

LIBRARIES UNLIMITED



Agenda for **Policy** Breakfast

Bangladesh's commitment to utilize the unlimited potentials of libraries are well documented—

7th Five Year Plan aims to develop a library network system from the national to the rural level by 2020.

Vision 2021 Digital Bangladesh aims to convert libraries into digital library.

National Culture Policy 2006 aims to popularize the public libraries and to improve the professional skills of librarians.

However, a nationwide study on Library Landscape Assessment of Bangladesh revealed that insufficient space, resources, gendered facilities, and the dearth of ICT facilities pose serious challenge for libraries—

52% of librarians think printed reading materials are insufficient

78% of library users are dissatisfied with the lack of digital resources

59% of librarians echoed dissatisfaction over the annual budget for the libraries

The Libraries Unlimited (LU) programme seeks to improve public access to information and knowledge in Bangladesh. The LU programme has been designed based on the findings of the Library Landscape Assessment of Bangladesh

study carried out by the Institute of Informatics and Development (IID), published in June 2015.

LU is currently implemented in Bangladesh by the British Council in partnership with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and supported by Department of Public Libraries.

Developed in close partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, LU aims to modernise the public library network. As part of this programme—



64

public libraries to be transformed into model libraries



500

public library staffs to be trained on leadership, ICT and services



15
million

citizens to be reached through national public awareness campaigns

As a part of its policy and advocacy strand, British Council and IID will support the relevant Ministries to develop a shared vision of 21st century libraries across Bangladesh that embeds the country's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and provides communities with access to information, knowledge and skills development.

To this end British Council and IID will conduct a series of stakeholder engagement activities which will focus on these three issues—

- Wellbeing, Prosperity and Communities: Library Services for Women and Families
- Digital, Youth and Employability: Role of a Modern Library
- Culture, reading and learning: Libraries for an inclusive knowledge society

Path to the **Vision Document** for modern libraries







About **Policy** Breakfast

The Policy Breakfast series by IID promotes evidence-informed and solution-driven debate among key influencers of policy community. A central theme, usually a critical policy issue, is debated in the event.

A major segment of the programme is devoted towards discussing policy recommendations, and ways to surmount obstacles and facilitate policy implementation process.

To create a candid and conducive environment for open discussion, policy breakfast follows information sharing rules that are very similar to the Chatham House Rules. The following ground

rules guide the sessions:

-  Participation is non-hierarchical and interactive, unlike traditional dialogues.
-  Discussions during the event will remain private.
-  Summary of the discussion can be shared in event reports, online and offline without attributing direct quote to any participant.
-  Photographs and videos without audio may be obtained for post-event promotional purpose.



Ministry of
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