

2016

BANGLADESHI UNIVERSITY RANKING



ResearchHUB

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Home to 163 million people, Bangladesh is among the top ten largest countries in the world in terms of population. Yet, economically it is still lagging behind major players – according to the Human Development Index, Bangladesh ranks in the lowest third of the world. The opportunities and potential the country is endowed with are largely untapped. As the country is not rich in natural resources, the role of human capital – the people’s capability to create, innovate and be entrepreneurial – is ever more crucial for the development of the country. Higher education plays a pivotal role in fostering human capital and releasing the potential of Bangladesh’s people.

This report portrays the current status of country’s major universities, both from a student perspective and in terms of outreach of research. No such initiative to compare Bangladeshi institutions has been undertaken so far. The goal is to aggrandize competitiveness and strengthen transparency among universities. This will allow students to make more informed choices when they apply for their studies, and it will lead to increased accountability of universities regarding their education and research output.

ResearchHUB conducted a survey in which we received 3768 responses from students and alumni of 124 universities in Bangladesh. 57% of the responses were from students of private universities, 41% came from public ones and and 2% from

international ones. The final output of this report will help university authorities to identify areas of improvement in order to become more competitive.

Bangladeshi universities do not enjoy a good international reputation: none of them are ranked within the Top 500 universities in world university rankings, such as the Financial Times or QS World University Rankings. Further, no single institution is accredited by AACSB, EQUIS or AMBA, which, internationally, are the most widely accepted organizations for university education quality assurance.

A simple methodology was employed by ResearchHUB to perform a benchmark across Bangladeshi universities.¹ In the coming years, the methodology will continuously be improved to cover more aspects of quality in terms of education and research, and to convey a more concrete picture of the higher education landscape of Bangladesh.

Table 1. Bangladesh higher education at a glance

Total university students ²	872,891
<i>Number of universities</i>	131
Public	37
Private	91
International	3

¹ The current methodology can be found in Appendix A of this report.

² Bangladesh Education Statistics 2015. Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Ministry of Education. January 2016.

Table 2. Top 30 Bangladeshi Universities

Rank	University	City	Code	Score
1	University of Dhaka	Dhaka	DU	95.08
2	Jahangirnagar University	Dhaka	JU	83.91
3	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	Dhaka	BUET	68.47
4	Independent University	Dhaka	IU	66.86
5	Khulna University	Khulna	KU	56.46
6	Shahjalal University of Science and Technology	Sylhet	SUST	50.75
7	University of Chittagong	Chittagong	CU	47.62
8	Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology	Rajshahi	RUET	45.19
9	North South University	Dhaka	NSU	44.22
10	Brac University	Dhaka	BracU	42.84
11	Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University	Dinajpur	HSTU	41.41
12	Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology	Chittagong	CUET	41.28
13	Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University	Tangail	MBSTU	40.79
14	Islamic University of Technology	Dhaka	IUT	40.55
15	Daffodil International University	Dhaka	DIU	40.54
16	University of Asia Pacific	Dhaka	UAP	40.18
17	American International University- Bangladesh	Dhaka	AIUB	40.12
18	Jagannath University	Dhaka	JagU	40.02
19	International University of Business Agriculture and Technology	Dhaka	IUBAT	39.33
20	Khulna University of Engineering and Technology	Khulna	KUET	38.87
21	Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology	Dhaka	AUST	38.65
22	East West University	Dhaka	EWU	38.65
23	University of Rajshahi	Rajshahi	RU	38.00
24	International Islamic University Chittagong	Chittagong	IIUC	37.42
25	United International University	Dhaka	UIU	36.96
26	Bangladesh University of Textiles	Dhaka	BUT	36.67
27	Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology	Dhaka	DUET	36.63
28	BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology	Dhaka	BUFT	36.27
29	Bangladesh University of Professionals	Dhaka	BUP	35.84
30	Southeast University	Dhaka	SEU	35.01

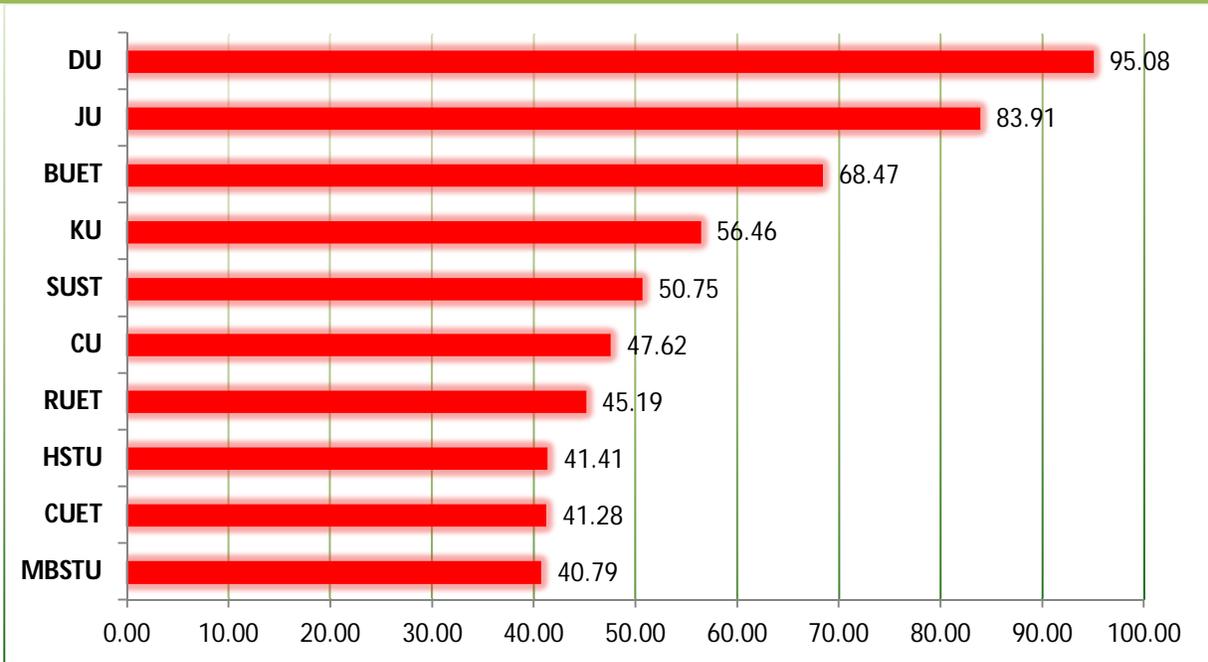
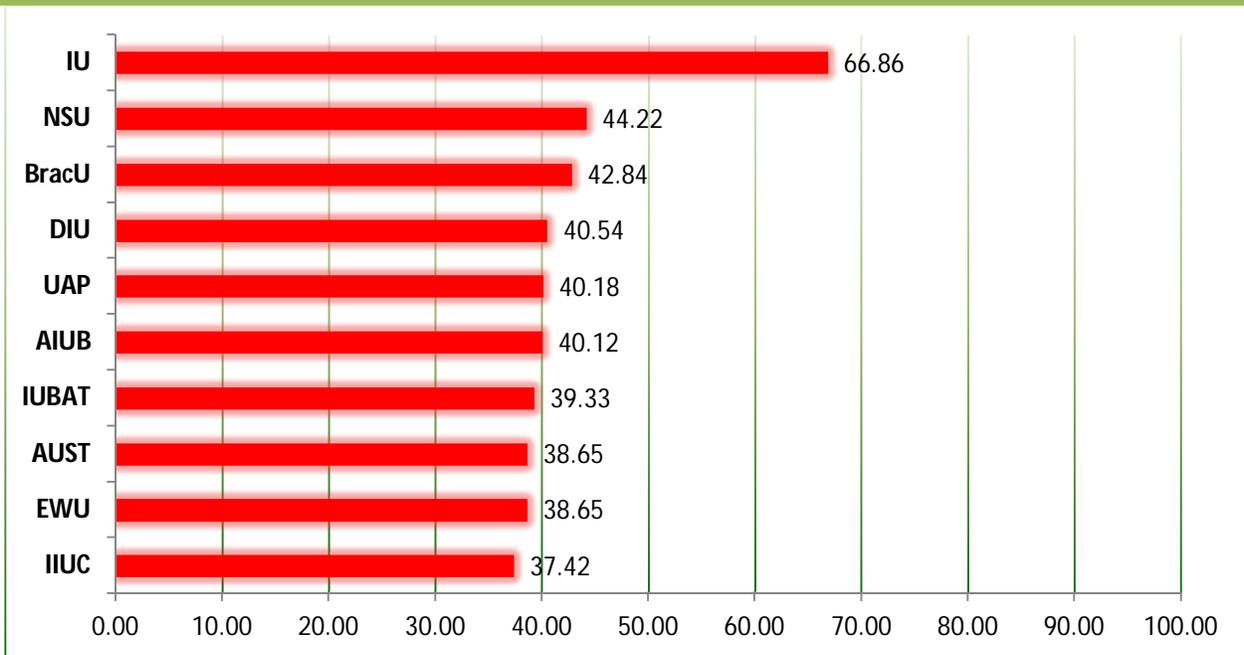
Figure 1. Top 10 Bangladeshi Public Universities

Figure 2. Top 10 Bangladeshi Private Universities


Table 3. Top 10 Bangladeshi Universities, Based Only on ResearchHUB Survey

Rank	University	Score
1	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	95.70
2	North South University	94.85
3	Islamic University of Technology	94.75
4	Independent University	93.79
5	International University of Business Agriculture and Technology	92.87
6	University of Asia Pacific	92.74
7	University of Rajshahi	92.58
8	Shahjalal University of Science and Technology	92.50
9	Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology	91.58
10	Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University	91.56

Table 4. Top 10 Bangladeshi Universities, Based Only on Research Performance

Rank	University	Articles Published*	Total Citation**	Score
1	University of Dhaka	429	772	100.00
2	Jahangirnagar University	247	685	79.57
3	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	240	395	50.31
4	Independent University	32	545	48.91
5	Khulna University	135	316	36.34
6	Shahjalal University of Science and Technology	108	181	22.92
7	University of Chittagong	86	164	20.89
8	Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology	55	144	16.94
9	Brac University	83	72	12.27
10	North South University	64	71	10.47

*Number of articles published in ISI Web of Science listed Journals for the period 2014-2015

**Total web of science citations till June 2016 for all articles science the data of publication

“Public/private” or “good/bad”?

For over 0.8 million university students in Bangladesh there are only 37 public universities with very limited number of seats. Students who fail to secure a place in a public university are bound to opt for a private institution, which are therefore playing an instrumental role for the country’s education system. Yet, they typically receive criticism rather than appreciation. Among the Top 30 universities in our ranking, as depicted in Table 2, IU is number 4 just after DU, JU and BUET. Also, NSU, BRAC, DIT, UAP and AIUB received a score of more than 40, making it into the top 18, together with other reputed public universities. IU secured a place among the top 6 in our list, boosted by research papers published from the Department of Environmental Science of IU which were highly cited compared to articles published from other universities. Hence we would like to encourage everyone to base evaluations of universities rather on their accomplishments, quality of education, international accreditation and research outreach, than on whether they are public or private.

The Path to Worldwide Rankings

The path to worldwide university rankings for Bangladeshi universities seems long and winding. In the QS World University Ranking 2016, to name a few, top Asian universities that are ranked among the top 50 worldwide are: National University of Singapore at #12, University of Hong Kong at #27, and University of Tokyo at #34. In

contrast, the top university of Bangladesh, University of Dhaka is #701+ in the same list.

Bangladeshi universities are lagging behind in terms of research output. This is illustrated by the fact that in 2014-2015, the National University of Singapore published 13,784 articles covered by the ISI web of science – more than the total number of articles published by all Bangladeshi universities taken together. The #200 in QS 2016, University of Chile, still appears out of reach for Bangladeshi universities, having produced 4,390 articles in 2014-2015 that were cited some 12,575 times.

We do acknowledge that any ranking, including ours, has weaknesses, as it aggregates only a subset of relevant indicators of research and education quality. Yet it provides a useful benchmark that is transparent in its methodology. To support research activities, Bangladeshi universities should increase subscription to the most reputed journal publishers e.g. Elsevier, Springer, Nature, Routledge etc. Incentives to undertake quality research should be communicated clearly to researchers in the country. Further, the number of research-focused MSc programs and PhD programs in Bangladeshi universities should be increased. Students from all education streams and levels should be encouraged to answer contemporary research questions in their bachelor or master thesis, which can foster the transition of the Bangladeshi research environment towards internationally recognized and publicized research.

About ResearchHUB

ResearchHUB is a platform to support excellent quality academic research. Our goal is to raise awareness among young students and researchers about the need of society for good research, and guide them to achieve excellence in academia. In particular, our aim is to promote research

activities in developing countries. The platform is run by a team of four aspiring PhD students from the University of Tokyo (Japan), University of Adelaide (Australia), Simon Fraser University (Canada), and University of Agder (Norway).

From now on, we will make an annual assessment of Bangladeshi universities. We promise to improve the assessment every year by elaborating on the survey design and broadening its scope. We would like to let our community participate in this process, therefore comments or suggestions are welcome. **We would highly appreciate if Bangladeshi universities can send us their yearly list of publication (title of article, name of journal, date of acceptance) for the time period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 by March 31, 2017 at research.hub.bd@gmail.com.**

Appendix A: ResearchHUB's University Ranking Methodology

The final ranking score for each university is weighted average normalized to a scale from zero to 100, where 40% weights are allocated on the survey results and 60% on actual data collected from ISI Web of Science database (Thomson Reuters). ISI web of science data includes the number of publication per university within the time period 2014-2015, citation received till June 2016 for all papers published during the time period, and citation per year until June 2016 for all papers published during the same time period. The database currently holds over 46 million records across all science disciplines (www.thomsonreuters.com).

In the survey, we asked questions about 8 dimensions indicating the quality of education, services, and research. They included campus facility, library facility, academic qualification of faculty members, student-faculty member relationships, academic research outreach, international footprint, job placement, and overall university reputation. Respondents were asked to assess all questions on a 5 point Likert scale. All responses were aggregated based on weighted average for each university to obtain a final ranking score. Survey data was treated with state-of-the-art statistical tools to clean for errors and biases.



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