

Workshop/Conference Reports

Workshop on Textbook Writing at Chittagong

A workshop on **Textbook Writing** organized by BIIT Chittagong Chapter held on 12th April, 2014 at the Conference Hall, International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) City Campus, Chittagong. Prof. Dr. Harunur Rashid, Department of Accounting & Information System, University of Chittagong and the Vice President of BIIT Chittagong Chapter chaired over the meeting where M Abdul Aziz, Executive Director of BIIT presented a paper as Keynote speaker and Prof. Dr. Abu Bakr Rafique, Pro-Vice Chancellor of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) inaugurated the workshop as Chief Guest. About twenty five teachers from Chittagong University, Southern University and Interantional Islamic University Chittagong participated to this workshop. In the workshop, the following Textbook Outlines were presented and discussed respectively-

(i). “Geographical Thoughts and Concepts in Islamic Perspective” by Dr. Md. Muhibbullah, Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography & Environmental Science, University of Chittagong; (ii). “Public Administration: Issues and Problems” by Dr. Amir M. Nasrullah, Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong; (iii). “Islamic Worldview” by Dr. Abul Kalam Muhammad Shahed, Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, CENURC IIUC, Chittagong; (iv). “Islamic Economics and Finance” by Abdullahil Mamun, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, IIUC, Chittagong; (v). “Bangladesh Studies” by Thowhidul Islam, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bangladesh Studies, IIUC, Chittagong; (vi). “Women and Islam” by Mohammad Amimul Ahsan, Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, IIUC, Chittagong; (vii). “Introduction to U’lum Al-Quran” by A.F.M. Nuruzzaman, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Da’wah & Islamic Studies, IIUC and Muhammad Nazmul Huda, Lecturer, Dept. of Da’wah & Islamic Studies, IIUC.

After their presentation, a thorough discussion was made by the participants. The Executive Director of BIIT also took part in the discussion and responded to all of the presenters and participants accordingly.

Seminar on Curriculum Development and Textbook Writing at Rajshahi

BIIT Rajshahi Chapter organized a day-long seminar on **Curriculum Development and Textbook Writing** on 15 April, 2014 at the Teachers’ Lounge of Business Faculty, University of Rajshahi. The seminar was chaired by Professor Emeritus and President of BIIT Rajshahi Chapter AKM Yakub Ali. M Abdul Aziz, Executive Director of BIIT was

present in the seminar as Chief Guest. More than forty faculty members of different departments participated to the seminar. With the representation of BIIT Rajshahi Chapter Secretary and the Assistant Professor of Social Work of Rajshahi University Md. Akhtar Hossain Majumder, 14 teachers (7 from faculty of Social Science, 1 from faculty of Business and 2 from each faculty of Law and faculty of Arts & Humanities) presented the Course Outlines as well as Chapter Plans for the proposed Textbooks.

The Executive Director of BIIT said that avoiding all sorts of blame games, Muslim scholars of the world came up to a consensus for Ummatic Reform. But the question arises - from where we shall start this reform process. He said that knowledge, yes, knowledge is the prime sector from where we could start and we know, education is the way of reforming knowledge. He urged on the education of tertiary level, especially at university level, as there is a lot of scope to work freely. That is why; redesigning the curriculum at university education is kept in our top most priority. To do so, BIIT has been conducting Epistemology, Curriculum Reform and Textbook Writing Project since 2008 in Bangladesh, stated the honorable Executive Director.

In defining the term Textbook, he said that the books that teacher refers in classes to follow, the students usually take those books seriously into consideration. And in a sense, we term this seriousness of the students to those books as Textbook for that particular course. The main idea is that one-course-one-book, which is called Textbook. According to the Executive Director, in writing a textbook, a writer must have to follow a general guideline and process and that could be summarized as :

- Selecting the course preferably core course which s/he actually teaches in his department/institution/also offered in other Universities as core courses/subjects.
- Re-design a course outlines on the basis of the existing courses taught at major public and private Universities of Bangladesh as the new book would be experimental and target oriented. The available Islamic resources/study materials must be included to this redesign process.
- This redesigned course outlines shall be reviewed by subject specialist as well as Islamic experts and finalized accordingly, aiming to start the writing of the Textbook.
- In writing the Textbook, every term/topic used should be explained firstly in Qur'anic and Sunnahtic perspective along with the conventional/western approaches. In addition to these, the authors should incorporate the views/contributions of classical Muslim scholars on those topics. At the same time, it is immensely important to incorporate the views of contemporary Muslim scholars on each and every term/topic, in the prescribed Textbook. Finally, authors can express their own views/ideas on this/those areas of discipline.
- If a course would be of 3-4 credit with a length of 1½ (one and half) hour per lecture, then the course will be within 28 lectures and in the case, the volume of the

book would consist of 48 main topics or 28 chapters. On the other hand, if the class length would be of 3 hours, then the course will be within 14 completed lectures/classes and in that case, the volume of the book would consist of 14 main topics or 14 chapters so that it can be experimented to their respective classes of those Universities.

- In every chapter, there must have chapter objectives, chapter summary (where objectives shall be justified) chapter references (with a combination of both the major conventional and Islamic references) and chapter evaluation so that it would more useful and a scope of further study would remain opened to the interested one.
- A draft manuscript after following the above processes shall be sent to three reviewers to be reviewed. Among them, two reviewers shall be from Bangladesh (one shall be subject specialist and another having experienced in Qur'an and Sunnah) and another one reviewer shall be from abroad having both subject and Qur'anic & Sunnahtic expertise as well.

Publication Ceremony on **Textbook** at Dhaka

As part of IIIT's re-formatational vision at the university education over the globe, Prof Dr Omar Hasan Kasule Sr of IIIT in collaboration with BIIT started the academic seminars, workshops and group meetings in Bangladesh in 2008-2009 on epistemology & curriculum reform in general and in disciplines in particular. As a result, BIIT produced reformed curriculum of 150 courses of different public and private universities in Bangladesh. Based on the selective re-designed courses, BIIT with the assistance of IIIT took a project named 'text book writing project' in 2010. By the grace of Allah (SWT) and the integrated efforts by the authors, reviewers, editors and BIIT executives during three years (2011, 2012 and 2013), BIIT has been able to produce a series of textbooks (more than 16) on business studies, social sciences, education, arts & humanities, law and Islamic disciplines.

To celebrate the occasion, BIIT organized a publication ceremony on 19th April 2014 at Mumtaj Mahal Restaurant, Uttara, Dhaka. M Azizul Huq, recently past President of BIIT presided over the ceremony. Shah Abdul Hannan, the current President of BIIT was present in the ceremony as chief guest. The Executive Director of BIIT M Abdul Aziz, Vice Presidents of BIIT Prof. Dr. AKM Abdul Quader, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rahman Anwari and Prof. Dr. Nurul Islam of Dhaka University among others were present in the ceremony.

In his inaugural speech, the Executive Director of BIIT M Abdul Aziz mentioned four steps to work on higher education – (i) Islamizing the Islamizers that refers to the Islamic academics, (ii) Re-designing the curriculum that refers to content of knowledge, (iii) Development of Islamic resource materials and writing the Textbooks that should be available to the students, teachers and researchers for their readings, (iv) Enabling

environment that encourage/support of the above mentioned activities in their own Campus.

In the authors' session, the authors were requested to speak on three points - memorable moments what happened in writing the books, the feeling that was felt seeing the book for the first time and to give their ideas on how to promote these books.

Professor Dr. H. M. Mosarof Hossain of Dhaka University and Prof. Dr. Md. Jahirul Hoque of Chittagong University expressed their thanks to BIIT and described about Malaysia visit to attend a five days long workshop on textbook writing as their most memorable moment in writing the textbook. Prof. Dr. Nurul Islam of Dhaka University commented on a particular book - Introduction to Legal Theories: Basic Jurisprudential Studies. He said that its rich materials are equally important for sociologists with special interests in legal studies. Philosophers and political thinkers would find the book enormously important for their students. He also hoped that this book would be able to claim a close attention from law students, teachers, social activists, political thinkers, human rights activists and so forth.

M. Azizul Huq thanked all for such endeavours and said 'you are the creator of knowledge in Universities. So, nation is waiting to get your service.'

Shah Abdul Hannan, the chief guest of the ceremony, uttered that Islamization of knowledge movement is basically for reforming Social Sciences but it should be extended to other Sciences i.e. natural Sciences by incorporating one major course entitled 'the Islamic Philosophy of Science' as guiding principles of Islam.

Finally, Executive Director responded to all of the participants. He expressed his thanks to all for their involvement with this project. He also recognized them by saying 'you are the key to make it successes'. He further said that everybody could get the books of BIIT at anywhere s/he wants. He assured that international edition of these books shall be published soon by BIIT Head Quarter.

The publication ceremony was well attended. Most of them were the faculty members of public and private universities of Bangladesh.

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