Both young people and businesses in Bangladesh are facing a skills crisis. 2 million young people enter the workforce every year but 75% of business leaders claim that skilled workers are scarce.

Most young people end up with irregular jobs. 79% of Bangladesh’s workforce is employed by the informal sector.

Skilling Bangladesh’s youth will unlock the potential of future generations and create opportunities for better jobs. In parallel, working with employers to improve the quality of jobs will ensure that people are able to access decent work opportunities in the informal sector.

**INNOVATING ON TRADITION: SKILLS THAT LEADS TO JOBS**

Skills Training for Advancing Resources (STAR) is a large-scale successful on-the-job apprenticeship model that delivers the skills that employers need in the shortest timeframe possible. Apprentices are paired and placed under the guidance of ustads/master crafts person who already run their own businesses and have been trained on competency based training techniques.

**WHY IT WORKS**

- **Formal structure**
  Learners are work-ready in six months, through a combination of theoretical and on the job training

- **Certifiable**
  Aligned with the new National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework: All learners get nationally certified

- **Trade specific education**
  Specific terminologies, practical skills and basic English conversation skills are included

- **Soft skills**
  Entrepreneurship, rights and social issues, labour rights, gender equality and financial literacy taught once a week

- **Social inclusion and decent work**
  Employers are supported to meet BRAC-promoted work standards. All marginalised groups are included

- **Demand-driven**
  Trades are selected based on local market demands and all trainees are connected with job opportunities

**OUR IMPACT**

- **18,900** youth equipped with skills
- **95%** are employed after graduation
- **8X** Their income increases
- For every **USD 1**, STAR returns **USD 3**

1/3 of Bangladesh’s population is 10-24 years old but 41% of young people aged 15 to 24 are not in employment, education or training
Skills development is an urgent need in Bangladesh, because of the high number of underemployed young people and our increasing dependence on skilled manpower from neighbouring countries.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed