three years of graduation ([Zayed, Chowdhury, Kamruzzaman, & Islam, 2019](#))

IV. REASONS FOR GRADUATE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN BANGLADESH

The rate of graduate unemployment for Bangladesh is puzzling and there are many reasons such as lack of cognitive and soft skills of the graduates (critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills), low quality of education systems (outdated curriculum of public universities and low quality of private universities), no job specialization and lobbying, corruption and political affiliation ([Hussain, 2021](#)). The scenario of graduate unemployment in Bangladesh has become a challenging problem for government and the prime reasons are as follows: i) a chronic over-supply of graduates, ii) small and competitive job market, iii) ineffective education system, iv) lack of job specialization, v) lack of required professional skills and qualities among the graduates, vi) outdated curriculum, and vii) lobbying, corruption and political affiliation ([Uddin, 2021](#)).

The Bangladesh government is concerned because of the high graduate unemployment and the government has already taken some initiatives in order to address this serious problem. For example, the government integrated the 2009 ICT policy into digital 2021 Bangladesh policy, and developed IDEA and startup projects by allocating 100 corers BDT (\$11.5 million) in order to improve local startup ecosystem and generate employment opportunities ([Ali et al., 2021](#)). The government of Bangladesh has also established more than 28 Hi-Tech parks in order to develop IT infrastructure development, which will generate ICT-based jobs for fresh graduates. The ‘Bangabandhu’ High Tech Park has received 250 million BDT as foreign investment, which will generate about 2,000 graduate jobs. But the outbreak of COVID-19 severely affects such initiatives, which create uncertainty for the graduates to find jobs ([M. Hossain et al., 2020](#); [Shah, Dong, & Park, 2020](#)).

V. IMPACT OF DIFFERENT ECONOMIC RECESSIONS AND PANDEMICS ON GRADUATE UNEMPLOYMENT

Various economic recessions and spread of pandemics negatively affect the employment of a country as millions of people lose their jobs and graduates cannot find jobs in such situation. Economic recession is the contracting economic period in which businesses begin to lose profits due to fall in demand. In such situation unemployment rises and becomes high as firm’s cost increases, revenue falls and pressure of debt increases, which lead to lay-offs for cutting down costs. Businesses face the same situation during pandemic because the economic focus is given to coping with the pandemic situation rather than business growth. So, it becomes difficult for new graduate job seekers to find jobs. On the other hand, millions of people lose their jobs during the pandemic due to the contraction of the labor market and economic recession, which raised the rate of unemployment and graduate unemployment as well ([Biswas et al., 2020](#); [Shahriar et al., 2021](#)).

5.1. Financial Crisis (2007–2009)

The great financial crisis occurred in the period of 2007–2009 when the global economy fell into stagnation and it was the most severe financial and economic meltdown. The main cause of the financial crisis was the vulnerable financial systems and the series of triggering events, which began through the bursting of the housing bubble in the USA in 2005–2006. It increased the

unemployment rate 10% and one in five employees lost their jobs. The effect of that great recession was seen in the economy of Bangladesh as it reduced the exports (5.8 % in the first half and 6.2 % in the second half FY 2019–2020). So, many graduates remained unemployed during that recession and many residents and non-residents Bangladeshi also lost their jobs. During the financial crisis, the graduate rate of unemployment in Bangladesh also increased from 13% to 17%, from the year 2006 to 2009 due to economic slowdown ([M. S. Hossain et al., 2021](#)).

5.2. Spanish Flu

The Spanish flu was first seen in Europe, USA and different parts of Asia, known as the avian-borne flu. This flu spread to the whole world swiftly in 1918 and about 50 million people died from the flu. World labor markets of different large cities were shut down and the pandemic created the economic recession through increasing labor wages and shortage of labor. The Indian Subcontinent was greatly affected, and thousands of people died while millions of people lost their jobs. So, such pandemic increases a country's graduate unemployment rate as demands of labor reduce generally during this time ([Maitrot, 2021](#); [Murshed, Ahmed, et al., 2021](#)).

VI. ASIA FINANCIAL CRISIS-1998

The 1998 Asian financial crisis started in July 1997 with the currency crisis and greatly affected the production, stock markets and labor markets of Asian countries. The stock markets of South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia collapsed, and inflation rate rose about 12.9%. During this financial crisis, Bangladesh was also affected due to depreciation of currency and economic slowdowns. Bangladeshi exports fell by 17% and the country recorded only 11% imports from the affected countries. FDI and foreign remittance of the country were reduced. Thus, thousands of people lost their jobs from the affected countries, which gave rise to the rate of unemployment ([M. E. Hossain et al., 2022](#); [Hussain, 2021](#)).

6.1. COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 has engendered unprecedented economic crisis in the global economy as well as the economy of Bangladesh. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), this pandemic will wipe out about 7.2% of working hours, and 125 million workers will lose their jobs in the Asia Pacific region whereas remittances of South Asia are projected to decline 22%, which translates to \$109 billion and the economic growth rate of 6.1% in 2019 will also fall ([Murshed, Ahmed, et al., 2021](#)). The COVID-19 has created catastrophic pressure on the labor market of Bangladesh, and many people have lost their jobs because of economic slowdown and lockdown. The ILO predicted that more than 85% informal labor in Bangladesh are extremely vulnerable and will hit the marginal people in low-income who are self-employed or day-labor ([Hussain, 2021](#); [Shahriar et al., 2021](#)). This situation mostly affects the urban employment, which leads to poverty, reverse migration and inequality by creating challenges for the graduate people to get jobs. The COVID-19 pandemic reduces the opportunity for youth skills development and shrinks the employment opportunities for the upcoming fresh graduates. According to the ILO report, this pandemic affects about 20 million graduates in the labor force of Bangladesh, which indicates the colossal economic disruption for the country ([Azizuddin, Shamsuzzoha, & Piya, 2021](#)). A survey by the Bangladesh National ICT Household predicted that about 5.5 million people will lose their jobs by the end of 2020 and 2.5 million people will lose their jobs the following year. The startup businesses of Bangladesh have also been affected drastically since March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic ([Absar et al., 2021](#)). About 24% businesses reported that they are bound to stop their operations and 50% recorded a drop in revenue. Within the three months of lockdown, 60% startups business have closed down, which is ominous for 1.5 million employees, and the expected annual loss is estimated at \$53 million in 2020 ([Sarker, Hussain, Assaduzzaman, & Failler, 2019](#)). The graduates are confronting severe problems and become frustrated, as jobs are not created as per demands, so they are remaining unemployed. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the lack of job opportunities and entrepreneurship facilities, which also increased the rate of graduate unemployment ([M. S. Islam et al., 2019](#)).

VII. METHODOLOGY

To achieve these objectives, researchers mainly have used secondary sources as well as focus group discussion, in-depth interviews and telephone interviews with some experts from Bangladesh Investment Development Authorities (BIDA) and Access to Information Program (a2i) from the Government of Bangladesh as primary sources. Secondary data were collected from various newspapers, articles, websites, journals and research papers. However, the secondary data were carefully scanned prior to using them in this study. Moreover, the study is largely qualitative and exploratory in nature.

VIII. DISCUSSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Entrepreneurship development can be the great opportunity for Bangladesh to overcome the problem of graduate unemployment. Previously, little research has been conducted on the development of entrepreneurship in Bangladesh, but now the government of Bangladesh focuses on developing entrepreneurial ecosystem in order to ensure employment for all in the “Mujib Year”. The Prime Minister advised young graduates to come up with new ideas and use their talents and creativity in order to enhance the country's job market. To encourage entrepreneurship, the government awarded 22 young entrepreneurs the 2019 National Youth Award (Ullah, 2020). Most of the graduates in Bangladesh tend to be employees rather than become an entrepreneur due to lack of entrepreneurial education (Uddin, 2021). However, the good news is that the department of Youth development and ICT ministry are arranging different agro-entrepreneurship, freelancing and self-employment training programs for new entrepreneurs in every district and the Ministry of Finance is also committed to providing support and appropriate tools for the young entrepreneurs during the time of COVID-19. The young graduates are now involving themselves in building their own enterprise in ICT, setting up agro- and dairy-based production units, handicrafts, restaurants and food carts and taking up freelancing for outsourced work to cater to the demand for gig economy (Reza & Bromfield, 2019).

Various industries in Bangladesh are booming in this situation of COVID-19 like the ICT industry, RMG industry, and health and agro-based industries in which huge numbers of skilled graduates are required. About 2.2 million skill-based jobs are vacant in various sectors of Bangladesh and every year such vacancy for skilled workers is increasing (Yaqoob et al., 2022). Graduates must have the skills like scientific literacy, ICT literacy, financial literacy, civic literacy, critical thinking and problem-solving ability, communication and collaborative skills, creativity and innovation, digital-adaptability, leadership, curiosity, futures literacy, commercial and social awareness (Osman & Bennett, 2018). The industry-academia gap is another reason why many graduates are unemployed in Bangladesh. Employers many times complain that they do not get skilled people according to the market demand and in most cases, they are bound to recruit expertise from neighboring countries like India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, even China. In Bangladesh, about one million people from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and China are working, so one million people of other countries are occupying the position of one million unemployed graduates of Bangladesh. The deficiency of human resources in eight different sectors of Bangladesh is estimated at about 17,27,150 and employers cannot recruit in these positions due to lack of skilled manpower (Rahman & Kazal, 2018). However, in the 8th five-year plan (FY 2021–25) ICT Division of Bangladesh targeted to train up 40% workforce based on professional skill requirements of 21st century and 4th Industrial Revolution (Sarker et al., 2018).

Thus, the present labor markets expect people with specialized knowledge and appropriate skills with proper attitude, but the current education system of Bangladesh nurtures students only for cognitive development. The system has failed to develop competent graduates for employment to a great extent. Understanding the limitations of degree-based education system worldwide, Google has recently announced the provision of professional courses to teach how to get in-demand jobs in this situation of COVID-19. Like Udemy and Coursera, this training solution is expected to ensure employment opportunities for anyone that traditional college/university degrees cannot do.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

From a managerial perspective, some policy responses have been suggested for Bangladesh to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to graduate unemployment problem in Bangladesh. Reverse Migration To combat the challenge of reverse migration during COVID-19, the government of Bangladesh should decentralize the industries and invest more in the agricultural sector to ensure employment opportunities for the graduates in rural areas. Government should make economic and social investment at sub-district level for improving the areas of healthcare, agriculture, education, and for creating income generating opportunities to overcome this crisis. Interest-free microfinance provided to the needy people in rural areas can improve the living standard of the poor and eventually alleviate their poverty. This model was applied by the Management of various universities to provide the poor with the funds for purchasing necessary equipment like sewing machines, learning tailoring, doing fisheries, nursery, poultry or dairy farm, making handicrafts or furniture, starting small businesses of grocery or medicine stores, farming, etc.. The government can take such initiatives to make proper utilization of such funds on creating employment opportunities.

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