

# TEACHER'S PORTAL

Revolutionizing pedagogic training, empowering teachers with a 21st century learning platform



বাংলাত মো: বন্ধিনুল ইসলাম
২২শে কার্তিক, ১৪২৩
কন্টেন্ট ৯৩,৪১৬ টি
মডেল কন্টেন্ট ৬৭৭ টি
সদস্য ১৩৫, - ৬৪ জন
আমন্ত্রণ
সপ্ত আউট










মাল্টিমিডিয়া কন্টেন্ট প্রতিযোগিতা - ০১৫ বিতরণী পর্যায়ে কন্টেন্ট

সংবাদ

[হোম](#)
[কন্টেন্ট](#)
[ব্লগ](#)
[আমার পাতা](#)
[সদস্য](#)
[সাধারণ শিক্ষা](#)
[কারিগরি শিক্ষা](#)
[মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা](#)
[আপসোড](#)
[সহায়তা](#)
[মিপি](#)

নবরূপে ...



আয়ো মহজ, আয়ো গতিময়

প্রোমোশন
মডেল কন্টেন্ট
গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হবি
গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তিথিও

 সাধারণ শিক্ষা
  মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা
  কারিগরি শিক্ষা

## prologue

Bangladesh has more than 30 million students and nearly 1 million teachers in over 120,000 primary and secondary schools. The cost-intensive nature of traditional face-to-face teacher training methods, limited infrastructure and resource constraints means that it takes 5 to 6 years to update the knowledge and skills of every teacher in the system.

Especially at a time when curriculum and pedagogy are changing rapidly to build the skills relevant for the 21st century lifestyle and livelihood, and the nearly ubiquitous presence of digital technologies is making new knowledge more accessible every moment, it is imperative for Bangladesh to devise modern alternatives to traditional pedagogic training for improving the nation's educational outcomes.

## CONTEXT

Rubi knew exactly which seat on the bench farthest back in the classroom to take in order to avoid her 4th grade science teacher Masuma's attention. At the same time, Masuma knew that she could cold-call Rubi any time and expect her to offer nothing in response but silence and maybe an embarrassed smile. It was a pity since Rubi was really interested in science and dreamt of one day becoming an astronaut like her hero, Neil Armstrong. However, she simply could not follow the countless definitions that her teacher talked about and yearned for a way to understand the concepts better.

This was unfortunate since Masuma, who was an assistant teacher at Rubi's primary school in the remote sub-district of Hatia in Noakhali district, loved her job and was very passionate about teaching. She tried her best to use the knowledge she had gathered from the government primary teachers' training institute to make her lessons as interesting and knowledgeable as possible. But crucially, she felt she lacked expert guidance from an experienced peer who could mentor her on how to teach in a manner that was easier, more engaging and ensured better learning outcomes for her pupils.

In Bangladesh, nearly 1 million teachers at more than 120,000 schools and colleges receive formal training on education pedagogy along with pre- and post-training resources. But given the expensive nature of the traditional face-to-face training method, teachers must wait for years on end to receive 'refresher training' to update their knowledge and skills. Moreover, there is no single platform where teachers can share resources and opinions for further professional development during and after training programs.

As a result, a digital and education divide has been widening between teachers and students from urban and rural areas where the latter is usually "less connected" and therefore more disadvantaged.



A 21st century learning platform to enhance educational outcomes for millions of students throughout Bangladesh

## Teachers' Portal: A Revolutionary Peer-to-Peer Learning and Capacity Development Platform

With the objective of devising a modern, far-reaching supplementary tool to traditional teacher training methods that is more time-efficient and able to make greater use of peer-to-peer learning opportunities, a2i designed and developed an online social platform for school and college teachers called the Teachers' Portal ([www.teachers.gov.bd](http://www.teachers.gov.bd)).

The specific goals of the Teachers' Portal are to:

- Establish an online training and professional development platform for all school and college teachers
- Develop an online repository where quality, multimedia educational contents can be stored, accessed and shared freely
- Create an idea generation and problem solving platform that facilitates teachers to share opinions and suggestions regarding education pedagogy, use of ICT in education delivery and discuss issues related to the country's education system in general
- Develop a peer-to-peer, collaborative environment for lifelong learning support and to close the rural-urban knowledge gap in the process

Perhaps the most exciting and ambitious part of the idea was to crowdsource quality digital educational contents. Establishing an online peer-training platform made teachers throughout Bangladesh independent of curriculum and multimedia experts who have traditionally been bottlenecks in the creation of up-to-date learning materials.

## Trainers as 'Mentors'

Teachers' Portal has replaced the traditional notion of training, monitoring and mentoring. Through this online platform, every member-teacher is now connected with 'teacher-educators' and mentors who are accessible all 7 days a week compared to traditional 'trainers' whose support was available only during training sessions once every few years. They provide feedback to teachers who upload new contents thereby continuously developing their skills and the learning materials themselves. Besides mentoring, these experts also provide rating on the basis of which 3 teachers are systematically highlighted as 'content champions' every week. Many champion teachers have already blossomed into mentors themselves!

## Model Content

There are over 100,000 contents available on Teachers' Portal. However, the need for 'model' or verified contents posed a challenge. So, in 2015 with 45 of the best teachers along with experts from the National Curriculum and Textbook Board and Teachers Training College, a2i and the Ministry of Education jointly developed over 1,000 customizable model contents of high quality covering all core subjects. Any teacher can modify any part of the model contents to suit the needs of their pupils or their style of teaching. Moreover, an offline version of these contents has also been prepared and distributed throughout the country, especially in remote schools where internet connectivity is weak or unavailable.

## Motivation and Incentives through 'Gamification'

Teachers' Portal uses elements of 'gamification' in an attempt to create virtual incentives for the teachers to participate more actively. Every week, 3 teachers are selected as the best content developers based on various criteria including their online rating by fellow users. The 235 'winners' to date, of which 107 have been women, not only get inspired by the recognition but it also acts as an inspiration for new members to join the platform. In a recent satisfaction survey it was found that among the 458 teachers, 89% said that the 'best content developer' feature is effective.

The project also facilitates the spread of stories of success in the national media. Recently, an 'Annual National Content Competition' was added to the system for the members of the Teachers' Portal to take this strategy further. Thousands of teachers participate in the competition and the finalists are rewarded at national and international events like 'World Teachers Day' and the 'Annual National Teachers' Conference'.

Furthermore, the portal offers a way for teachers in the rural areas to shine and earn national recognition. More than 90% of the teachers who have won the best content award to date have been from rural areas. Thus, the latent creativity and potential of rural teachers has now been unleashed through this portal.

A link to an awareness video on Teachers' Portal can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvJ0oKZLYRA>

## Multimedia Classrooms

Passionate, dedicated teachers across Bangladesh try their best to explain difficult and often abstract concepts using examples and even drawing images on blackboards whenever possible. However, in big classrooms with 50+ children such efforts by a single teacher fail to engage pupils. They are also let down by the predominantly black and white textbooks with few pictures or illustrations.

In response to these critical teaching-learning challenges, a2i established Multimedia Classrooms (MMCs) in secondary and primary schools to utilize the outputs of the Teachers' Portal, particularly the enhanced capacity of teachers to create interesting, multimedia educational contents on hard-to-grasp topics.

Since establishing full-fledged computer labs in schools was prohibitively expensive, Multimedia Classrooms consisting of just one laptop with internet connectivity and a multimedia projector were piloted in 7 schools. The MMCs allowed teachers to present complex ideas through audio-visual contents available on the Teachers' Portal and elsewhere online which enabled students to take greater interest and grasp ideas that they previously found difficult to understand. Given the overwhelming positive response from students and teachers alike, the concept was fine-tuned and scaled up. There are now over 23,331 multimedia classrooms in secondary schools, an additional 14,000+ at the primary level with more in the pipeline.

## Results & Achievements

The Teachers' Portal has contributed to Bangladesh achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Its evolution over the years means that it is well-positioned to play a key role in the country's march towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities for teachers, the portal has paved the way to achieve universal primary education as per MDG 2. Moreover, by its concept and design, the Teachers' Portal is also directly contributing to SDG 4 (targets 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8) by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting life-long learning opportunities for all.

## Batayan Mag

Launched in 2015, 'Batayan Mag' is the e-magazine of the Teachers' Portal. It covers issues and topics of interest to any educator - from curriculum development to the integration of technology in learning. It aims to serve as an open forum for information and discussion on current trends in education, pedagogical techniques, classroom management, professional and personal development, new teaching resources and to support teachers to help promote innovation in education.

Batayan Mag is dedicated to providing a means to nurture the practice of creative writing with different articles, stories and poems. Teachers from all over the country also share their capacity building experiences and insights through the magazine. The best contributors also get an honorarium for their efforts.



## Women's Empowerment Facilitated by Teachers' Portal

This platform is also supporting the cause of gender equality by reducing discrimination against female teachers as encoded in SDG 5. At present, 45.85% of total members on the portal are female teachers. According to a study, 80.7% of them said that instead of travelling to distant locations, they prefer to collect teaching-learning resources from the Teachers' Portal. As women in Bangladesh often face numerous cultural and societal restrictions on their mobility and as such are often denied training opportunities that require travelling to distant towns and staying overnight at unfamiliar locations. Since online trainings are also provided through the Teachers' Portal, it tackles this challenge head-on and thus benefits female teachers greatly.

A special documentary released on International Women's Day highlights women's empowerment through the Teachers' Portal

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TQdgm-b\\_uYc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TQdgm-b_uYc), 3:05 - 6:05 minutes).

## Sustainability and Partnerships

Today, the Teachers' Portal is a key component in the mandatory 14-days long 'ICT in Education Training Programme' for all primary and secondary teachers. And the Ministry of Education has already approved a 5-year project focusing on the optimization of the Teachers' Portal and Multimedia Classrooms.

Performance on the Teachers' Portal has now become one of the most important criteria at the district level for the selection of 'best educators'. Moreover, government educational institutions such as Teacher Training Colleges, Higher Secondary and Primary Teachers' Training Institutes, the Institute of Education and Research, the National Academy for Educational Management, relevant directorates and ministries are directly engaged with the Teachers' Portal. Development partners and NGOs like the British Council, Save the Children, BRAC, UNICEF, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and others are also contributing ideas, contents, funds and organizing events to recognize and motivate the teachers.



# TEACHERS PORTAL: AT A GLANCE

**132,300+**  
TEACHERS ARE MEMBER

**100,000+**  
MULTIMEDIA CONTENTS READY  
FOR CLASSROOM USE

**120,000+**  
TEACHERS TRAINED  
ON OPERATING  
MULTIMEDIA CLASSROOMS

**33,000+**  
MULTIMEDIA CLASSROOMS

**39,000+**  
BLOGS POSTED  
BY TEACHERS



**NEARLY  
2 MILLION**  
PAGE VIEWS MONTHLY

**98,375+**  
ACTIVE USERS MONTHLY

**BEST TEACHERS OF THE WEEK**  
(3 BEST CONTENT DEVELOPERS ARE HIGHLIGHTED EVERY WEEK)



## Way Forward

Since its launch in 2013, more than 132,000 teachers from all over Bangladesh have registered on the Teachers' Portal and can access more than 100,000 contents developed and uploaded by registered teachers. The target is to register 350,000 teachers by 2018 and all of the country's 1 million teachers by 2021, in line with the 7th 5-year plan (2016-2021) and the Bangladesh's aspiration to become a middle-income nation.

Teachers' Portal brilliantly wraps together co-creation and access to quality multimedia teaching-learning contents, peer-mentoring, self-paced learning through practice, peer-collaboration and motivation through healthy competition and national/international recognition into one attractive and highly effective teachers' empowerment package.

The 'gamification' rewards quality content creation that in turn drives sharing and downloading by teachers. However, precisely how they are being used in the classroom is not yet being tracked comprehensively. The Teachers' Portal and how it empowers teachers is not an end in itself; rather, it is the means to enhance learning outcomes for millions of students throughout Bangladesh. Thus, moving forward, for this platform to truly prove its worth, this critical aspect needs to be studied more rigorously and measured.



a2i, Prime Minister's Office  
Old Sangsad Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

☎ 88 02 9144848, 9102311, 58154176 📠 88 02 9112276

🌐 [www.a2i.pmo.gov.bd](http://www.a2i.pmo.gov.bd) 🐦 @a2i\_bd

📘 /a2ibangladesh 📺 /a2ibangladesh

