

2017

BANGLADESHI UNIVERSITY RANKING



ResearchHUB

www.the-research-hub.org

According to Oxford dictionary¹, the word ‘ranking’ means “a position in a hierarchy or scale”. However, the aim of ResearchHUB Bangladeshi University Ranking is not only to position universities in a hierarchy but to reveal students’ perception about their universities, and to develop a transparent mechanism of presenting research output of the Bangladeshi universities. This would help the university authorities to identify key development areas and work for continuous improvement. The Government authorities would have an overview of the country’s research output and take necessary actions. Students would have a review of the universities by their peers that would help them choose their desired institution.

Bangladesh is the eighth largest country in the world in terms of population with over 163 million people. However, it still lags behind many other countries in terms of economic progress and quality of life. Currently, Bangladesh falls in the lower-middle income country category of World Bank² with a GNI per capita of only USD 1330. Similarly, Bangladesh ranks among the lowest third of the countries in the world in the Human Development Index³. The opportunities and potentials Bangladesh has, are largely underexplored. Being not rich in natural resources, the role of human capital – the peoples’ capability to create, innovate and be entrepreneurial – is ever

more crucial for the development of the country. Quality of higher education and research activities at universities plays a crucial role in developing human capital and exploring the potential of a country.

This report portrays the current status of Bangladesh’s major universities, both from a student perspective and in terms of outreach of academic research. The goal is to boost competitiveness and strengthen transparency among universities. This will help students to make more informed choices when they apply for their undergraduate and post-graduate studies leading to increased accountability of universities regarding their education quality and research output.

This year, ResearchHUB conducted a survey from April 1 until June 1, 2017. In total 3653 responses (3570 are analyzed after omitting duplicates) are received from students and alumni of 119 (out of 206⁴) universities and medical colleges in Bangladesh. A few descriptive statistics about distribution of survey responses are depicted in Figure 1.

Overall, Bangladeshi universities do not seem to have 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. Furthermore, none of the universities are accredited by AACSB, EQUIS or AMBA, which,

¹ en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/ranking

² data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD

³ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>

⁴ <http://www.ugc.gov.bd>

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.⁵ The methodology has been updated from the 2016 approach based from comments from students, professors, university authorities and government officials. ResearchHUB will continuously keep improving the method to cover more aspects of quality in terms of education and research, and to convey a more concrete picture of the landscape of higher education of Bangladesh. Table 1 depicts an overview of university level education in Bangladesh.

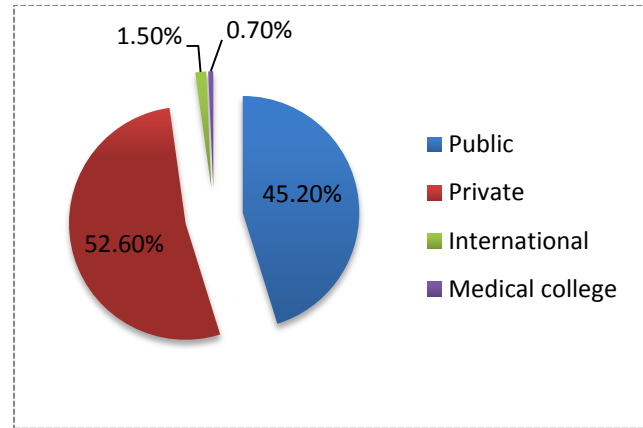
Table 1. Bangladesh higher education at a glance

Total university students ⁶	823,102
<i>Number of universities and medical colleges⁷</i>	206
Public universities	37
Private universities	92
International universities	3
Public medical colleges	20
Private medical colleges	54

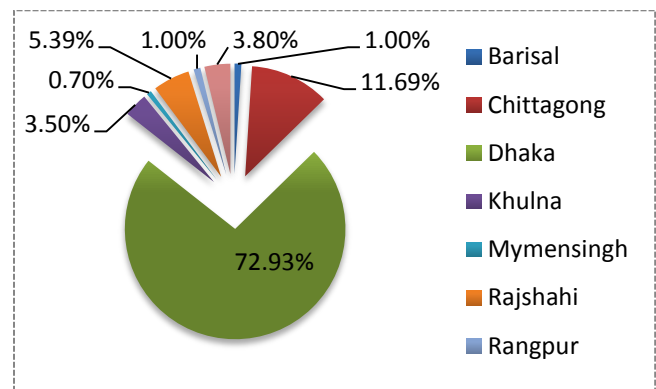
⁵ The current methodology can be found in **Appendix A** of this report.

⁶ Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Ministry of Education. Retrieved July 2017 from <http://data.banbeis.gov.bd/images/chp08.pdf>.

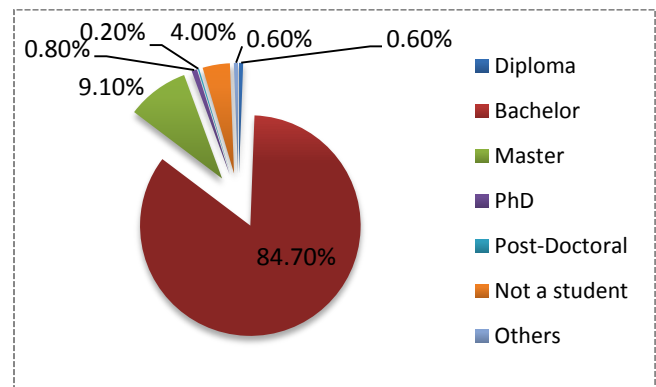
⁷ <http://www.ugc.gov.bd>



(a) Universities' category distribution



(b) Respondents' location distribution



(c) Respondents' current educational status distribution

Figure 1: Descriptive statistics

Table 2. Top 30 Bangladeshi Universities (Based on Research Output)

Rank	University	No. of Publication*	No. of Citation*	Score
1	University of Dhaka	1014	1420	100.00
2	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	958	1028	83.44
3	University of Rajshahi	495	750	50.82
4	Bangladesh Agricultural University	302	682	38.91
5	Jahangirnagar University	369	537	37.10
6	Khulna University	217	441	26.23
7	University of Chittagong	264	297	23.48
8	Shahjalal University of Science and Technology	214	317	21.71
9	Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology	220	293	21.17
10	Khulna University of Engineering and Technology	282	165	19.72
11	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University	164	259	17.21
12	North South University	205	187	16.69
13	Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology	166	206	15.44
14	BRAC University	162	197	14.92
15	Independent University, Bangladesh	76	262	12.97
16	Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur	123	138	10.92
17	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University	100	168	10.85
18	American International University Bangladesh	126	130	10.79
19	Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University	71	202	10.61
20	Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology	110	92	8.66
21	Daffodil International University	85	96	7.57
22	International Islamic University, Chittagong	101	69	7.41
23	East West University	87	83	7.21
24	Stamford University, Bangladesh	71	105	7.20
25	Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology	74	86	6.68
26	United International University	86	59	6.32
27	Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University	70	64	5.71
28	The University of Asia Pacific	72	56	5.52
29	Islamic University (Kushtia)	54	54	4.56
30	Bangladesh University of Health Sciences	45	62	4.40

**Number of publication and citation are retrieved from Scopus (www.scopus.com) database for the years 2015 and 2016, as of June 30, 2017.*

Figure 2. Top 10 Bangladeshi Public Universities (Based on Research Output)

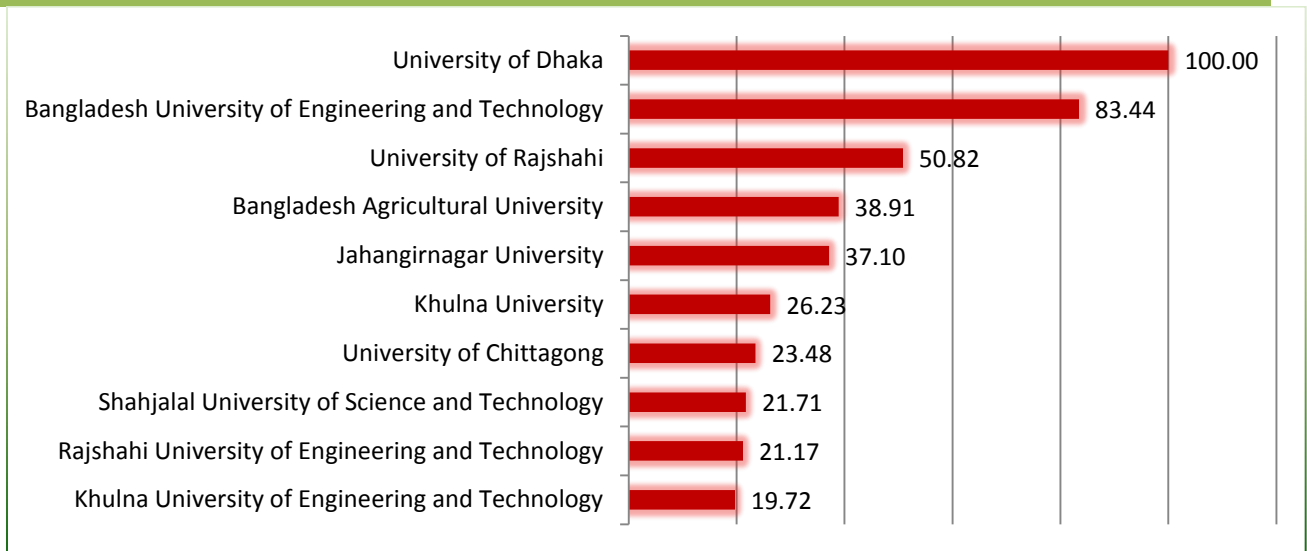


Figure 3. Top 10 Bangladeshi Private Universities (Based on Research Output)

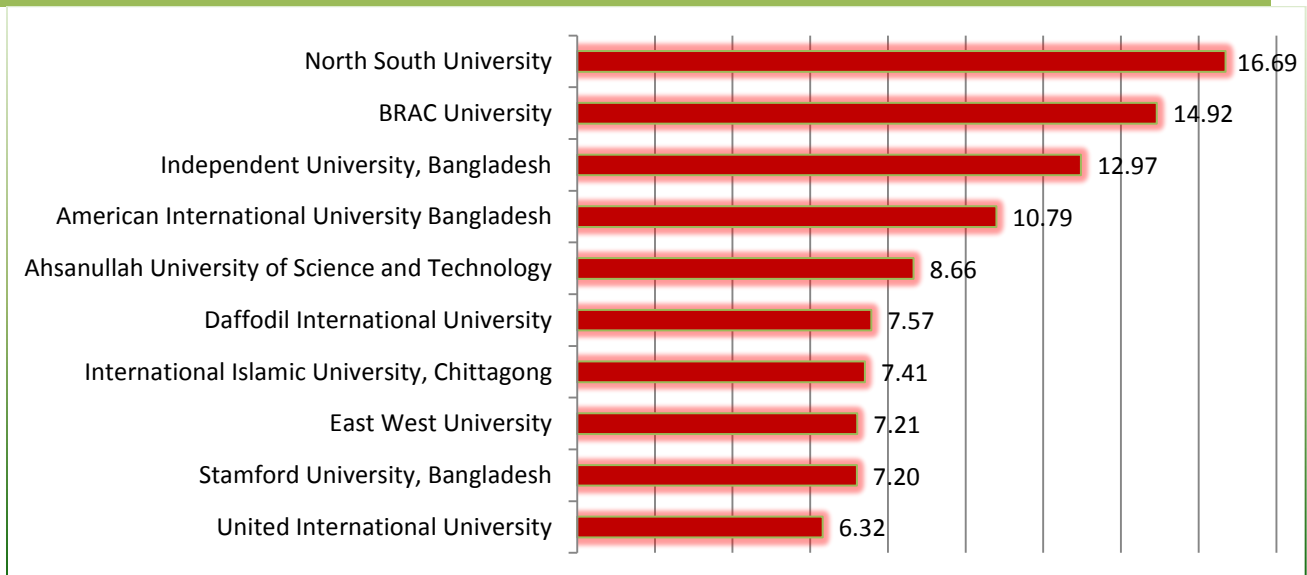


Table 3. Top 30 Bangladeshi Universities (Based on Students' Perception)

Rank	University	Score	# Responses*	Type
1	Independent University, Bangladesh	0.79	142	Private
2	Northern University Bangladesh	0.79	32	Private
3	North South University	0.77	264	Private
4	International University of Business Agriculture & Technology	0.77	342	Private
5	International Islamic University, Chittagong	0.75	92	Private
6	American International University Bangladesh	0.75	64	Private
7	Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology	0.74	174	Public
8	Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology	0.74	148	Public
9	United International University	0.73	65	Private
10	East West University	0.73	42	Private
11	Daffodil International University	0.73	98	Private
12	University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh	0.72	40	Private
13	University of Dhaka	0.71	245	Public
14	The University of Asia Pacific	0.71	24	Private
15	Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur	0.71	49	International
16	Bangladesh University of Business & Technology (BUBT)	0.70	96	Private
17	Bangladesh University of Professionals	0.70	128	Public
18	Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University	0.70	52	Public
19	Khulna University of Engineering and Technology	0.70	72	Public
20	Shahjalal University of Science & Technology	0.67	83	Public
21	Jahangirnagar University	0.66	55	Public
22	Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology	0.65	110	Public
23	Varendra University	0.64	35	Private
24	BRAC University	0.63	59	Private
25	Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology	0.63	80	Public
26	Uttara University	0.63	82	Private
27	University of Rajshahi	0.63	30	Public
28	Khulna University	0.62	36	Public
29	University of Chittagong	0.59	53	Public
30	Bangladesh University of Textiles	0.59	54	Public

**To maintain statistical properties of normal distribution, universities with minimum 30 respondents are considered for analysis.*

Bangladeshi Universities in the World Rankings!

The Bangladeshi University Ranking 2017 by ResearchHUB consists of two parts. In the first part (i.e. Table 2, Figure 2 & 3), ranking of universities is done based on research output in the years 2015 and 2016 by each university. The second part (i.e. Table 3) is based on students' perception about 17 criteria of their universities, inquired through the ResearchHUB online survey.

Public universities top the ranking based on research output (Table 2). Noticeably, private university students are more satisfied with their universities compared to the public ones (see Table 3). Some universities dropped and some rose from their position in the previous year ranking due to fluctuation in number of publications and citations. Traditional, large and old universities of Bangladesh seem to generate higher number of research publications and citations. However, a report by World Economic Forum⁸ shows that age does not matter for a university to grow in terms of research outreach and educational quality.

Despite having over 200 institutions providing university education in the country, it is a pity that none of the universities could make a position in the top 500 universities of the world on the QS World University Ranking 2018⁹. This raises question about the quality of education in

the country. Meanwhile, neighboring country India has three universities making position within top 200 world universities in the same ranking. Other Asian countries such as Singapore, China, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong has multiple universities positioned within top 50 world universities. Therefore, Bangladesh must reform its education system to compete with other Asian countries.

Open Access Publication: Are You Publishing in Quality Journals?

The small number of research publications by Bangladeshi universities compared to universities of other countries raises the question: Are the universities in Bangladesh producing less publishable scientific research? Or are they publishing in predatory journals which do not count as scientific knowledge, and are not listed in scholarly journal databases such as Scopus, Thomson Reuters and PubMed? Scholars from all over the world have already criticized predatory publications, and realize that predatory journals are more active in developing world such as Asia and Africa (see ResearchHUB YouTube¹⁰ and Moher & Srivastava 2015¹¹ for further details). Professors and students should consider publishing in the reputed journals under reputed publishers e.g. Elsevier, Springer, Nature, Routledge, Inderscience etc.

⁸ <http://wef.ch/2tJ4YVB>

⁹ <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2018>

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8QgLIH79w&t=84s>

¹¹ Moher, D. and Srivastava, A., 2015. You are invited to submit.... BMC medicine, 13(1), p.180.

About ResearchHUB

ResearchHUB is a platform to support quality academic research. Our goal is to raise awareness among young students and researchers about the need of 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 aspiring PhD students residing in many different countries of the world.

Appendix A: ResearchHUB University Ranking Methodology

The Bangladeshi University Ranking 2017 by ResearchHUB employs a simple approach. This ranking report presents two rankings based on two approaches. One is based on research output and another is based on students' perceptions about their universities.

At first list of all universities functioning in Bangladesh was retrieved from the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh (<http://www.ugc.gov.bd>). In total 206 institutions were found active as up to March 31, 2017. Then a structured questionnaire was designed by ResearchHUB team members following a similar approach by QS World University Ranking¹² and Financial Times University Ranking¹³. In total 17 criteria of universities were considered in the survey: scholarships for meritorious and poor students, e-learning service, access to peer-reviewed journals, classroom facility, quality of Wi-Fi, access to VPN, abroad semester exchange offers, campus facility, library access, group study room access, qualification of faculty members, relationship with faculty members, research outreach, international footprint, career counseling and employment opportunities. Then the questionnaire was distributed among Bangladeshi students community through online media. Survey responses were collected from April 1 until June 1, 2017. Ratings of all the criteria for all the universities in the survey were averaged and a normalized score was derived. Table 3 is the outcome of this approach.

Research output data were collected for the 206 universities from the most famous scientific publication database – Scopus (www.scopus.com). Retrieved data from Scopus includes the number of publication per university within the time period 2015-2016 and total citation received during the time period. To derive a normalized score, 50% weight was given to number of publication and 50% to number of citations. Table 2, Figure 2 and Figure 3 are the outcomes of this approach.

¹² <https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings/methodology>

¹³ <http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/>

ResearchHUB Team

Ziaul Haque Munim
PhD Candidate, Int. Management
University of Agder, Norway

Narayan Ranjan Chakraborty
Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Eng.
Daffodil International University, Bangladesh
PhD Candidate, Info. Systems
University of Agder, Norway

Qazi Haque
PhD Candidate, Economics
University of Adelaide, Australia

Jann Goedecke
PhD Candidate, Finance
KU Leuven, Belgium

Fernaz Narin Nur
Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Eng.
Daffodil International University, Bangladesh
PhD Candidate, Computer Science
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Jubair Ahmed Shamim
PhD Candidate, Mechanical Eng.
University of Tokyo, Japan

Mohammad Hasan Shakil
PhD Candidate, Islamic Finance
INCEIF, Malaysia

Palash Kumar Bhowmik
PhD Candidate, Nuclear Eng.
Missouri University of Science and Technol., USA

Mamoon UI Kader
PhD Candidate, Economics
Simon Fraser University, Canada

Dhanavanth Reddy Maditati
PhD Candidate, Supply Chain Management
Vienna University of Econ. and Business, Austria

Dhaka, Bangladesh 

+47 998 93 486 (NO) 

+88 019 7411 9996 (BD) 

www.the-research-hub.org 

research.hub.bd@gmail.com 

www.facebook.com/research.hub.org 

Research HUB 