

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়  
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ  
বৃত্তি ও প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখা  
[www.shed.gov.bd](http://www.shed.gov.bd)

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তারিখ: ২১ আষাঢ় ১৪২৫  
০৫ জুলাই ২০১৮

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

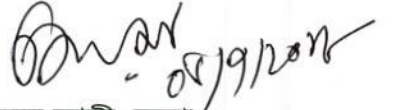
বিষয় : Open Educational Resources (OER) বিষয়ক খসড়া নীতিমালা চূড়ান্ত করার লক্ষ্যে জনসাধারণের মতামত সংগ্রহ সংক্রান্ত।

‘National Open Educational Resources (OER) Policy, 2018’ খসড়া নীতিমালাটি চূড়ান্ত করার লক্ষ্যে জনসাধারণের মতামত গ্রহণ করার জন্য ০১ জুলাই ২০১৮ তারিখ মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশ করা হয়।

২.০ নিয়োক্ত ঠিকানায় আপনার মূল্যবান মতামত আগামী ৩১ জুলাই ২০১৮ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো:

সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগে: প্রাপক : উপসচিব, বৃত্তি ও প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়; কক্ষ নং ১৭০৬, ভবন নং ৬; বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।

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(সৈয়দ আলী রেজা)  
উপসচিব  
ফোনঃ ৯৫৪৫০৩২

সংযুক্তি: ০৯ (নয়) পাতা।

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শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়  
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বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।

# National Open Educational Resources (OER) Policy of Bangladesh 2018

## 1. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

The main objective of this policy is to provide direction in the use of **Open Educational Resources** (OER) to enhance free access to and provide support to create quality educational resources in Bangladesh. Therefore, the policy seeks to strengthen commitment to OER by all stakeholders concerned in the country. The policy will help improve access to learning materials developed with public funds by releasing them in digital format or otherwise under an open license, preferably the most current version of one of the Creative Commons Attribution licenses. Adoption of the OER policy will also foster (i) collaboration and sharing amongst educational/training/research institutions to create knowledge/skill resources, improve the pedagogical practices and help professional development of teachers; (ii) low-cost or zero-cost access for learners to quality resources.

## 2. POLICY CONTEXT

In recent years, increasingly available quality teaching, learning and research materials have paved the way for educators and learners to gain access to a wide variety of educational resources in diverse formats (print, text, audio and visual), which in turn has allowed dynamic knowledge creation by different stakeholders. All over the world, the emergence of the concept of OER is playing a vital role in leveraging free and equal access to quality education by all. Most importantly, students can greatly benefit from OER, as they can access educational and training resources at very low or zero cost.

The traditional mode of delivery of education in Bangladesh is teacher-centric, supplemented by prescribed printed textbooks and other teaching-learning materials which are largely subsidised by the government at the primary and secondary levels. At the tertiary level, educators and students follow reference books written by national and international authors. However, during recent years, as part of the Digital Bangladesh Agenda, the integration of information and communications technologies (ICTs) into the education system has been promoted and strengthened through various government strategies, including the establishment of ICT labs, the development of an ICT infrastructure, multimedia classrooms in schools, the introduction of ICT as a subject in school curriculum, the establishment of online professional development platforms for teachers and students, and capacity development for teachers. In this regard, OER

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can act as a lever which will allow educational institutions to fully harness the potential provided by the government's ICT initiatives. At this point, the integration of OER into teaching and learning would enhance the quality and equity of education by providing teachers and students with the best OER from Bangladesh and around the world, reducing the cost of textbooks, and increasing the sharing of educational resources amongst Bangladesh's education institutions. Moreover, encouraging educators and authors to engage in the production of supplementary educational materials as OER would allow the adaptation and adoption of existing quality materials to match the national school curriculum requirements, which are already being practiced by teachers (see [www.teachers.gov.bd](http://www.teachers.gov.bd)).

The government is by far the largest producer of textbooks and teaching and learning materials in Bangladesh, though for-profit business organisations also create a large amount of content each year. Knowledge resources created are protected within the country by the Copyright Act 2000 (amended in 2005). The Copyright Act provides clarification and guidelines for all, including academics, writers, staff, contract workers and learners, regarding the ownership of created works and the practices for the publication, use, reuse, remixing and redistribution of material. Bangladesh's copyright law is aligned with the Berne Convention, which allows the author/owner of the copyrighted resources to retain all rights and/or to authorise appropriate use (i.e. through an open license) of the resources, which is important for making material available as OER. The 2012 OER Paris Declaration urges all governments to release, under an open license, teaching, learning and scholarly research materials developed with public funds, to allow others to reuse, revise, remix and redistribute. By and large, government organisations in Bangladesh make resources available online to the public, but those resources are not released under an open license.

Releasing publicly funded teaching and learning materials under an open license (preferably the most current version of one of the Creative Commons Attribution licenses) will bring the following advantages to Bangladesh:

- Increased access to quality learning resources.
- Enhanced free and open access to knowledge which can be reused and repurposed in different forms.
- Stronger ICT-enabled learning as well as open learning through better engagement of learners

- Lower costs for student learning resources.
- Promotion of a culture of sharing and openness amongst educators, researchers and other content creators and publishers.
- Encouragement of more innovation in teaching and learning.
- Transformation of teaching and learning by enabling innovative pedagogical practices.
- Facilitation of inclusive education for learners with varying abilities.
- Expansion of outreach to disadvantaged and marginalised communities.
- Promotion of a healthy academic culture of knowledge sharing in the society.
- Enhancement of educational opportunities to foster development and knowledge societies.
- Promotion of the open creation and distribution of the knowledge of Bangla language around the world.

Bangladesh has several related and supporting policies that are helpful in strengthening OER policy. Some of these are:

- Copyright Act, 2000 (Act No. XXVIII of 2000, as amended up to 2005) (2005)
- Cyber Security Policy, 2010
- ICT Master Plan in Education, 2012–2020
- ICT Policy, 2015
- National Curriculum and Textbook Board Ordinance, 1983 (Ordinance No. LVII of 1983) (1983)
- National Education Policy, 2010
- Patents and Designs Act (Act No. II of 1911) (2003)
- Right to Information Act, 2009.
- Trademarks Act, 2009 (Act No. XIX of 2009) (2009)
- Vision 2021 and Vision 2041.

### 3. DEFINITIONS OF RELATED TERMS

In this policy, the following definitions are used:

- (1) “Intellectual property (IP)” refers to the exclusive rights, including economic and moral rights, arising from creative works developed to support teaching and learning.
- (2) “Outputs” are the tangible products created by an individual or group of individuals — for example, course design documents, learning materials, curricula and learning activities expressed in any tangible form, including print, video, audio and digital formats.
- (3) “Outcomes” are the consequences and benefits which may arise from the development of, or use of, IP — for example, strategic collaborations or monetary return on IP.
- (4) “Copyright” is the subsection of the Copyright Act, 2000 (as amended up to 2005) which grants original creators (authors, musicians, artists and other creators) and owners (by virtue of creative works produced in the course of employment) the rights of ownership and protection against unauthorised use of their works for a fixed period.
- (5) “Licenses” refers to the legal mechanisms and tools for copyright holders to grant permission and/or specify conditions for the use of their copyrighted works.
- (6) “Open Educational Resources (OER)” are teaching, learning and research resources and materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, used to support education/training/research which reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits zero-cost access, reuse, revision, remixing, retention and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions.
- (7) “Open license” is a type of license that grants permission to access, retain, reuse, revise, remix and redistribute a work with no or limited restrictions.

### 4. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

As responsible authorities, Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) of Bangladesh shall promote and foster the adoption of OER as a matter of priority, recognising the emergence of OER as a means to increase access to educational/training resources at all levels and ensure quality education/training in Bangladesh. Along with these two agencies, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other directorates will work collaboratively to promote OER policy. A standing committee will look after OER policy implementation and will resolve disputes in this regard.

## 5. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

The policy shall be applied to all publicly funded teaching, learning and research materials developed by various ministries of the Government of Bangladesh, their subordinate offices and the individuals. Educational/research institutions and autonomous bodies developing teaching and learning materials using public funds will be guided by this policy and shall undertake appropriate steps to adopt OER. Also, any private university, institution or organisation which develops any educational resource using public funds, donor-provided funds or their own funds shall be encouraged to apply the policy. However, in all cases, any works under an open license shall be released in accordance with the Copyright Act, 2000 (Act No. 28 of 2000, as amended up to 2005) of Bangladesh.

## 6. SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 To formulate the necessary strategic inputs, outputs, tasks and performance indicators to achieve OER integration in teaching and learning at all levels of education, in coherence with the national and institutional curriculum requirements.
- 6.2 To take measures for raising awareness, building capacities and developing positive attitudes amongst all stakeholders towards the concepts and practices related to OER.
- 6.3 To prepare guidelines and manuals for OER use, creation, integration and licensing at the institutional level.
- 6.4 To establish an OER repository containing openly licensed materials created by educators and learners at national and institutional levels.
- 6.5 To provide an enabling environment, including the required infrastructure, hardware, software, Internet connectivity and new technologies, for effective OER creation/integration at the institutional level.
- 6.6 To develop quality educational resources to be shared freely.
- 6.7 To ensure lifelong learning opportunities for the citizens.
- 6.6 To ensure that the implemented policy is monitored by incorporating a feedback mechanism that will enable the MoE, MoPME and UGC to take informed decisions regarding any necessary revisions arising from changing requirements in the national education system and international developments in the field.

## 7. POLICY STATEMENTS

### 7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The MoE, MoPME and UGC shall be committed to the philosophy of OER in raising awareness, building capacity and fostering positive attitudes in educators and learners regarding the development and use of OER, with a view to enhancing quality and equity in education.
- 7.1.2 OER, the freely and openly available educational resources, shall be used by educators and learners in the production of teaching and learning materials to meet institutional and national curriculum requirements.
- 7.1.3 The government shall be committed to investing in materials development and curriculum design on a regular basis and to encouraging the creation of high-quality, openly licensed learning resources to improve the quality of teaching and learning.
- 7.1.4 Besides educators and learners, educational institutions should be encouraged to pool and share resources in order to develop OER. Further, the state will encourage institutions to incentivise materials-development activities in different ways to reward collaborative activity and encourage the production of new materials.
- 7.1.5 The existent and enabling environments for ICTs— including infrastructure, Internet connectivity and emerging technologies such as mobile technology — shall be fully utilised to facilitate access to and redistribution of openly licensed teaching and learning resources.

### 7.2 Copyright and Licensing

- 7.2.1 All teaching and learning materials developed with public funds shall be released with an appropriate open license and made available online, in editable digital formats, to the public.
- 7.2.1.1 Teaching and learning resources will be openly licensed when the copyright of the work is held by the concerned ministry, department or educational institution.
- 7.2.1.2 Teaching and learning resources will be openly licensed when created by a grantee or contractor receiving public funds from a ministry, department or educational institution.

7.2.2 The preferred open licenses to be used are the most current versions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY), Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA), Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial (CC BY-NC) and Creative Commons-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) licenses.

7.2.3 Agencies of the government will reserve their right to license their copyrighted work using the most current version of the Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives (CC BY-ND) and/or Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) licenses in the following cases:

7.2.3.1 Where any derivative would affect the reputation of the agency or the integrity and authenticity of the work (CC BY-ND is suggested).

7.2.3.2 Where the derivative or otherwise commercial circulation of the work would adversely affect the agency's operation and economic viability.

**7.3 Exceptions**

7.3.1 The OER Policy shall not apply to any work if releasing the work under an open license:

7.3.1.1 is contrary to any legislation, court order or specific government policy;

7.3.1.2 constitutes a breach of contract or lead to disclosure of a trade secret; and/or

7.3.1.3 prevents the patenting of an invention.

**8. STRATEGIES**

8.1 Institutions engaged in curriculum design and materials development at all levels of education shall be encouraged to invest resources in the production and sharing of high-quality, openly licensed educational resources and the ongoing improvement and updating of curricula and teaching materials.





8.2 A national scheme will be initiated for teachers to be recognised and rewarded for collaboration and sharing in the creation of new OER as well as the adaptation of existing OER.



8.3 Advocacy and capacity building for copyright and open licensing will be supported at the national level.



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- 8.4 The Ministry of Education shall be responsible for:
    - 8.4.1 establishing and maintaining a national repository for OER;
    - 8.4.2 establishing quality assurance mechanisms, such as peer review or user ratings;
    - 8.4.3 capacity building in OER development amongst educators; and
    - 8.4.4 ensuring the open licensing of educational materials that are developed.
  - 8.5 The commitment of the MoE, MoPME and UGC towards making available selected educational materials as OER will be ensured through a dedicated web portal for the greater good of the community.
  - 8.6 The development of supplementary educational material through the reuse and repurposing of available OER will be encouraged, incentivised and monitored nationally and institutionally.
  - 8.7 The provision of physical, human, financial and other relevant resources necessary for the implementation of the OER Policy will be introduced.
  - 8.8 Policy statements at the MoE, MoPME and UGC levels on the alignment of copyright with their commitment to OER adaptation and implementation at the institutional level will be confirmed.
  - 8.9 The affiliated agencies of the MoE, MoPME and UGC shall facilitate the implementation of the OER Policy by working closely with individual institutions.
  - 8.10 The MoE shall be the absolute owner of the copyright of any supplementary educational material/content created by individuals with public funds and will make them available as OER in accordance with the National OER Policy.

### 9. CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCES

Licence Name	Acronym	Icon	Description
Attribution	BY		This licence lets others distribute, remix, tweak and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licences offered, in terms of what others can do with your works.
Attribution-ShareAlike	BY-SA		This licence lets others remix, tweak and build upon your work even for commercial reasons, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms. This licence is often compared to open-source software licences. All new works based on yours will carry the same licence, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use.
Attribution-NonCommercial	BY-NC		This licence lets others remix, tweak and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be non-commercial, they don't have to license their derivative works on the same terms.
Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike	BY-NC-SA		This licence lets others remix, tweak and build upon your work non-commercially, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms. Others can download and redistribute your work, just as under the BY-NC-ND licence, but they can also translate, make remixes and produce new stories based on your work. All new work based on yours will carry the same licence, so any derivatives will also be non-commercial in nature.

Licence Name	Acronym	Icon	Description
Attribution-NoDerivatives	BY-ND	 The icon consists of four circular symbols in a row: 'CC', a person icon, a crossed-out dollar sign, and an equals sign. Below the symbols are the letters 'BY', 'NC', and 'ND'.	This licence allows for redistribution, commercial and non-commercial, with credit to the author. The work may not be altered, transformed or built on.
Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives	BY-NC-ND	 The icon consists of four circular symbols in a row: 'CC', a person icon, a crossed-out dollar sign, and an equals sign. Below the symbols are the letters 'BY', 'NC', and 'ND'.	This licence is the most restrictive of the six main CC licences, allowing redistribution only. This licence is often called the "free advertising" licence because it allows others to download your works and share them with others as long as they mention you and link back to you, but they cannot change them in any way or use them commercially.

Source: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>