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OPINION

Education and research are neglected areas

The universities in Bangladesh provide non-research and pedagogical teaching. The society gets little research benefits from its universities, writes **Dr. M. Azizur Rahman**

IN education and research western countries enjoy an unrivalled position. Rapid development in education and research enables western countries, especially the United States of America and Canada, to offer opportunities of higher education to learners across the world. The US, with its technological edge, dominates the global weaponry market. Cosmetics buyers look for French or English brands. Japan dominates the automobile market. Japan and Belgium outdo others in the global machinery and tools market.

Even a least developed country can outperform others in research. India outperforms other SAARC countries in ornaments and women's attire. China and Bangladesh are major exporters of knit and woven

wear and other readymade garments. Bangladesh now produces more food now for its 160 million people than it did immediately after independence for 75 million. The high yielding seeds developed by agricultural scientists at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) made it possible. The history of modern education, stretching more than a century, hardly justifies its prevailing standard of teaching and learning. The universities in Bangladesh provide non-research and pedagogical teaching. The society gets little research benefits from its universities. A

worldwide survey on standard of education last year could rank no university from Bangladesh. Bangladesh education is not accepted in the job market abroad.

Bangladesh needs to improve its standard of education. It requires improving the environment of education as well as the physical facilities, including laboratories and libraries. Political stability and a supportive bureaucracy are essential preconditions for the improvement of the standard of education. Involvement of teachers in student groupings that pass for partisan

politics does more harm than good to the pursuit of education.

Education and research require allocation of more resources. Bangladesh spends less than many countries on education and research. The private universities in the west, best known for their research activities, produce almost all the nobel laureates in science and economics.

The private universities in Bangladesh have created a new optimism in the arena of education. By adopting the latest western methods of education, as far as they could, they created newer

opportunities and an educational environment free from political conflicts and session's jam. Their semester system keeps the learners busy with studies. The private university educated get better paid jobs. At least some of the private universities have created opportunities of education in modern subjects like IT.

The government should increase allocation for higher education and research. Public and private universities deserve funding support. Bangladesh needs the culture of private sector support that benefits the education and research in the west. Tax incentives would encourage the private sector to be supportive to higher education.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor and Chief Advisor, IPR, Uttara University)