

Man: I am Iqbal Hossain. I graduated from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1973. I graduated from the Mechanical Engineering department. I started my own firm after that. The name of my firm is Decon Associates. Our primary work is contracting. We do some consulting too, alongside the contracting, if we have turnkey projects. Our specializations in contracting are interior designing and industrial construction. After working in this line for thirty long years -- actually more than thirty years, thirty-four years -- my perception is that Bangladesh still has not achieved professionalism in this field. That is the reason why in the construction business and any of the engineering jobs, we have not achieved the progress that we should have achieved by now. There is a scarcity of skilled manpower here. We do not have any institutions to train and develop skilled manpower. People join this occupation and learn these skills while they are working. If they don't have work, they switch to another field or occupation. For these reasons, the scarcity of manpower still exists. Another problem we have here is that imported raw materials are not readily available. We see that there are many new materials/technology that are available abroad, but it takes two/three years before they are available in local markets. Though recently this is happening less, it still persists. On the technological side, we are still stuck in the old days. Considerable advances have been made in technology in the rest of the world; however, in Bangladesh, it has not improved that much. Other than that, we somehow manage, but we cannot really expect to achieve a lot with these obstacles.

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