





FOREWORD

University of Dhaka – Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

As Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious public university, founded in 1921 and constituted under the Dhaka University Order 1973, the University of Dhaka (DU) has long served as the intellectual engine of the nation. From producing the country's leading civil servants, academics, scientists, policy thinkers, and cultural leaders, to serving as the birthplace of key democratic and social movements, DU's history is deeply intertwined with Bangladesh's national aspirations.

In alignment with the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, DU recognises its statutory, academic, and ethical responsibility to lead from the front. As a comprehensive public university with 13 faculties, 83 departments, over 50 research centres and institutes, and a vast network of colleges affiliated under its academic supervision, DU is in a uniquely advantageous position to contribute to the SDG agenda across teaching, research, innovation, community engagement, and policy support.

DU's Strategic Position for SDG Implementation

Dhaka University's contributions to the SDGs are strengthened through:

- A diverse ecosystem of academic departments that span science, technology, medicine, business, social sciences, arts, humanities, and environmental studies.
- Specialized research institutes and centres—including IER, IML, DSCR, BER, CMBT, NPU, NPT, CRP, and the newly established Centre for China Studies (CCS)—that produce nationally relevant research and policy inputs.
- Extensive partnerships with government ministries, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO), national NGOs, and global academic networks.
- A strong alumni footprint in public service, education, diplomacy, science, technology, business, the judiciary, and cultural sectors.
- Active linkages with industry, particularly through the Faculties of Business Studies, Engineering & Technology, Science, and Pharmacy, enabling internships, applied research, innovation, and workforce development.
- Robust connections to policy-making bodies, as DU's faculty routinely serve on national commissions, reform committees, advisory councils, and government task forces.

Together, these strengths place DU in an advantageous national and regional position to contribute meaningfully to the SDGs and to excel in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Our Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

DU's Institutional Commitment to THE Impact Rankings

Recognising the value of THE Impact Rankings in highlighting a university's contribution to society, DU has embarked on a multi-year effort to strengthen data systems, expand evidence collection, and embed SDG-aligned practices across the institution.

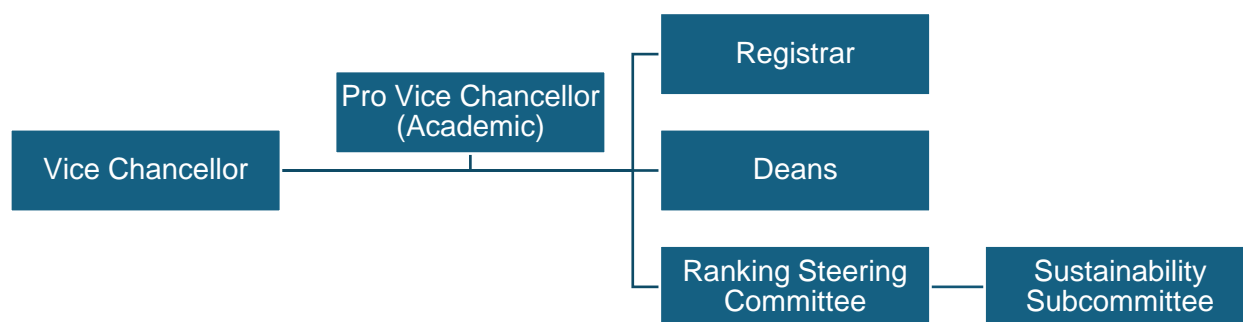
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun-Ur-Rashid Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza as the Ranking subcommittee (sustainability) convener.

Under his leadership, the committee works relentlessly to:

- Coordinate SDG-related data from all faculties, institutes, departments, offices and centres
- Validate evidence aligned with THE's measurement framework
- Facilitate training sessions and capacity building across units
- Ensure alignment with national SDG targets and development priorities
- Support data-driven decision making for institutional improvement

A network of SDG Focal Points—including deans, directors, chairpersons, and administrative leaders—works closely with the committee to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting.



Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Abdus Salam Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka	-	Member

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Sustainability Sub-committee

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser Department of History	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rifat Amin Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Learning Through Engagement: DU in THE Masterclasses & Global Communities

To build internal capacity and learn global best practices, DU actively participates in:

- THE Masterclasses & Workshops, where team members learn from international experts on evidence preparation, SDG data management, and benchmarking.
- Peer-learning initiatives with leading universities in Asia, the UK, and the Global South.
- Policy dialogues and roundtables hosted by THE and affiliated bodies.
- Collaborative activities with UN agencies, including curriculum design (UNICEF), research grants (UNDP), health and demographic projects (UNFPA, WHO), youth engagement (UNESCO), and climate-resilience initiatives.
- DU embraces a philosophy of “learning to learn with others”—engaging globally to strengthen national capacity and embedding sustainability literacy into university culture.

Looking Forward: DU’s Strategic Vision for SDG 2030

With the Government of Bangladesh aiming to achieve the SDG goals by 2030, DU reaffirms that:

- Our research, teaching, and public engagement will remain closely aligned with national priorities. Our Vision statement, reads, “Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future.” [<https://www.du.ac.bd/university/VisionMission>]
- We will expand our documentation and impact measurement systems to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships with government bodies, international organisations and industry will be scaled up to amplify societal impact.
- We will continue to position DU as a leading SDG-driven university in South Asia, advancing the nation’s knowledge economy and development agenda.

As Bangladesh’s flagship university, the University of Dhaka is committed to becoming a global model of SDG excellence—through rigorous research, transformative teaching, social responsibility, and inclusive national development.





SDG 5 — Gender Equality

Executive Summary

DU has a historic and statutory commitment to gender equality—as the university that produced Bangladesh’s earliest women scholars, activists, and leaders. Through academic programs, policies, and institutional protections, DU ensures gender-sensitive governance under its **Statutes and Ordinances guided by DU Order 1973**.

The **Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Centre for Gender & Development Studies (BCGDS)** leads gender research, training, and policy dialogues. DU’s **Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell, central childcare facilities, women-friendly hostels**, grievance mechanisms, and legal-aid services provide structural protection for students and staff.

Academic departments (Women & Gender Studies, Sociology, Law, Anthropology, Development Studies) produce national-level research on gender justice, labour, violence prevention, reproductive rights, and women’s leadership. DU collaborates with UN Women, UNFPA, and MoWCA to strengthen national gender policy and capacity building.

Each year, DU hosts women-led innovation programs, leadership workshops, and gender mainstreaming initiatives across faculties. Student groups engage in campaigns on menstrual hygiene, workplace safety, and rights awareness.

High-Impact Claim:

DU is Bangladesh’s leading centre for gender scholarship, advocacy, and institutional protection—shaping national gender policy and supporting thousands of women on their academic and professional journeys.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Gender equality has long been embedded in Dhaka University's identity. For over a century, DU has been a national home for women scholars, activists, and professionals who reshaped discourse on rights, justice, and social transformation. In 2024, DU continued advancing SDG 5 through research-driven engagement, high-level academic dialogues, and national policy conversations led by the Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Centre for Gender and Development Studies (BCGDS). These initiatives reinforced DU's role as both a thought leader and a convening platform for addressing persistent structural barriers—including unequal labour participation, unpaid care burdens, and entrenched gender norms that shape everyday life.

The flagship event of the year was the BCGDS International Women's Day Seminar (13 March 2024) titled "Empowering Future: Invest in Women towards Smart Bangladesh." Keynote speaker Nasim Ferdous, President of the Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership, emphasized economic independence as the foundation of genuine empowerment. Discussant Dr. Binayek Sen highlighted the intersections of literary tradition, labour-force dynamics, and unpaid care work—areas where gender disparities remain most visible.

The seminar's second half brought in leading activists such as Bibi Russel and Shomi Kaiser, who centered grassroots experiences and the emotional dimensions of empowerment. Their reflections underscored the need to value unpaid care labour, integrate men as partners in gender progress, and rethink gender roles across class boundaries. The policy recommendations that emerged—ranging from R&D investment to assessing the economic cost of violence against women—linked scholarship with actionable pathways for national reform.

This momentum culminated in the 3rd International Conference on "Revisiting Gender Equality and Sustainable Development" (7–8 August 2024). Organized by BCGDS, the conference expanded the discussion to global intersections between gender, governance, digital inclusion, climate, and economic transformation. With sub-themes spanning "sheconomics," feminist policymaking, and the future of care work, the event positioned DU as a leading South Asian hub for gender scholarship and cross-sector policy dialogue.

Together, DU's 2024 activities demonstrate a vibrant ecosystem committed to advancing SDG 5 through rigorous research, inclusive dialogue, and evidence-based recommendations. Despite persistent structural challenges, DU remains a national platform for gender-focused inquiry and collective action—translating global commitments into sustained institutional practice.

DU Gender Equality Highlights — 2024

Academic & Policy Engagement

Major International Women's Day Seminar hosted by BCGDS

Keynote: Nasim Ferdous (Women Leadership Alliance)

Discussant insights on labour trends, unpaid care work, literary traditions

Full news link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/empowerment-women-necessary-build-prosperous-nation-experts-808710>

3rd International Gender Conference (7–8 August)

Theme: “Revisiting Gender Equality & Sustainable Development”

Sub-themes:

Feminist policymaking

Sheconomics

Digital inclusion

Human rights

Future of care work

Regional participation from academics, policymakers & development experts

Grassroots & Activist Perspectives

Contributions from Bibi Russel & Shomi Kaiser

Focus on lived realities, resilience, social constraints

Emphasis on men as partners in gender progress

Key Recommendations

Invest in gender-focused R&D

Assess the economic cost of violence against women

Diversify sectors beyond RMG

Integrate technical + humanistic values in education

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU remains Bangladesh's leading academic hub for gender research, dialogue, and policy innovation
- ✓ Annual BCGDS events position DU as a South Asian thought leader on gender equality and sustainable development
- ✓ DU integrates scholarship + activism, connecting national policy debates with community realities
- ✓ The University hosts one of the country's largest and most influential gender-focused academic conferences
- ✓ DU's gender initiatives contribute directly to SDG 5, SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 9 (innovation), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)
- ✓ Through high-level seminars, international partnerships, and policy-relevant research, DU demonstrates that gender equality is an active institutional practice, not a symbolic commitment