

**BYLC** Bangladesh  
Youth Leadership  
Center

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



ABOUT US	2
OUR FOCUS	3
COVID-19 AWARENESS	4
IMPACT FOR 2020	7
2020 YEAR IN REVIEW	8
ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH	11
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING	12
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	17
BYLCx	21
BYLC VENTURES	23
EVENTS	26
AWARENESS PROGRAMS	30
GOVERNING BOARD	32
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD	33
OUR SUPPORTERS	34

## About BYLC

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, exists to build leadership skills in youth from diverse backgrounds, instill values of empathy, tolerance, and inclusiveness in them, and connect them to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. Our goal is to enable our alumni to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors. A cornerstone of BYLC's approach involves uniting youth from diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds because effective leadership requires the capacity to embrace diversity and pluralism. Through this process of empowering young people to act on behalf of issues they care about deeply, BYLC aims to strengthen prosperity, justice, and inclusiveness in society.



## Our Mission

To build connections among youth from diverse backgrounds, equip them with leadership skills, and enable them to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.

## Our Vision

A prosperous, just, and inclusive world driven by courageous, compassionate, and competent leaders.



Skills



Values

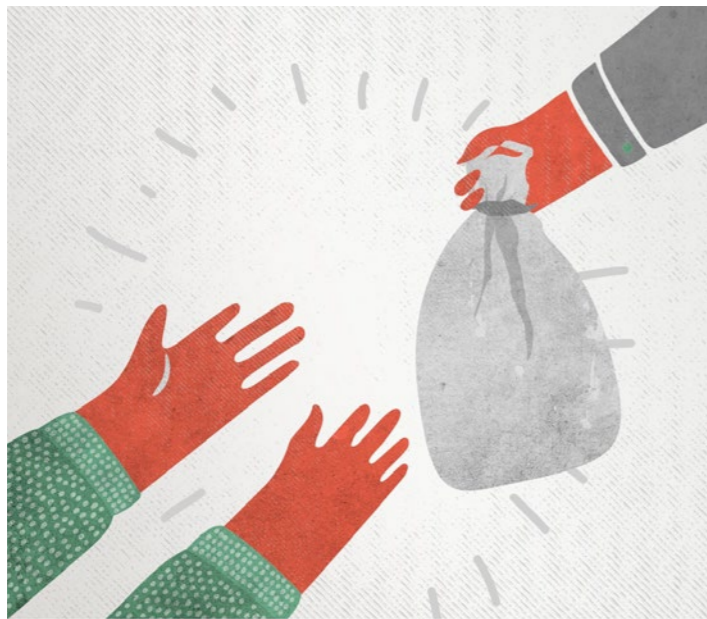


Jobs



Ventures

- In April 2020, BYLC staff contributed from their monthly salaries to help support those in need, with essential food and medical supplies.
- BYLC's operations team worked tirelessly with BYLC donors to fund and support families in communities that have been hit hardest due to COVID-19.
- Provided relief to underprivileged communities suffering from the economic impacts of the crisis, in association with SAJIDA Foundation and Mission Save Bangladesh.
- Shifted all programs to the online platform, incorporating the same values of leadership through a digitalized lens.



#LeadershipInTimesOfCrisis

- Engaged over 100 BYLC campus ambassadors from educational institutes all over the country to spread awareness on the crisis through social media and email communication.
- BYLC's alumni practiced leadership in times of crisis by engaging in various activities, ranging from spreading awareness to helping disadvantaged people with food and other daily necessities.
- BYLC staff consistently reached out to our alumni, campus ambassadors, and volunteers in an effort to stay connected and support them with any kind of mental health support or guidance.
- Shifted to a new website for our online learning academy, BYLCx, to promote optimal user utilization of our online courses.

## Leadership In Times Of Crisis

When the first wave of COVID-19 hit Bangladesh, BYLC’s alumni stepped forward to help alleviate the impact of the crisis on marginalized people. In the face of adversity, they demonstrated unwavering commitment and courage while working tirelessly to support disadvantaged communities. From spreading awareness on understanding essential safety measures against COVID-19 to distributing underprivileged families with food and daily necessities, they served as a beacon of hope during these challenging times.

### HIGHLIGHTS



BYLC graduates Ha-meem, Preeti, Shoeb, Papon, and Abdullah partnered with Bondhu Foundation of Bangladesh and came forward to support 2,000 people from Shyamnagar, Satkhira, and 4,000 people from Koyra, Khulna, with cooked meals. Meanwhile, they also distributed food supplies to 240 distressed lives across Satkhira. They supported 2,514 marginalized families within these areas by providing relief goods during the pandemic.

Campaign Red, one of the winners of BYLC Youth Leadership Prize 2016, spread awareness regarding the prevention of virus transmission among 45 transgender families and 38 more families residing in Bayezid Freedom Fighter Colony, and a group of 22 rickshaw pullers and day laborers from Dhaka.



BBLT graduates Mehedi Islam Akash and Nurunnahar, affiliated with the Songkolpo Foundation, developed and distributed sanitizers, sanitized public places and residence buildings, and distributed food supplies to people in need.



### Live sessions for COVID-19 awareness

The world has experienced an upsurge in skill-building since the pandemic started. In many ways, last year's lockdown triggered a massive influx of demand in online courses, virtual learning, and digital connectivity. In supporting the new stream of online interactive education, we held weekly live sessions in the beginning months of the pandemic, focusing on varying aspects of interest for young people.

**Startup Talks:** Through discussions with industry leaders, Startup Talks provided important tips on the best techniques that aspiring founders can use for surviving in a spiralling economy.



**Carer Conversations:** Career Conversations featured industry professionals who shared useful insights on where the economy's employment trend is headed and the optimal ways to utilize the prevailing gaps in the job market.



**Story Time:** The pandemic has caused a severe lag in processing human emotions. Most of us stuck under lockdown yearned for strong human connections through stories that could resonate with us. Our Story Time sessions blended in the art of teaching leadership values through the art of storytelling.



**Conquer Your Quarantine:** The weekly session, Conquer Your Quarantine, highlighted a specific topic for each week on themes such as gratitude, perseverance, and powerful habit-making.





**766**

Graduates trained



**936**

Youth trained by Office of Professional Development



**50,000+**

BYLCx course enrollments



**9**

Startups supported by BYLC Ventures



## January

- Campus Ambassadors 2020 induction program held
- Graduation ceremony held for BBLTJ 13, 15 & BBLT 21, 23
- BBLTJ 19 launched in Dhaka
- BBLTJ 20 launched in Chattogram
- Physical classes for Acquiring Competencies for Employment (ACE) 8 held by BYLC Office of Professional Development (OPD)



## February

- MoU signed with NSU Finance club to train candidates on assertive leadership
- ACE 10 & 11 held
- Physical classes for Art & Practice of Leadership (APL) 23 held



## March

- Accelerator program for BYLC Ventures: Cohort 1 launched
- 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman celebrated at BYLC office
- In light of the pandemic, BYLC supported 200 families in collaboration with MJF and UK aid
- BYLC staff contributed one day's salary to help alleviate the struggles of daily wage earners during the pandemic
- BBLT 25 launched in Dhaka
- CareerX launched virtually by OPD
- BBLT 24 launched in Chattogram



## April

- BYLC's operation team distributed essentials to marginalized communities
- In light of the ongoing pandemic, BYLC shifted all of its programs and events to the digital platform
- ACE 12 held virtually by OPD
- BYLC South Asia Youth Resilience Summit 2020 virtually held with 114,698 video views

## May

- Virtual Alumni Iftar 2020 organized by BYLC
- BBLT 26 launched in Chattogram

## June

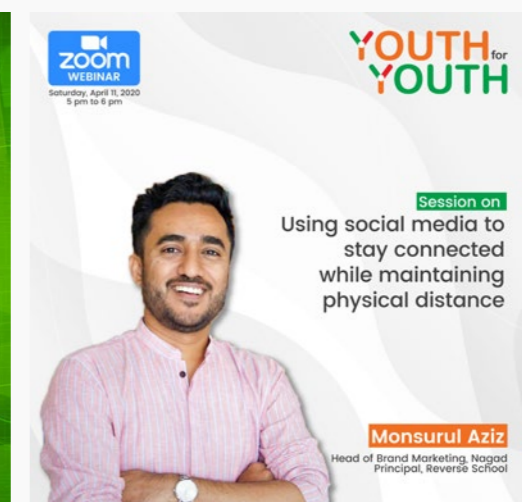
- CareerX 2 held by OPD
- X Academy launched by BYLCx

## July

- YSpace, a co-sharing workspace venture, launched by BYLC
- Bootcamp for Cohort 2 organized by BYLC Ventures
- Refresher training held online for campus ambassadors with 108 participants
- Webinar on Fostering Resilience in Youth in the Covid-19 Era held in honor of World Youth Skills Day 2020, organized by BYLC
- APL 24: Special Online Edition held

## August

- ACE 13 held
- BBLT 27 and 29 virtually launched in Dhaka
- CareerX 3 held
- Accelerator program for BYLC Ventures: Cohort 2 launched
- BBLT 28 launched in Chattogram
- Virtual Run 2020 organized by BYLC with over 500 participants



### September

- Inaugural program of Leadership for Kids launched
- BBLTJ 21 and 23 launched in Dhaka

### October

- Campus Ambassador 2021 recruitment launched
- ACE 14, 16, and 17 held
- Webinar held on World Mental Health Day 2020
- APL 25: Special Online Edition held
- Webinar on Youth Development in the Covid-19 Era and Beyond, organized by BYLC and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and UK aid
- BYLC released a study to understand the impact of COVID-19 on youth's education, employment, entrepreneurial opportunities, and mental well-being

### November

- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign launched
- BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) elections held
- Career Bootcamp and Career Fair 2020 organized by OPD
- ACE 15 held
- CareerX 4 held
- BBLTJ 22 launched in Chattogram
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), UK aid, and BYLC hosted a webinar to observe Bangabandhu National Youth Day 2020

### December

- Social Leadership Hackathon organized by BYLC Chattogram
- Youth Carnival 2020 organized by BYLC with support from MJF and UK aid
- APL 26: Special Online Edition held



BYLC maintains an inclusive and robust marketing and admissions process to attract high quality applications to our leadership programs. To ensure diversity, we reach out to young people of different ages through various channels, including workshops in school and university campuses. Applicants are then put through a rigorous admissions process, which evaluates them on their existing skills and leadership potential.

Campuss Ambassador 2020		Social Media Followers (till December 2020)		Number of Subscribers	Press Releases
<b>110</b>	Campus ambassadors operating in 	 <b>432,981</b>	 <b>3,592</b>	 <b>6,710</b>	 <b>82</b>
<b>70</b>	institutes 	 <b>86,524</b>	 <b>4,300</b>		

**Admission**

<b>9,949</b>	applications checked	
<b>2,671</b>	number of people interviewed	
<b>1,702</b>	number of people admitted	

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

## **AND TEACHING**

Our leadership training programs create changemakers by providing 21st century skills to youth and instilling in them values of empathy, inclusiveness, and pluralism.

## BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

BYLC's 10-week-long signature leadership training program is designed for H.S.C./Alim/A Level and first and second year university students, taught in Dhaka and Chattogram. Our BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll students from the three different educational systems, namely English medium, Bangla medium, and Madrassa. The intensive training program, coupled with an experiential learning model, challenges students to critically think about leadership and apply their skills to effectuate positive change in society. In the first phase of the program, students conduct experiments, take risks, and question deeply held assumptions in the classroom. In the second phase, students have the opportunity to translate their learning into action by implementing various community service projects.

In light of the pandemic, we shifted our BBLT classes to a virtual platform, held online on Zoom. BBLT students conducted their Leadership In Action (LIA) projects over social media.

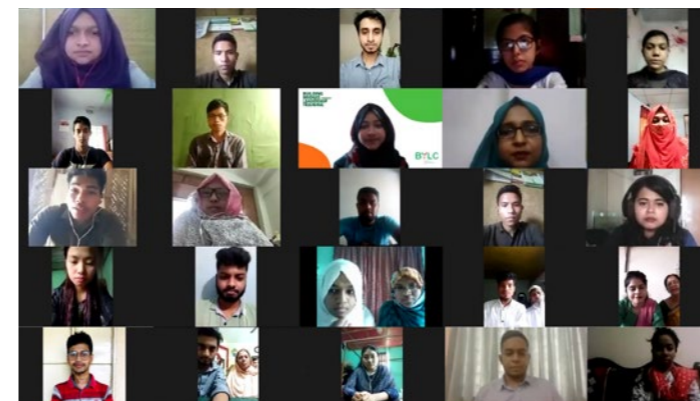
### Objectives

- Create a space for students from diverse educational backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue and action to foster cross-cutting connections, pluralism, and inclusive leadership
- Expand participants' leadership capacity by sharpening their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills
- Provide participants with concrete experience in teamwork and project management, community service, and active citizenship

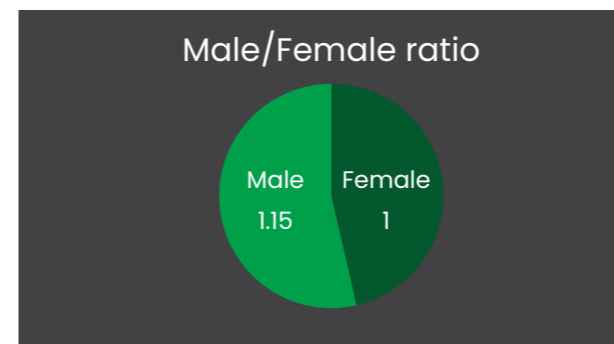


5 programs  
1,894 applicants  
259 graduates

15,236  
hours of community service



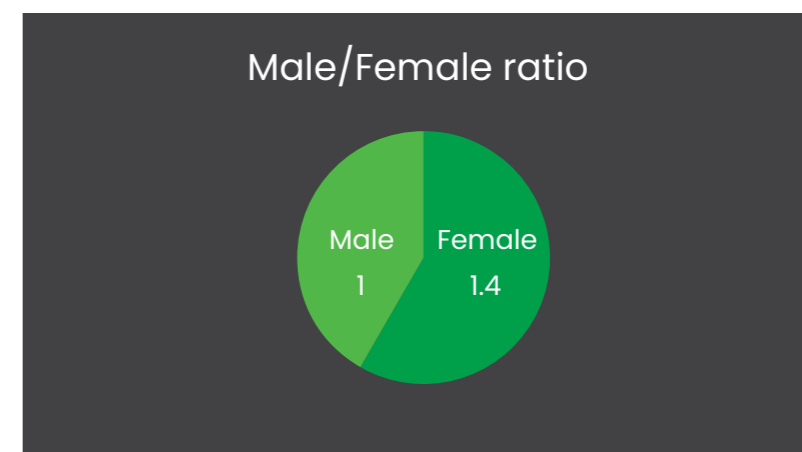
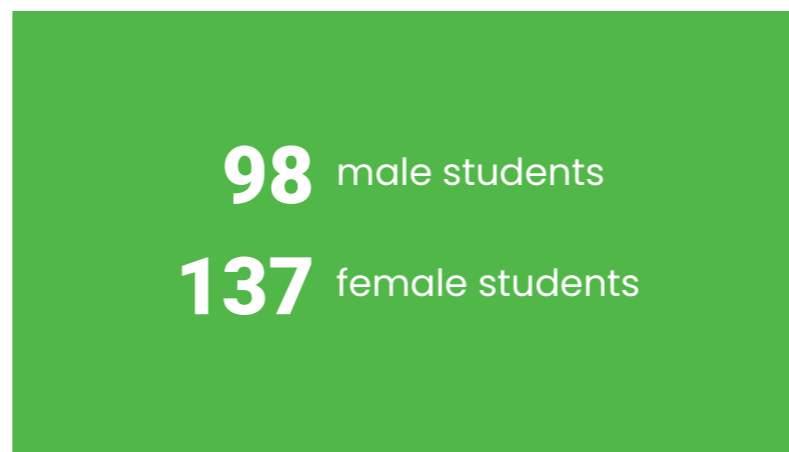
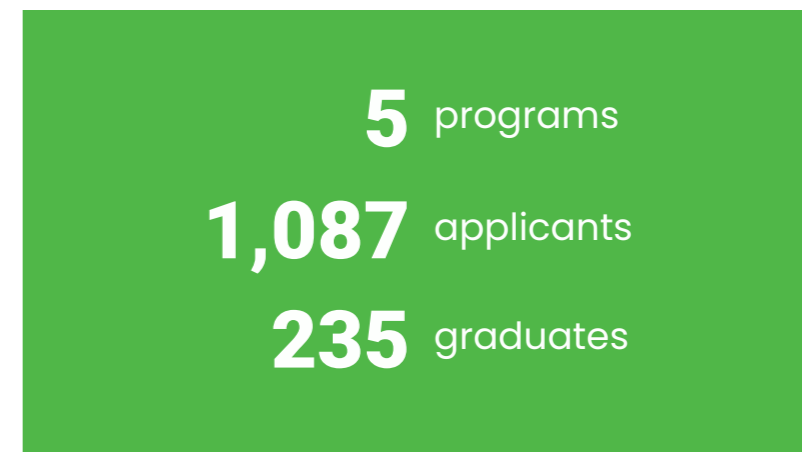
139 male students  
120 female students



## BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING JUNIOR

This month-long leadership training program is designed for secondary school students in grades 6 to 10. The program, adapted to suit the learning needs of students aged between 12 and 16, focuses on sensitizing a younger audience to the values of leadership, teamwork, community service, and active citizenship. Facilitated by BYLC graduates, the program specifically targets students in secondary school to instill positive values during their formative years, so that these lessons of leadership and building bridges remain influential throughout their lives.

In light of the pandemic, we shifted our BBLTJ classes to a virtual platform, held online on Zoom. BBLTJ students conducted their Leadership In Action (LIA) projects over social media.



### Objectives

- Promote pluralism by encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds to identify common ground and develop a shared vision for effectuating positive change
- Provide participants with a concrete understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with leadership

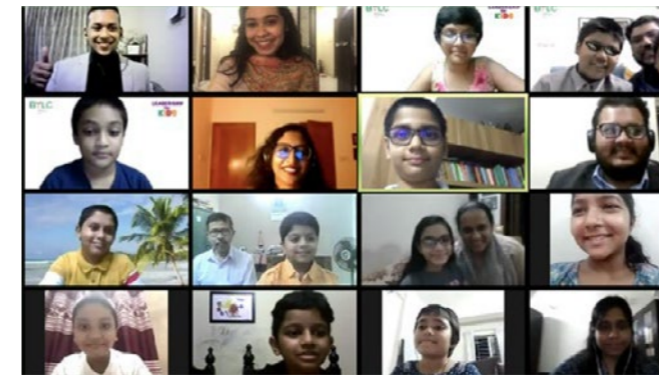
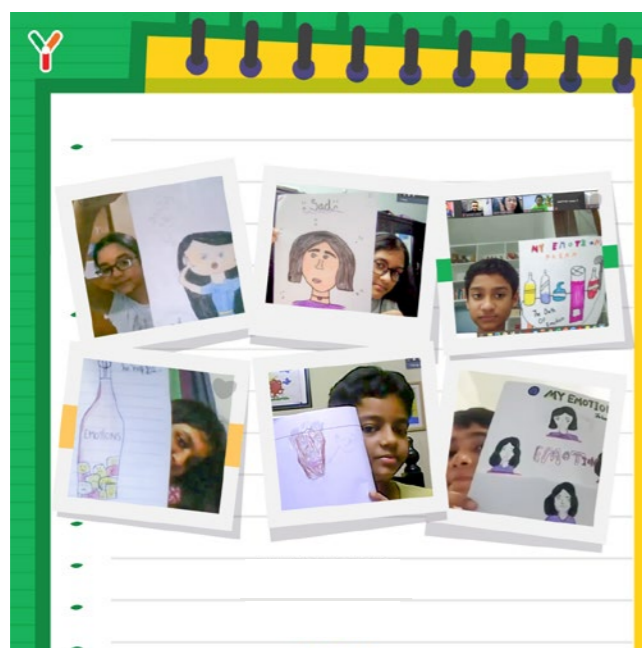


# LEADERSHIP for KIDS

BYLC launched its Leadership for Kids program, designed for students in grades 3-5 in September 2020. The two-week-long course uses a combination of activities and group discussions to sharpen the leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills of the participants.

## Objectives

- Facilitate and assess students' learning outcomes
- Display their leadership, creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills
- Creatively showcase participants' learnings by freely expressing their feelings, emotions, and views through text, images, or drawings

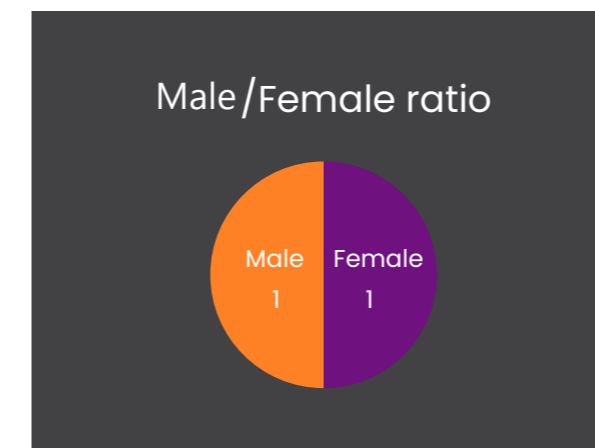


1 program  
32 applicants  
20 graduates

114 hours of leadership action



10 male students  
10 female students



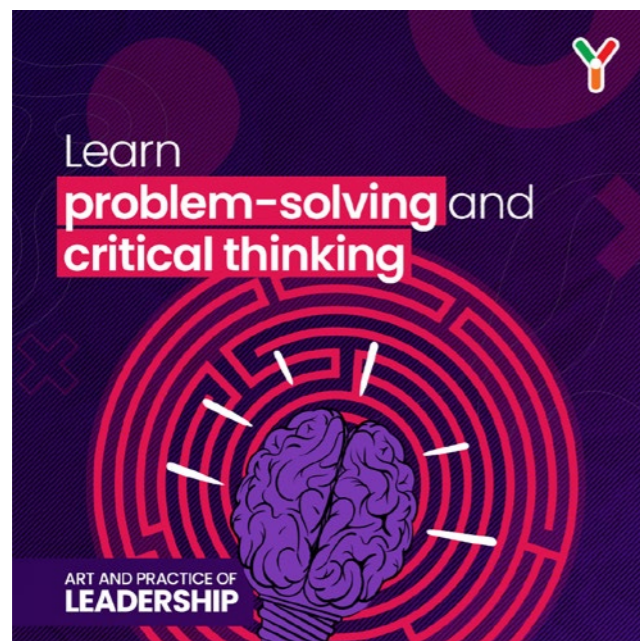


## ART AND PRACTICE OF LEADERSHIP

A special online edition of the Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) workshop was launched for third- and fourth-year undergraduate students as well as first and second-year master's students. Although the first batch for 2020, APL 23 was held via physical classes, the remaining three batches, APL batches 24-26 were held online. The workshop challenged participants' ideas about authority, power, and influence, and expanded their capacity to diagnose problems and develop creative solutions.

### Objectives

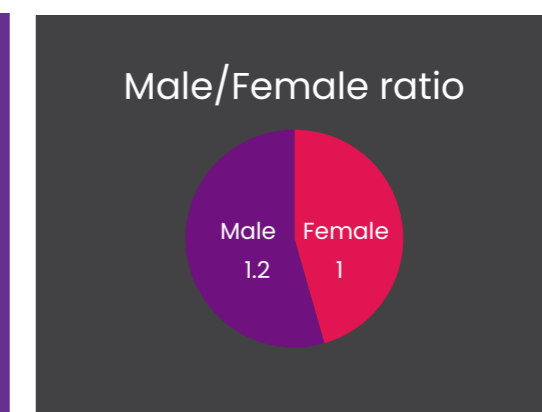
- Learn to lead with and without authority
- Develop a diagnostic mindset
- Mobilize others for action
- Build greater self-awareness and emotional intelligence



4 programs  
**446** applicants  
**121** graduates



**66** male students  
**55** female students



## OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our professional development programs, led by BYLC Office of Professional Development (OPD), connect youth to jobs and employment opportunities. OPD also offers career guidance services for university students and young professionals. In addition, we provide placement services for BYLC graduates via partnership with renowned employers of the country.

## Acquiring Competencies for Employment

Acquiring Competencies for Employment (ACE) is a career development program designed specifically for national university students who are pursuing their bachelor's or master's degree. The program is a gateway for graduating students to build the competencies required in the current job market. Taught via a blended module of instructor-led virtual and online interventions, the program aims to equip its participants with the leadership and professional skills required to thrive in a 21st-century workplace.

Number of programs

9



### Objectives

- Provide professional training to participants on resume writing, interview, negotiation, networking, and adaptive leadership skills
- Facilitate and assess participants' learning outcomes

Number of participants

510

## CareerX

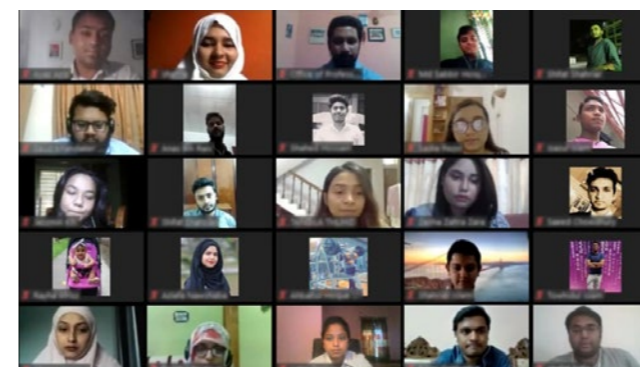
CareerX is an advanced professional training program designed for third- and fourth-year undergraduate students and postgraduate students. CareerX follows a combination of online and instructor-led teaching methods for the program. Components of the program include business communication, operations and management, career planning, and intrapreneurship.

Number of programs

4

Number of participants

147



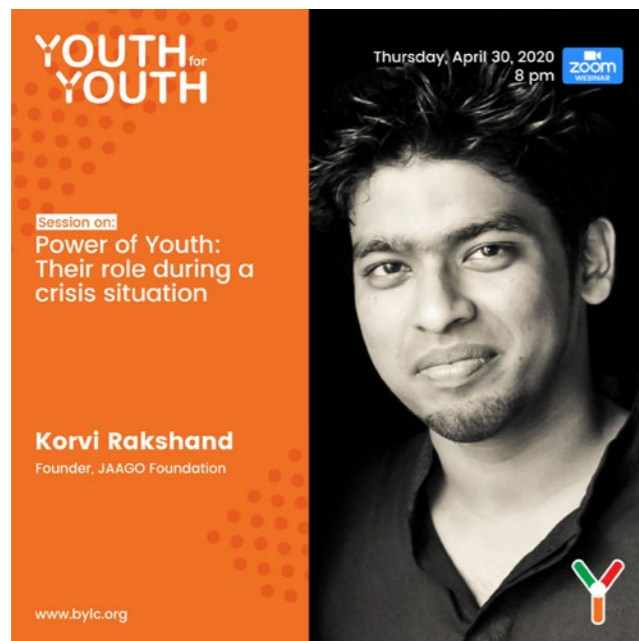
### Objectives

- Build a meaningful learning experience supplemented with practical virtual sessions and weekly projects
- Ensure participants' understanding of the subjects through peer-to-peer learning focused on small group discussions
- Prepare participants for a better future by conducting instructor-based online courses



Youth for Youth gives OPD's alumni the opportunity to interact, network, and learn various skills from young change-makers, experts, and industry leaders.

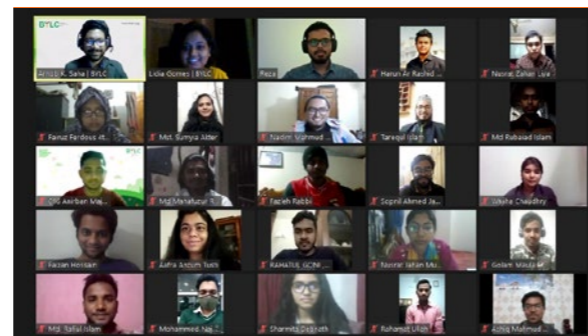
The program empowers graduates with capacity building skills as well as motivates them to build proficiency in their areas of interest. Last year's speakers featured industry experts such as advocate Humayra Noor, District and Session Judge Court, Pavel Sarwar, co-founder, Youth Hub, and Korvi Rakshand, founder, Jaago Foundation among others.



Number of programs  
**9**

Number of participants  
**363**

**260** male students  
**102** female students



## CAREER CONVERSATIONS

A vital concern faced by the youth everywhere currently is the enormity of what the future holds for their professional lives. Organized during the initial months of the pandemic, Career Conversations hosted panels consisting of industry professionals who shared useful insights on where the economy's employment trend is headed, and the optimal ways to utilize the prevailing gaps in the job market.

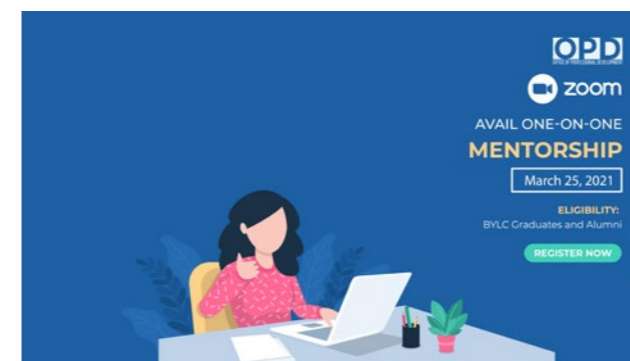


Number of programs  
**7**

Total social media reach  
**87,330**

## Mentoring sessions

OPD aims to provide assistance to our alumni in their professional needs by offering career mentoring and guidance sessions that can help enable better career advancement for our graduates.



Number of sessions  
**9**

Number of participants  
**81**

**BYLC** Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center  
**CAREER**  
 BOOTCAMP 2020

BYLC Career Bootcamp 2020 was developed on three broad skill components derived from discussions with employers and industry leaders. Through this program, OPD aimed to enable participants to prepare themselves for the adaptive challenges of a post-COVID workplace and help them overcome workplace issues with ease. The components included learning and innovation skills, digital literacy skills, and career and life skills.

Students were required to complete specific learning modules from BYLC’s online learning academy, BYLCx. They had to complete these courses every week of the program before joining the virtual classes with instructors who trained them on the relevant skills.

Graduates of the Career Bootcamp were given the opportunity to join a career fair to look for suitable job opportunities from a diverse group of companies. They also were able to avail lifetime career mentoring and placement opportunities by OPD.

**BYLC CAREER BOOTCAMP 2020**

Supported by  
 Kingdom of the Netherlands | IKEA Foundation

**Yasir Azman**  
 CEO  
 Grameenphone

**Abrar Anwar**  
 Managing Director & CEO  
 Standard Chartered Bank, Malaysia

**Ejj Ahmad**  
 Founder and President  
 BYLC

**OPENING PLENARY ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

[www.bylc.org](http://www.bylc.org)

**BYLC CAREER BOOTCAMP 2020**

To learn more, visit: [bylc.org/careerbootcamp2020](http://bylc.org/careerbootcamp2020)

Number of participants in bootcamp  
**279**

Number of participants in career fair  
**332**

**BYLC CAREER BOOTCAMP 2020**

**careerfair2020**  
 december 27-28

ALUMIMEDIX | HONDA | banglalink | bongô | bproperty | evercare | fishitech | IPDC | ja | solshare | Omera | ServiceEngine | sheba | shehoz | TEAM | enroute | MetLife | KAZ | WALTON

To learn more, visit: [bylc.org/careerbootcamp2020](http://bylc.org/careerbootcamp2020)

## BYLCx

BYLCx, the online academy of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, aims to make meaningful learning experiences available for youth from anywhere, at any time. Designed in consultation with industry experts, the BYLCx curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including communication, critical thinking, professional development, entrepreneurship, and much more.

# BYLCx

## X Academy



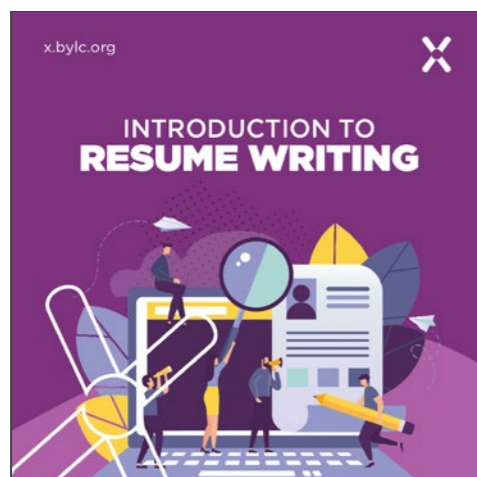
Number of courses  
**50**

BYLCx's latest program, X Academy, is an expert-led workshop series on a diverse array of skills development for the youth. The workshops are conducted over a span of counted sessions limited to an exclusive number of seats. In 2020, five workshops were held digitally under X Academy. The workshops focused on teaching digital illustration, finance management, Google Analytics, and freelancing hacks.

Course enrollments  
**50,000+**



Number of workshops  
**5**



New users registered  
**17,000+**

Number of participants  
**89**



## **BYLC VENTURES**

Launched in July 2019, BYLC Ventures funds the most promising founders of Bangladesh, hones their leadership capabilities, strengthens their business acumen, and helps validate their big ideas as they transition into investable business.





Apart from seed funding and technical support, BYLC Ventures also offers a range of acceleration support, including a plug-and-play commercial space to work from, customized business training led by successful CEO-turned-mentors, and a suite of professional support such as legal, accounting, and corporate governance.

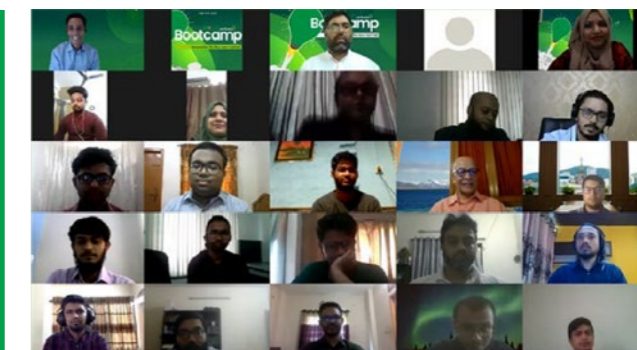
BYLC Ventures: Cohort 2 was launched in 2020 through a bootcamp with 52 aspiring startups. Nine promising startups were chosen as winners from the bootcamp and received seed funding of BDT 8 lacs each along with other accelerator support.



Co-working space for **1** year

Seed funding **BDT 8 lacs**

Number of participants in BYLC Ventures Bootcamp **138**



Networking and mentoring opportunities for **6** months



Winner of BYLC Ventures: Cohort 2 **9** teams



## Updates on BYLC Ventures: Cohort 1 winning teams

**Jum Mushroom:** Selling groceries and exclusive fresh produce from Rangamati and Kaptai lake; in talks with Shopno for becoming a supplier

**Ecovia:** In talks with a corporate investor to raise funding for major stake in their company

**Selvice:** Providing marketing and logistics support to youth based organizations for online events

**Tinkers:** Conducting language learning classes on Bangla via interactive sessions to non-residential Bangladeshi children based in the US



## EVENTS

Apart from our regular programs, we have always been active in engaging youth through activities that contribute to their intellectual as well as physical well-being. In light of COVID-19, BYLC created an open space for youth to discuss pandemic-relevant issues through events such as the BYLC South Asia Youth Resilience Summit and BYLC Virtual Youth Carnival, among many others.

## Celebrating Bangabandhu’s 100th birth anniversary

BYLC held a small celebration in honor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s 100th birth anniversary at BYLC headquarters on March 17, 2020. A movie on the life of Bangabandhu was shown and BYLC staff shared insights on how the values of courage, competence, and compassion exhibited by him throughout his life inspired them in their leadership journey.



## BYLC Virtual Run 2020

To celebrate International Youth Day, BYLC organized a virtual run on August 14, 2020. The theme of the event focused on promoting fitness in young people and was attended by over 500 participants. Md. Atiqul Islam, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), spoke as the chief guest in the closing ceremony.



## South Asia Youth Resilience Summit

BYLC hosted its first ever virtual summit from April 16–18, 2020. The South Asian Youth Resilience Summit 2020 held multiple panels as well as single speaker sessions that largely focused on issues revolving around the future of the youth. A diverse list of speakers took part in the summit, hailing from the United States, England, Sri Lanka, and India. The summit was hosted live on our Facebook page, and welcomed questions from the audience on issues pertaining to the current crisis situation, the upcoming challenges for the youth, the state of the job market, and the best ways to move forward through adaptive leadership. The summit demonstrated the need for implementing quick initiatives when and where required.



## World Youth Skills Day 2020: Fostering Resilience in Youth in the COVID-19 Era

To celebrate World Youth Skills Day this year, BYLC, with Dhaka Tribune as its media partner, hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on Fostering Resilience in Youth in the COVID-19 Era, on July 15, 2020. The roundtable, moderated by Ejaj Ahmad, founder and president of BYLC, and Zafar Sobhan, BYLC board member and editor of Dhaka Tribune, included industry experts who shared insights on how youth can be trained in times of crisis and proposed ways to meet the skills demand of a rapidly changing job market.



## Virtual Youth Carnival 2020

To celebrate the resilient spirit of youth, BYLC organized its second youth carnival with sessions, panels, short talks, workshops, quizzes, musical performances and much more. In light of the ongoing pandemic and keeping in mind the safety of our participants, BYLC Youth Carnival 2020 was held on a digital platform. Sessions focused on the significance of critical thinking, making one's mark on the global platform, discussions on higher studies abroad, and the importance of volunteerism, among other topics.



## Virtual Alumni Iftar 2020

Attended by over 110 participants, the Virtual Alumni Iftar 2020 brought BYLC alumni from across the world on a single platform. BYLC alumni shared their stories of fighting the pandemic and practicing leadership by helping marginalized communities across the country. They also spoke of how the pandemic affected them and how they showed strength in the face of a looming adversity.



## World Mental Health Day 2020

Know Thyself: Self-awareness and mental well-being

BYLC hosted a webinar on October 10, 2020 on the occasion of World Mental Health Day. The discussion featured Monira Rahman, country lead of Mental Health First Aid Bangladesh, Dr Ashique Selim, lead psychiatrist and managing director of the Psychological Health and Wellness Clinic, and Rubina Jahan, clinical psychologist and senior manager of the Mental Health Program at SAJIDA Foundation. Adnin Mourin, manager of operations at BYLC, moderated the event.

The discussion focused on how young people can be more self-aware, notice patterns in their thought process to identify what helps and what worsens their mental state, and understand the coping skills which can be used to organize their thoughts.



## Bangabandhu National Youth Day 2020

Webinar celebrating youth leadership

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), UK aid, and BYLC hosted a webinar celebrating youth leadership in honor of Bangabandhu National Youth Day 2020.

Featuring Hon'able Member of Parliament, Asaduzzaman Noor, and executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Shaheen Anam, the program shed light on the current status of youth leadership in different aspects and offered perspective on what the future holds for today's youth.



## Youth Development in the Covid-19 Era and Beyond: impact study by BYLC

BYLC conducted a study to understand the impact of COVID-19 on youth's education, employment, entrepreneurial opportunities, and mental well-being. From April to September 2020, BYLC surveyed 1,464 youth, aged between 18 and 35, across eight divisions of Bangladesh and consulted with educators and industry experts.

The findings were presented at a webinar on Youth Development in the Covid-19 Era and Beyond, organized by BYLC and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and UK aid.



## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From November 25, 2020 to December 10, 2020, BYLC advocated for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign by the United Nations. The campaign included useful resources such as helpline numbers and sources that women and girls can reach out to if they are facing violence in their household. The campaign focused on the need to support vulnerable women especially during the lockdown, as they were forced to endure abuse without recourse to legal assistance.







**Akhter Matin Chaudhury**  
Chairperson

Akhter Matin Chaudhury is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh. He is the Principal Resource at Black Swan, an Enterprise Consultancy.



**Homayara Ahmed**  
Member

Homayara Ahmed, associate professor at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, is an expert on human resource management. She is an external consultant of Monower Associates, and a member of University & Industry Alliance, a non-profit management and educational consulting center under University of Dhaka.



**Ejaj Ahmad**  
Founder and President

Ejaj Ahmad is a social entrepreneur with extensive professional and academic training in leadership. He is the recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship, Eisenhower Fellowship, and Harvard Kennedy School's Rising Star Award.



**Manzoor Hasan OBE**  
Member

Manzoor Hasan OBE, a barrister, is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University (Bangladesh). He was previously the Founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the regional director (Asia-Pacific) of Transparency International in Berlin.



**Pial Islam**  
Member

Pial Islam, founder and managing partner of pi Strategy Consulting, was previously a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum.



**Zafar Sobhan**  
Member

Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune, is a 2009 Yale World Fellow and a 2005 Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



**Saima Chowdhury**  
Member

Saima Chowdhury is the founder and CEO of Noi Solutions LLC, a global apparel sourcing company based out of New York. Noi Solutions ranked 300 in the 2014 Inc. 500 list of the fastest growing private companies in the US.



**Farzana Kashfi**  
Member

Farzana Kashfi is a development professional with extensive experience working with underserved youth. She is currently an Advisor to Sajida Foundation on Skills and Livelihood Development and an Impact Advisor to North South University's start-up accelerator program. She has previously worked with BRAC, the World Bank, Grameen Bank, ILO and the Acumen Fund.



**Sultana Afroz**  
Member

Sultana Afroz, a career bureaucrat, is presently a secretary to the Government of Bangladesh and the CEO of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority of the Prime Minister's Office.



**Barbara Kellerman**  
Member

Barbara Kellerman, James McGregor Burns Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the Founding Executive Director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



**Ronald Heifetz**  
Member

Ronald Heifetz, King Hussein bin Talal Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the founding director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



**Gowher Rizvi**  
Member

Gowher Rizvi, advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is the immediate past director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



**Max Klau**  
Member

Max Klau, a developmental psychologist with an experience in leadership in complex systems, is presently the chief program officer at New Politics Leadership Academy, an organization dedicated to recruiting and training alumni of service programs (the military, AmeriCorps, TFA, City Year, Peace Corps, and related experiences) for a career in public service.

