Civic Engagement of Students:
Perspectives of Bangladesh

SSM Sadrul Huda, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Tanveer Kabir, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Tanvir Alam Siddiq, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

ABSTRACT

This article aims to figure out the impact of civic engagement of students in Bangladesh. Developed countries are well aware about the importance of civic engagement of the student community nowadays. Their educational system is already structured in a manner which encourages civic engagement in educational life. There are a lot of studies in developed countries regarding student participation in civic engagement. It is seen that the educational system and curriculum in Bangladesh does not incorporate civic engagement. However, there is some skill sharing institutions that has started engaging students in civic activities. Students are learning leadership skills, gaining practical knowledge besides academic, experiencing innovation and becoming responsible citizens of the country. This article focuses on some practical scenarios through which students were engaged with civic activities, which, in turn, positively affect the academic and non-academic achievements of the students in Bangladesh.

KEYWORDS

Bangladesh, Civic, Club, East West University, Engagement, Leadership, Student

INTRODUCTION

Civic engagement is known to be a combination of knowledge, motivation, values and skills which is utilized in a positive way in order to create a change in the civic life of our communities. Promoting the quality of life at a certain community is also a subset of civic engagement (Ehrlich, 2000). It can be done by both political and non-political processes. Ehrlich (2000) further states that civically responsible individuals see themselves as a part of something larger than their own self-interests, which in turn, influences them to see a societal problem as their own personal problem, which requires to be solved through one's own moral and civic judgments leading to appropriate actions. World Learning (2019) states that human beings are their own greatest champions. People of the society can influence their communities in a positive way.

Civic Engagement is most effective when the government collaborates with the people at large and it enables every individual to understand their own rights and responsibilities with a goal to fulfill them. Not only does it motivate the people, it also mobilizes everyone to take part in the development of their nation (World Learning, 2019).

Students feel that they are a part of their social fabric by participating in civic activities (Chapman University, 2019). It prepares them to be an active citizen in the social, national, and large global frames (Chapman University, 2019). Students can participate in a variety of experiences, which would help them to develop a strong sense of civic identity and a deep commitment to civic engagement (Chapman University, 2019). Through civic engagement, a student can learn a lot of experiences where students can develop the skills and knowledge that they required for responsible citizenship in the diverse society of these days (Chapman University, 2019).

According to Cram (2016), civic Engagement opens the door towards the intermingling of communities and it helps the people face different issues of public concern. Civil engagement can be demonstrated in various forms of activities and public services (Cram, 2016).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study is to know about the impact of civic engagement of students at different level of their studies in the Bangladesh. The paper aims to know the importance of civic engagement in increasing creativity of children at primary education level, fostering social bondage of the university students and to understand how civic engagement can impact the academic success of an educational institution.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The paper is descriptive in nature. Three scenarios of civic engagement were considered for this paper in the context of Bangladesh. The information for scenario 1 was collected from East West University Environmental & Social Club (EWUESC) by face to face

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