The Revolution Starts here – trends from South Asia

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Higher Education in Bangladesh

- Number of universities – 111 (public 35, private 76)
- Total enrolment: 2.6 million (16% of the total students)
- Number of universities and enrolment increased greatly in the last 7 years.
- Public universities are almost free of charges; private universities are expensive.

Role of the private sector

- Private university started from 1992
- More than 50% students are enrolled in private universities now
- Second choice for the students; mainly well-off students are enrolled
- Mainly focus on job market, less research focused
- Quality is a big concern; criticised for more focus on business and artificial grading system
- There is an Act, limited implementation

Capacity, innovation and entrepreneurship

- Very limited or no mechanism for the professional development of the faculty members
- Conventional curriculum, teaching-learning and assessment
- Currently World Bank funded project is focusing on Innovation
- University – Community relationship is weaker
- Less focus on research

Lessons from Bangladesh and future trends

- 47% of the HE graduates are unemployed in Bangladesh.
- A result of unplanned and poorly managed HE system in Bangladesh
- Government is trying to reform the HE sector. Accreditation council is in progress.
- Quality Assurance Cell is being established in each of the universities in collaboration with the British Council and World Bank

Public private partnership

- Asian Development Bank is trying to implement PPP in Bangladesh HE sector
- Informal relationship exists – faculties from public universities are working in private universities
- Both the systems need to work together under a national framework
- Lack of national framework, this is unclear how many HE graduates we need and what portion needs to be enrolled in skill development.

Conclusion

- The Demographic dividend of Bangladesh is huge; people are the main asset
- Total 160 million – around 40% are young and children
- Clear national framework needed to produce competent workforce not only for Bangladesh but also for the rest of the world.

Question/Comments

THANK YOU