

Working in Partnership

English in Action



The Open
University

The Partner

English in Action (EiA) is a nine-year programme with the mission of “changing learning, changing lives”, designed to change the way that English is acquired by children, young people and adults in Bangladesh. EiA has been initiated at the request of the Bangladeshi Government and is funded by a grant from the UK Government.

EiA will be implemented through a partnership between the UK Government and the Government of Bangladesh. A consortium of three international partners consisting of The Open University, BBC World Service Trust and BMB Mott MacDonald, together with two national partners, Underprivileged Children’s Educational Programme (UCEP) and Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), will work closely to implement the programme.

The Project

Over the programme period, EiA will work with education partners in Bangladesh to reach a total of 25 million primary and secondary school children and adult learners. The effort will be to bring innovative ways of learning communicative English to different sectors of society using a combination of traditional and new methods, including textbooks and supplementary materials, and information and communication technologies.

The Open University has leading roles in three strands of the programme:

- 1) Primary Education: The Open University is lead advisor on the introduction of a variety of new learning materials in primary schools based on the primary school curriculum. Audio materials in particular will be developed to help enhance children’s listening and speaking skills. The introduction of new materials will be combined with a comprehensive teacher training and support programme which will focus on helping teachers to teach English more confidently.
- 2) Secondary Education: The Open University is focusing here on achieving enhanced and improved English language learning through the professional development of teachers. As most of the interventions will be technology-based, teachers will have the opportunity to create their own classroom materials using MP3 players, smartphones and laptops.
- 3) Research Monitoring and Evaluation: The Open University is leading on programme research and evaluation, including baseline surveys involving over 18,500 Bangladeshis, mainly for assessing the overall environment of English language teaching and learning, and to measure the impact that EiA has in Bangladesh.

The Aim

The goal of EiA is to contribute to the economic growth of Bangladesh by providing English language as a tool for better access to the world economy. Its purpose is to significantly increase the number of people able to communicate in English to levels that will enable them to participate fully in economic and social activities and opportunities.

Contact

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