



BYLC

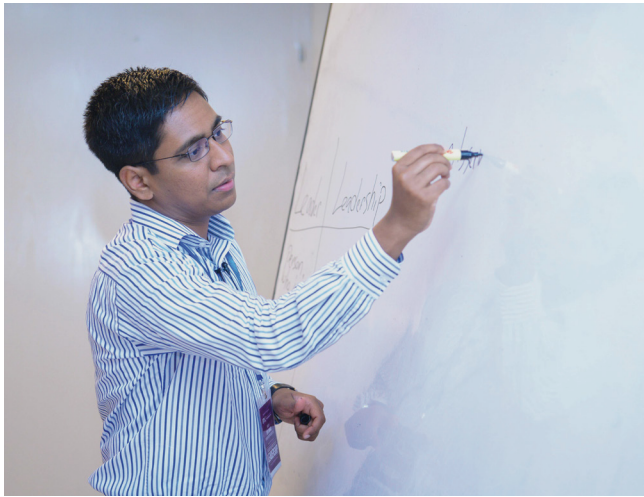
Bangladesh
Youth Leadership
Center

**ANNUAL
REPORT 2015**



ABOUT BYLC

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, exists 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. Conceptualized at Harvard University and MIT in 2008, BYLC has brought the best of global leadership education to Bangladesh. Over the past seven years, BYLC has trained more than 2500 high school, college, and university students, many of whom have taken on leadership roles across Bangladesh.



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

MISSION
Our mission is 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.





Challenge 1: Fragmentation

There is a lack of social cohesion in Bangladesh. Educational and ideological disparities are deepening rifts in society.



Our Approach: Build Compassion

By working at the intersection of English, Bengali, and Madrasa mediums of education, BYLC provides a common platform for students from various backgrounds to develop a strong sense of mutual respect and understanding.



Challenge 2: Skills Deficit

The existing educational curriculum based on rote memorization does not foster creativity, critical thinking and leadership skills. Thus, inadequately preparing the youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century.



Our Approach: Build Competence

By using a highly experiential curriculum, BYLC's programs cultivate critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. Consequently, our students develop new competencies that boost their confidence in addressing real world challenges.



Challenge 3: Conflation of Leadership with Authority

There is a common perception in Bangladesh that leadership can only be exercised by those in authority positions, which leads to citizens constantly looking to those in positions of authority to provide solutions to their problems.



Our Approach: Build Courage

We emphasize in our curriculum that leadership is work-centric, not person-centric. By teaching participants not to be dependent on authority, we build the courage to step out of their comfort zones, lead without formal authorization, and take initiative on behalf of the issues they care about.



JANUARY

The opening ceremony of the twelfth Building Bridges through Leadership Training program was held at The American Centre

FEBRUARY

Driving Digital Innovation workshop, featuring Bickey Russel, Nayem Chowdhury, and Fazal Ashfaq from Google, was held at the L-Lab

MARCH

David Meale, Deputy Head of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, attended BYLC Talks to share his personal leadership journey

“Connecting Young Voices” A Women’s Day event held at L-Lab. It was attended by Barrister Nihad Kabir and Pauline Tamesis, Country Director of UNDP, Bangladesh

Akhter Matin Chaudhury was elected as the new chairperson of BYLC

JUNE

The sixth Art and Practice of Leadership workshop was held at the EMK Center

The BBLT 12 graduation ceremony was held at BYLC Headquarters. 43 students successfully completed the program

The opening ceremony of the seventh BBLTJ was held at The American Center

JULY

BYLC Graduate Network, Chittagong, hosted annual Iftar

BYLC Graduate Network, Dhaka, hosted annual Iftar

AUGUST

The BBLTJ 7 graduation ceremony was held at BYLC Headquarters. 43 students successfully completed the program

U.S. Ambassador Marcia Bernicat celebrated International Youth Day with BYLC graduates

Standard Chartered CEO, Abrar Anwar, shared his personal leadership journey at BYLC Talks

SEPTEMBER

A Teacher’s Training workshop was held with principals and teachers from English and Bangla medium schools and Madrassas. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Prime Minister, attended the event as chief guest

The opening ceremony of thirteenth BBLT was held at The American Center

DECEMBER

The graduation ceremony of BBLT 13 was held at BYLC Headquarters. Angela Aggeler, Director, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. State Department, attended the event as chief guest. 52 students successfully completed the program

The second Youth Leadership Bootcamp, with 102 participants was held in Srimangal, Sylhet

The eighth national workshop on the Art and Practice of Leadership was held at BYLC Headquarters

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OUR PROGRAMS



Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT)

Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) is BYLC's 10-week long signature leadership training program. Designed for H.S.C./Alim/A levels and first and second year university students, the BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll 42 students from the three different educational tracks, namely English medium, Bengali medium, and Madrassa, in equal numbers. The curriculum for the program draws heavily from leadership courses taught at Harvard University. 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 community service projects in underprivileged communities.

Components

Building Bridges

The program seeks to build sustainable connections among youth from different backgrounds. By learning and working together, they confront their prejudices and challenge stereotypes to develop a diverse, inclusive, and powerful network of youth leaders.

Leadership Training

Participants undergo an intensive 6-week training program on leadership theory and skills. The teaching methodology includes lectures, large class discussions, small group peer consultations, structured reflections, and team building exercises.

Leadership in Action

During the remaining 4 weeks of the program, participants apply their lessons in community service. They design and implement small but realistic, measurable, and results-driven projects to serve impoverished communities.

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 effective teamwork and project management, responsive community service, and active citizenship

95
GRADUATES

2
BBLT PROGRAMS

5,700
HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



Building Bridges through Leadership Junior Training (BBLTJ)

Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) is a month-long program 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. Taught by BBLT 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.

Components

Building Bridges

Young people from the three divergent educational systems are united with the intent of challenging the divisiveness perpetuated by the existing structure.

Leadership Training

Participants develop diagnostic and problem-solving skills through large class discussions and small group peer consultations. Additionally, public speaking workshops enable them to strengthen their communication skills.

Leadership in Action

Participants apply their skills and knowledge by engaging with underserved communities through service projects.

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
- Create opportunities for BBLT graduates to further develop their leadership skills by teaching leadership to secondary school students

43
GRADUATES

1
BBLTJ PROGRAM

645
HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



The Art and Practice of Leadership (APL)

The Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) is a 3-day national workshop for third and fourth year university students. This workshop provides participants with an exceptional opportunity to learn about leadership, communication, and career development. The participants embark on a stimulating personal journey that develops their leadership potential and helps them gain new competencies to better compete in the job market. Employers today look for more than just a degree. They look for individuals who will not only excel in their professional capacity, but will also lead, inspire, and mobilize people around them. Participants are drawn from all over Bangladesh and become part of a powerful network of youth leaders.

Components

Leadership Training

Participants are encouraged to become active and engaged citizens, regardless of their career aspirations. The program uses a combination of lectures, case-in-point teaching, discussions, and reflective exercises to expand participants' capacity to adapt to diverse learning environments and address challenges in the workplace and beyond.

Emphasis on Communication

Effective communication is often the key to resolving conflict and helping others adapt to difficult changes. The workshop features sessions aimed at strengthening participants' communication skills to enable them to perform well in a professional job environment.

Professional Development

Participants receive a practical orientation of the job market and develop professional skills through activities that hone their critical thinking and problem solving methods. The workshop features panels with distinguished guests from diverse sectors to give participants a concrete understanding of potential career paths.

Objectives

- Prepare students for the challenges of a competitive job market in a rapidly changing world
- Encourage participants to step out of their comfort zone and expand their capacity to address complex challenges
- Increase participants' capacity to diagnose a social system and lead courageously in times of uncertainty, change, and conflict.

3
PROGRAMS

153
GRADUATES



Youth Leadership Bootcamp (YLB)

The Youth Leadership Bootcamp (YLB) is a 4-day residential workshop for undergraduate students. The workshop is designed to deliver a transformative personal experience for the participants, build their leadership capabilities, and help them generate innovative thinking. Through a highly competitive application and interview-based screening process, we select 100 bright and passionate students who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Bootcamp participants not only develop tangible skills to make them more competitive in their careers, but also gain valuable insights into the workplace through exposure visits.

Components

Leadership Training

Through reflective and experiential sessions, game-based activities, and small group discussions, participants explore different theories of leadership, deploy various diagnostic tools to analyze the dynamics of change, and learn how to mobilize others for action.

Exposure Visits

Participants are provided with a unique opportunity to go on exposure visits to leading public, private, and non-profit organizations, and network with highly motivated peers and professionals from diverse fields. Consequently, they acquire invaluable practical insights into industry culture and diverse work environments.

Professional Development

Participants learn how to write strong resumes and cover letters, and enhance their interview performance through workshops and small group sessions. At the end of each program, participants create a one-year personal action plan.

Objectives

- Provide participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop their own leadership style
- Enable participants to experience real-world challenges and business practices through exposure visits to public, private, and non-profit sector organizations
- Encourage participants to express themselves clearly through effective resume and cover letter, interview skills, and personal action plans

1
PROGRAM

121
GRADUATES

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*GRADUATE
ENGAGEMENT*



BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)

BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) is an alumni association, governed by an elected board of BYLC graduates. It aims to create an enabling platform for graduates to stay connected and support each other in exercising leadership for individual and community development.

BGN has successfully organized networking events, speaker series, and sports leagues as part of its outreach activities. Additionally, it has also hosted a number of informal learning events for its graduates.

Office of Professional Development (OPD)

The Office of Professional Development will seek to increase employment among BYLC graduates and other youth by providing them with opportunities for leadership and career development and placing them in meaningful roles in the job market. The project will leverage cutting edge leadership and professional development training curriculum developed in-house and disseminate the learning content through both online and offline courses, along with face-to-face workshops, mentoring and coaching. The project will also reach out to prospective employers from all across Bangladesh and match talent from BYLC graduates to relevant jobs and internships. In this way, the project will respond to both the supply and demand side of the employment equation.



OUR IMPACT

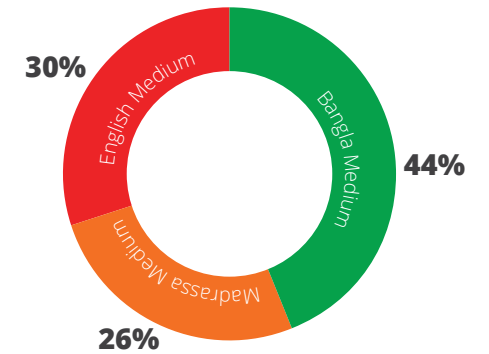
To understand our impact, we conducted a survey amongst our graduates. 630 respondents shared their views on their ongoing leadership journeys, how BYLC has helped them, and their aspirations for Bangladesh.

BYLC participants come from all divisions of Bangladesh

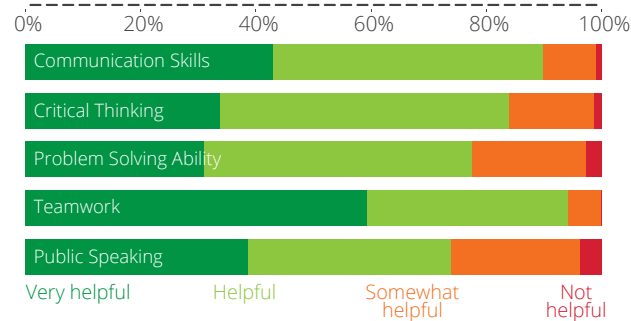


and represent
400+
educational institutions 

The BBLT and BBLTJ programs build bridges by uniting students from the three divergent education mediums.



Our graduate's perception of how our programs were helpful in their development



77%
of our graduates feel that their perceptions of students from different backgrounds have changed

92%

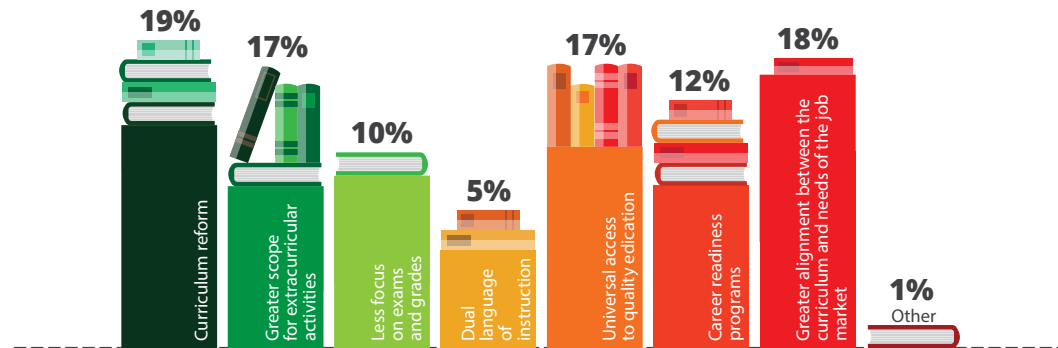
of our graduates have exercised leadership in some form since the program

in the following areas

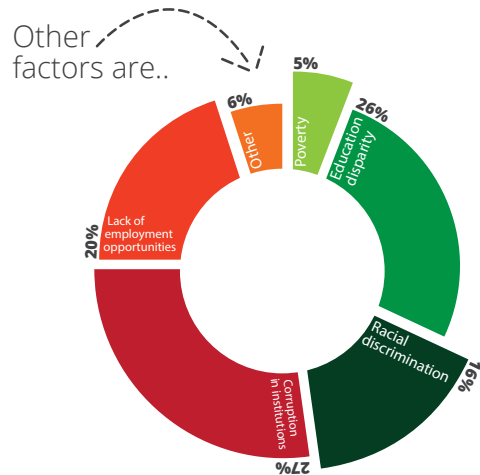


Our graduates think

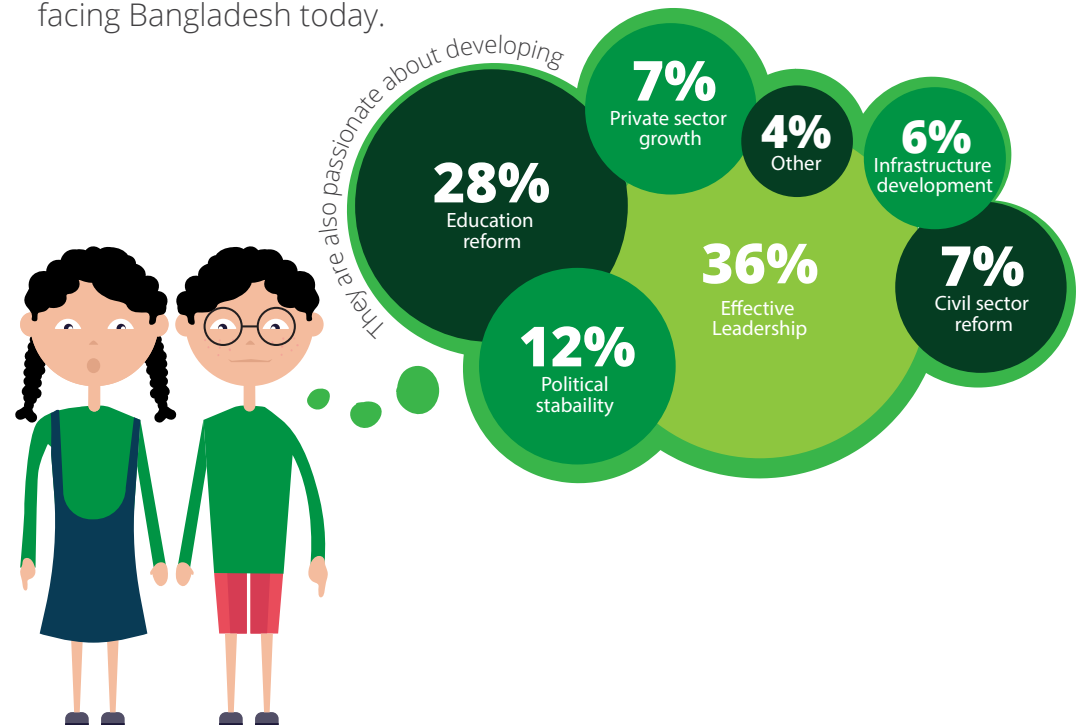
that in order to improve the education system, institutions should focus on

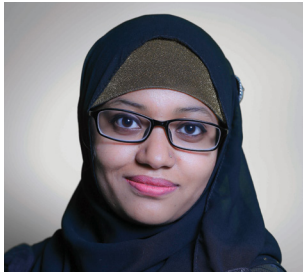


Education disparity **26%** and corruption in institutions **27%** are the biggest barriers to development for the youth of Bangladesh



Effective leadership **36%** is essential to solve the problems facing Bangladesh today.





“The BBLT program has helped me to make effective decisions quickly, become more confident in my abilities, and be more assertive. I have also become better at self-reflection and learning from my failures. At BYLC, I took ownership of the civic responsibilities I have as a citizen of Bangladesh, and strive to fulfill them every day.”

Mobas Shirin,
BBLT 3 graduate
Front Desk Executive, BYLC



“BYLC is playing a key role in shaping today’s generation and transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. The BBLT program helped me to get out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to take on new challenges. It is an extraordinary platform which brings together diverse youth from all sectors, and through an immersive leadership training module, each participant learns the core essentials of leadership to become a significant part of the country’s development.”

Osama Bin Noor
BBLT 5 graduate
Co-founder, Youth Opportunities



“The BBLT program opened up many new doors for me. From working as an intern in a petrochemical company to being a teacher at Intl. Turkish Hope School, from a little nobody at university, to a club manager, and becoming an adviser to other clubs to teachers assistant. The leadership learning from BYLC has had a continuous and sustained effect throughout my life so far, and I hope it will continue to do so in the future.”

Subrina Eusa
BBLT 8 graduate
Currently pursuing BSc in
Economics at East West University



Chairperson

Akhter Matin Chaudhury, Managing Director and Chairman, Nuvista Pharma Limited, is also a certified Chartered Accountant.



Founder & President

Ejaj Ahmad is a social entrepreneur with extensive professional and academic training in leadership.



Member

Homayara Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, is an expert on human resource management.



Member

Manzoor Hasan OBE, a barrister, is presently the Managing Partner of Manzoor Hasan & Associates, and was previously the Founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).



Member

Sara Hossain, a barrister, practices at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and is a member of the law firm of Dr. Kamal Hossain & Associates.



Member

Pial Islam, Founder and Managing Partner of pi Strategy Consulting, was previously a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum.



Member

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



Member

Sultana Afroz, career bureaucrat, is presently a Joint Secretary at the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.



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



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.



Member

Max Klau, developmental psychologist with an expertise in leadership in complex systems, is presently the Vice President of Leadership Development at City Year, a national service and leadership development program in Boston, Massachusetts.



Member

Mijarul Quayes, a former Foreign Secretary, is presently the Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil.



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.

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Leadership قيادة
Leadership
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Vedení
リーダーシップ