

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

2021 was a challenging year for BYLC as it was for most organizations around the world. While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose major challenges for the economy and global health, we had to improvise our programs and continuously ask ourselves how to stay relevant in the context of challenges faced by our primary customers—young people. Two of our core values at BYLC are continuous learning and practicing adaptive leadership. And never before were we required to practice these values more than in 2021. As you'll see in the pages that follow, while most educational institutions were closed, we continued our online outreach activities and enrolled students successfully for our youth leadership programs. We experimented with new tools and techniques to make online learning accessible and effective.

We trained over 1,500 participants in leadership and professional development during the year. Through active partnerships with the private sector and despite rising youth unemployment during the pandemic, we successfully placed 545 youth in jobs. To create more employment opportunities for youth through entrepreneurship, BYLC Ventures continued to run our accelerator program and work with some of Bangladesh's most promising young founders.

We invested in 12 companies. The pandemic created space for greater adoption of online learning in Bangladesh and our online platform, BYLCx, continued to grow. We produced 17 new courses and had more than 34,000 course enrollments.

To celebrate Bangladesh's 50th independence anniversary, we organized the Global Youth Climate Summit to draw attention to climate change—an issue that will be critical for Bangladesh over the next 50 years. We brought together distinguished speakers and more than 500 youth from around the world and facilitated conversations on how youth can take climate action.

A highlight in 2021 for us was the external evaluation report on our recently concluded three-year Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) and Building Bridges through Leadership Training (Junior) project with the Dutch Embassy. The study, conducted by a team of Dhaka University professors, showed that when compared to their peers who didn't receive training at BYLC, BBLT and BBLT Junior graduates have stronger communication and leadership skills, are more open to diverse viewpoints, and are more likely to be engaged in active citizenship.

Encouraged by the findings of the study, the Dutch Embassy signed a new five-year agreement with BYLC in 2021 for phase two of the BBLT and BBLTJ project.

As we return to a new normal, all of us at BYLC are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We're working on our five year-strategic plan and we'll be drawing on our experiences of hybrid work and training models to explore ways to scale and maximize our impact in society. I am convinced that, at this particular juncture in our country's development, our work of preparing a new generation to lead with courage, compassion, and competence is more important than ever. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of our partners and well wishes for your support. Our work would not have been possible without your generosity and unwavering faith in our mission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Ejaj Ahmad**

Founder and President  
Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center

## ABOUT BYLC

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, exists to build leadership skills in youth from diverse backgrounds, instill values of empathy, tolerance, and inclusiveness in them, and connect them to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. Our goal is to enable our alumni to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.



A cornerstone of BYLC's approach involves uniting youth from diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds, because effective leadership requires the capacity to embrace diversity and pluralism. Through this process of empowering young people to act on behalf of issues they care about deeply, BYLC aims to strengthen prosperity, justice, and inclusiveness in society.

# MISSION & VISION



## Our Mission

To build connections among youth from diverse backgrounds, equip them with leadership skills, and enable them to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.

## Our Vision

A prosperous, just, and inclusive world driven by courageous, compassionate, and competent leaders.

## OUR FOCUS



skills



values



jobs



ventures



## IMPACT FOR 2021



**601**  
Youth trained  
in leadership



**907**  
Youth trained  
in professional  
development



**545**  
Youth placed  
in jobs



**12**  
startups funded  
by BYLC Ventures



**34,062**  
BYLCx course enrollments

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



## JANUARY

- BYLC celebrated its 12th anniversary
- Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) 24 launched virtually for students in Chattogram
- BBLTJ 25 launched virtually for students in Dhaka
- Volunteer cohort of 2021 onboarded
- BYLC, in association with the Center for Urban Studies, launched a survey on 'Youth and climate change: awareness and action'
- Acquiring Competencies for Employment (ACE) 18 held virtually
- BYLC launched a survey on 'Youth and climate change: awareness and action'



## FEBRUARY

- Leadership for Kids (LFK) 2 launched virtually
- Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) 30 launched virtually for students in Chattogram
- BBLT 31 launched virtually for students in Dhaka



## MARCH

- Global Youth Climate Summit held with 681 delegates from around the world
- 11 Global Youth Climate Champions awarded USD 1,000 each to implement their climate action projects
- Birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman observed at BYLC headquarters
- Campus ambassadors 2021 onboarded
- BYLC hosted a webinar on International Women's Day
- Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) 27 held virtually
- ACE 19 & 20 held
- CareerX 5 held virtually



## APRIL

- ACE 21 held virtually



## MAY

- BYLC Ventures Cohort 3 bootcamp held virtually
- Creative competition for youth on the occasion of World Environment Day launched and three winners chosen from over 500 submissions in the category of art, writing, and photography
- CareerX 6 launched virtually

## JUNE

- BBLTJ 26 launched virtually for students in Chattogram
- ACE 22 held virtually
- CareerX 7 launched virtually
- Winners of BYLC Ventures Cohort 3 announced

## JULY

- ACE 23 held virtually
- On World Youth Skills Day, BYLC hosted a virtual roundtable with industry experts, focussing on reimagining skills required for a post-pandemic ICT sector
- Refresher training held for campus ambassadors 2021
- Six-month-long accelerator training for BYLC Ventures Cohort 3 began

## AUGUST

- Four-day-long Youth Leadership Summit held
- BBLT 32 launched virtually in Chattogram
- On International Youth Day, BYLC, in collaboration with USAID, hosted a webinar focussing on the role of youth in economic growth in the midst of COVID-19
- ICT Career Bootcamp launched virtually
- Youth Leadership for an Inclusive and Prosperous Bangladesh (YLIPB) project, supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation and UK aid, ended



## SEPTEMBER

- Winners of BYLC Volunteer Awards 2021 announced. Five individuals and three organizations were awarded for their social work
- 100,000 followers reached on LinkedIn
- CareerX 8 launched

## OCTOBER

- BYLC hosted a meet for BBLTJ alumni in our headquarters
- On World Mental Health Day 2021, BYLC hosted a virtual panel discussion in collaboration with Psycure Organization
- BBLT 33 launched virtually for students in Dhaka
- BYLC launched the first Effective Leadership for Professionals workshop. The day-long workshop was arranged for mid-level and senior managers of Rangs Group
- CareerX 9 launched virtually

## NOVEMBER

- BYLC celebrated National Youth Day 2021 by organizing workshops on leadership, career, and entrepreneurship in our headquarters
- BYLC observed 16 days of activism by hosting an online campaign on Equality through Dignity
- BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) celebrated the ninth anniversary of the Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) program with our leadership program graduates in our headquarters
- BYLC hosted a meet with a delegation from Netherland's Orange Corners, representatives from the Dutch Embassy, and BYLC Ventures portfolio companies in our headquarters
- CareerX 10 launched in BYLC headquarters
- Virtual talk organized featuring Ejaj Ahmad, who shared his experience as a participant at COP26
- Sales Career Bootcamp 2021 launched virtually

## DECEMBER

- Leadership for Kids (LFK) 3 launched virtually
- BBLTJ 27 held virtually for students in Dhaka
- Three-day-long residential bootcamp for BYLC Ventures: cohort 4 participants held in Srimangal
- BBLTJ 28 held virtually for students in Chattogram
- Induction program for campus ambassadors 2022 held in BYLC headquarters

# OUTREACH AND ADMISSIONS IN 2021

BYLC maintains an inclusive and robust marketing and admissions process to attract high quality applications to our leadership programs. We reach out to young people of different ages through

various channels, including workshops in school and university campuses. Applicants are then put through a rigorous admissions process, which evaluates them on their existing skills and leadership potential.



## OUTREACH



**120**  
campus  
ambassadors



from  
**64**  
institutions

social media followers



**484,778**



**3,709**



**8,680**



**109,098**



**4,900**



**110** press  
releases

## ADMISSIONS



**7,909**  
applications



**3,839**  
people  
interviewed



**1,928**  
people  
enrolled

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING



**Our leadership training programs create changemakers by providing 21st century skills to youth and instilling in them values of empathy, inclusiveness, and pluralism.**



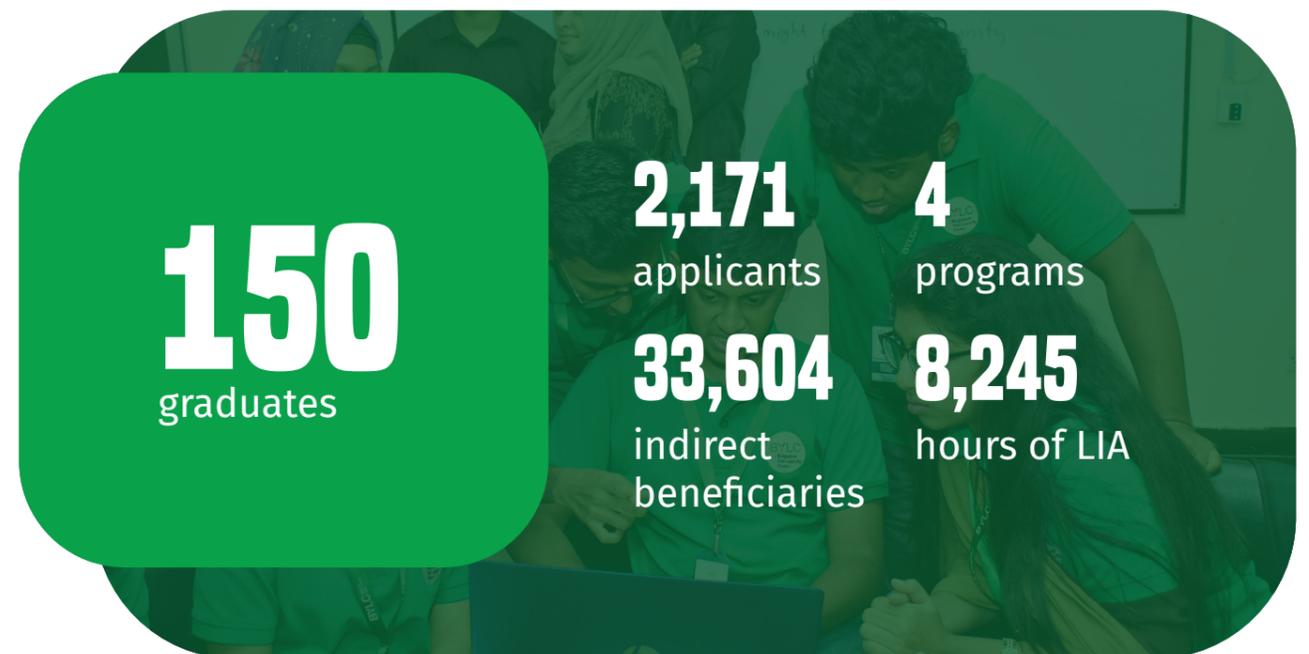
# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

## About Buiding Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT)

BYLC's 10-week-long signature leadership training program is designed for H.S.C./Alim/A Level and first and second year university students, taught in Dhaka and Chattogram. Our BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll students from the three different educational systems, namely English medium, Bangla medium, and Madrassa. The intensive training program, coupled with an experiential learning model, challenges students to critically think about leadership and apply their skills to

effectuate positive change in society. In the first phase of the program, students conduct experiments, take risks, and question deeply held assumptions in the classroom. In the second phase, students have the opportunity to translate their learning into action by implementing various community service projects.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, our BBLT classes were held online on Zoom in 2021. BBLT students conducted their Leadership In Action (LIA) projects over social media.



### Objectives

- Create a space for students from diverse educational backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue and action to foster cross-cutting connections, pluralism, and inclusive leadership
- Expand participants' leadership capacity by sharpening their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills
- Provide participants with hands-on experience in teamwork and project management, community service, and active citizenship

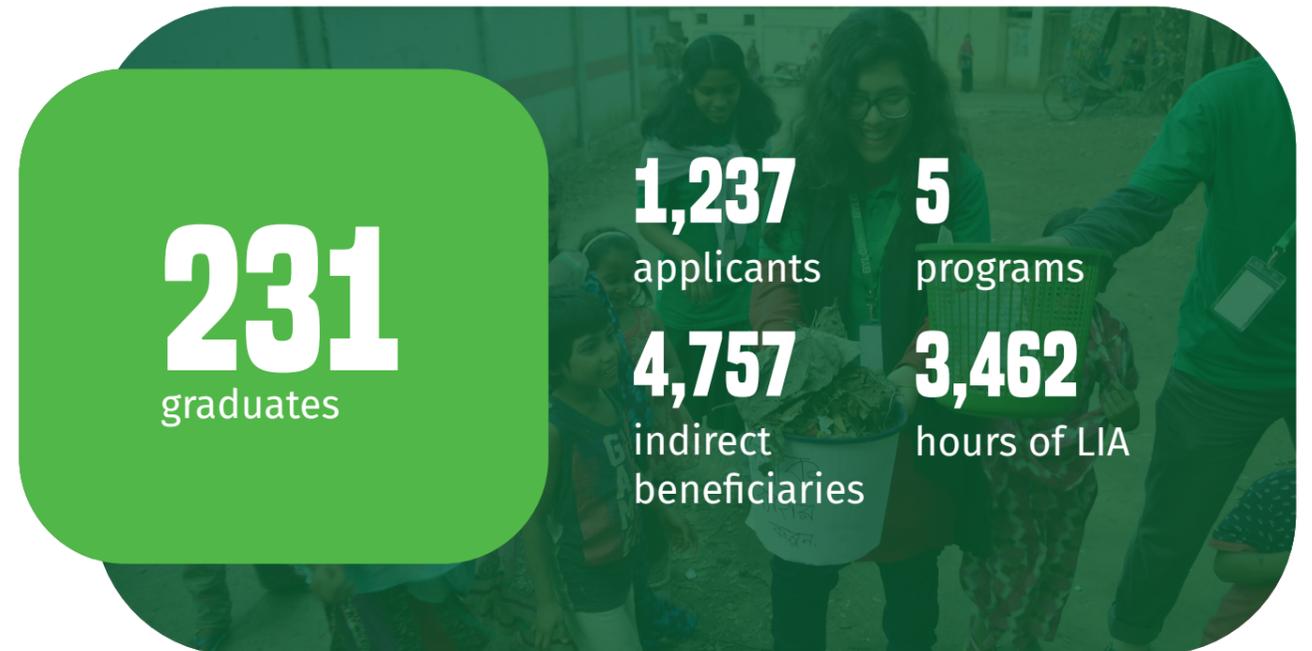


## About Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ)

This month-long leadership training program is designed for secondary school students in grades 6 to 10. The program, adapted to suit the learning needs of students aged between 12 and 16, focuses on sensitizing a younger audience to the values of leadership, teamwork, community service, and active citizenship. Facilitated by BYLC graduates, the program specifically targets students in secondary school to

instill positive values during their formative years, so that these lessons of leadership and building bridges remain influential throughout their lives.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, our BBLTJ classes were held online on Zoom. BBLTJ students conducted their Leadership In Action (LIA) projects over social media.



### Objectives

- Promote pluralism by encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds to identify common ground and develop a shared vision for effectuating positive change
- Provide participants with a concrete understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with leadership

## BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING JUNIOR



# LEADERSHIP FOR KIDS

## About Leadership for Kids (LFK)

Leadership for Kids is a two-week-long program designed for students in grades 3-5. The program uses a combination of activities and group discussions to sharpen leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills of the participants.



## Objectives

- Facilitate and assess students' learning outcomes
- Display their leadership, creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills
- Creatively showcase participants' learnings by enabling them to express their emotions and viewpoints through text, images, or drawings

7  
 graduates  
1 program

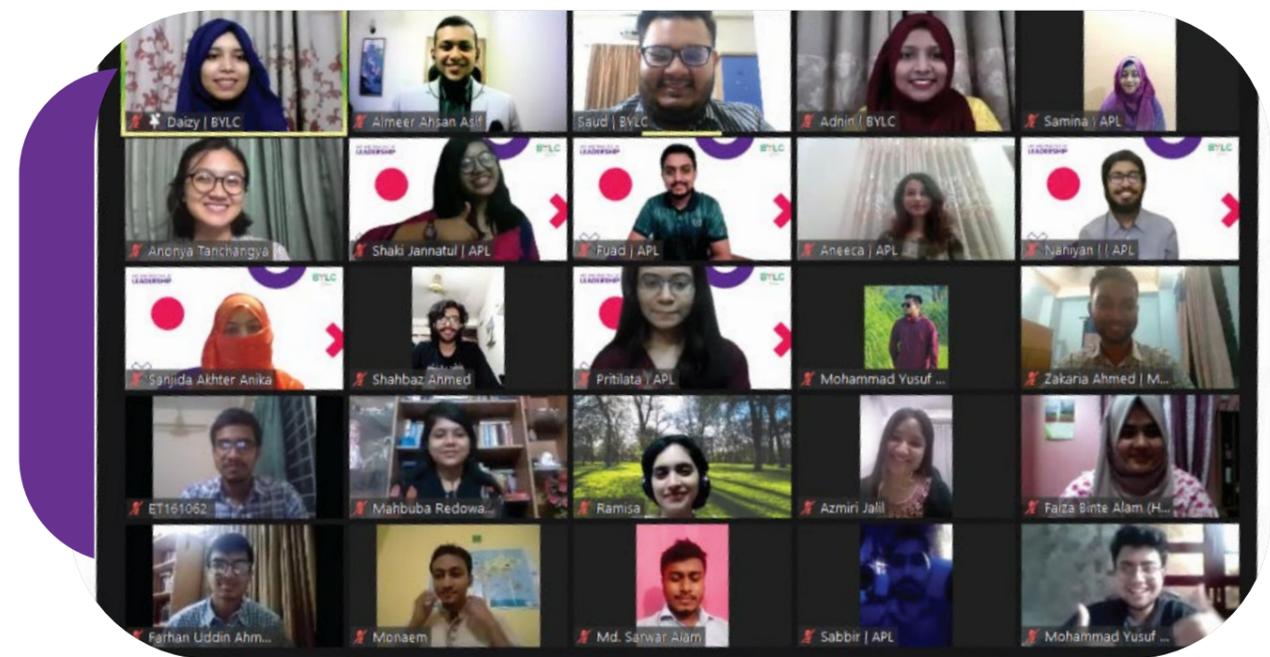


National workshop on  
**THE ART AND PRACTICE OF LEADERSHIP**

## About The Art and Practice of Leadership (APL)

Two special online editions of the Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) workshop were launched for third- and fourth-year undergraduate and master's students. A total of 29 students took part in the

workshops. APL challenges participants' ideas about authority, power, and influence, and expands their capacity to diagnose problems and develop creative solutions.



### Objectives

- Learn to lead with and without authority
- Develop a diagnostic mindset
- Mobilize others for action
- Build greater self-awareness and emotional intelligence

**29**  
graduates

**2** programs

# OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Our professional development programs led by BYLC Office of Professional Development (OPD), connect youth to employment opportunities. OPD also offers career guidance services for university students and young professionals. In addition, we provide placement services for OPD graduates via partnerships with renowned employers of the country. In 2021, OPD placed a total of 525 graduates in various internship and full-time job opportunities.

# 525

graduates placed in  
various internship and  
full-time job  
opportunities in 2021

**OPD**  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## About Acquiring Competencies for Employment (ACE)

Acquiring Competencies for Employment (ACE) is a two-week-long career development program designed specifically for national university students who are pursuing their bachelor's or master's degree. The program is a gateway for graduating students to build the

competencies required in the current job market. Taught via a blended model of instructor-led virtual and online interventions, the program aims to equip its participants with the leadership and professional skills required to thrive in a 21st-century workplace.



### Objectives

- Provide professional training to participants on resume writing, interview, negotiation, networking, and adaptive leadership skills
- Facilitate and assess participants' learning outcomes

**528**  
graduates

**6** programs





## About CareerX

CareerX is a month-long advanced professional training program designed for third- and fourth-year undergraduate students, postgraduate students, and young professionals. BYLC follows a combination of online and instructor-led teaching methods for the program.



## Objectives

- Build a meaningful learning experience supplemented with practical virtual sessions and weekly projects
- Ensure participants' understanding of the subjects through peer-to-peer learning focused on small group discussions
- Preparing participants for a better future by conducting instructor-based online courses

**259**  
graduates

**6** programs

**careerX**

# MENTORING SESSIONS

OPD offers career mentoring and guidance sessions that can help enable better career advancement for BYLC's alumni.

**9**  
sessions

**81**  
participants

## CAREER MENTORING



**BYLC** Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center

# ICT CAREER BOOTCAMP 2021

**ICT Myth vs Reality**  
August 11, 2021  
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**67**  
graduates

**KMH Tomal**  
Director Of Information Technology,  
K. M. Hasan & Co. Chartered Accountants,  
Director and CTO, ZAAG Systems Ltd.

**Iftexhar Alam Ishaque**  
Deputy General Manager  
SSL Wireless

**Ahmedul Kabir**  
Assistant Professor  
Institute of Information Technology,  
University of Dhaka

**Rajuan Islam**  
Head of Talent  
weDevs

**Sabila Enun**  
ICT Consultant  
Director and Head of  
Communications, Dcastalia Limited

## About BYLC ICT Career Bootcamp 2021

BYLC ICT Career Bootcamp 2021 was a month-long program to enable participants gain first-hand knowledge on skills required to enter the ICT industry. With sessions by industry experts, the bootcamp focussed on technical and soft skills such as adaptability, resilience, and remote communication. Apart from an overview of Bangladesh's ICT sector, the bootcamp

included sessions on digital marketing, ITES, fintech, technical writing, e-commerce, and much more. The bootcamp included a blend of video-based online modules supplemented with instructor-led virtual sessions. Graduates of the program are eligible to avail one-on-one mentoring and counseling sessions from OPD.

**BYLC** Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center  
**SALES CAREER**  
 BOOTCAMP 2021

**BYLC** Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center  
**SALES CAREER**  
 BOOTCAMP 2021

**103**  
 graduates

**About BYLC ICT Career Bootcamp 2021**

BYLC Sales Career Bootcamp 2021 was a month-long program that helped participants identify the skills required to enter the sales industry. With sessions by industry experts, the bootcamps focused on technical skills, such as sales management, operations, consumer behavior, sales ethics and reports, and

much more. The bootcamp included a blend of video-based online modules supplemented with instructor-led virtual sessions. Graduates of the program could avail the opportunity to apprentice with 100+ partner organizations affiliated with BYLC OPD.

**S M MEHEDI HASAN**  
 Talent Acquisition & Recruitment Manager,  
 Japan Tobacco International

**AYAN GUPTA**  
 National Sales Manager, Alesha Card Ltd.

**MOHAMMAD MUBIR**  
**MAHMUD CHOWDHURY**  
 Co-Founder & Managing Director  
 Sokrio Technologies Ltd.

**ASHRAF DAWOOD**  
 Co-Founder, Director & COO at CMED Health

# BYLCx

BYLCx, our online academy, aims to make leadership and professional development education available for youth from anywhere, at any time. Designed in consultation with industry experts, BYLCx courses cover a wide range of topics including communication, critical thinking, professional development, entrepreneurship, and much more.



হৃদয়ে ওঠো  
ফিউচার রেডি

To learn more, visit:  
[x.bylc.org](http://x.bylc.org)



Professional  
Networking in  
the 21st Century  
for Women  
BYLCx



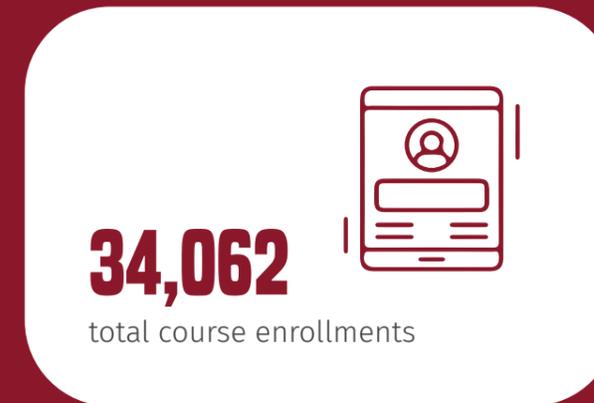
POWERPOINT  
HACKS  
BYLCx



MAKE THE  
RIGHT MOVE TO  
START YOUR  
CAREER  
VISIT: X.BYLC.ORG



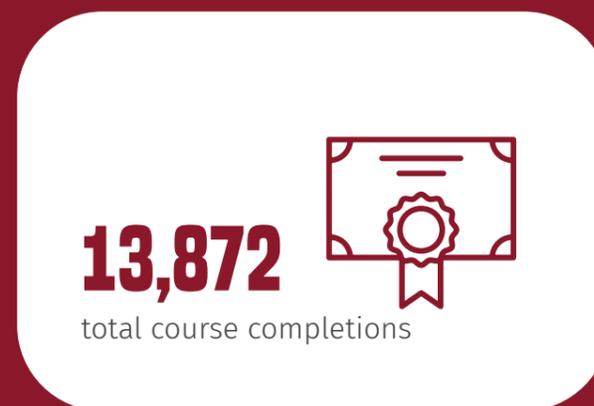
Freelancing  
Essentials:  
The Step by Step Guide  
BYLCx



34,062  
total course enrollments



17  
online courses  
produced



13,872  
total course completions



### About BYLC Ventures

BYLC Ventures funds the most promising founders of Bangladesh, hones their leadership capabilities, strengthens their business acumen, and helps validate their big ideas as they transition into investable business.

Apart from seed funding and technical support, BYLC Ventures also offers a range of acceleration support, including a plug-and-play commercial space to work from, customized business training led by successful CEO-turned-mentors, and a suite of professional support such as legal, accounting, and corporate governance.

BYLC Ventures Cohort 3 was launched in May 2021 through a virtual bootcamp with 105 early stage startups. Three promising startups were chosen as winners from the bootcamp and received seed funding of BDT 8 lacs each along with other accelerator support. A residential bootcamp for BYLC Ventures Cohort 4 was arranged in Srimangal in December 2021 with 39 early-stage startups.



Number of startups in cohort 3 of BYLC Ventures Bootcamp

**105**

Winner of cohort 3 of BYLC Ventures

**3 STARTUPS**

**SEED FUNDING**

Networking and mentoring opportunities for

**6 MONTHS**

Co-working space for

**1 YEAR**

# WINNING TEAMS OF BYLC VENTURES COHORT 3



## Interactive Cares

AI based one-stop virtual ed-tech platform for digital learning and skills development in Bangla through pre recorded courses and one-to-one mentoring. Won the Entrepreneurship World Cup 2021



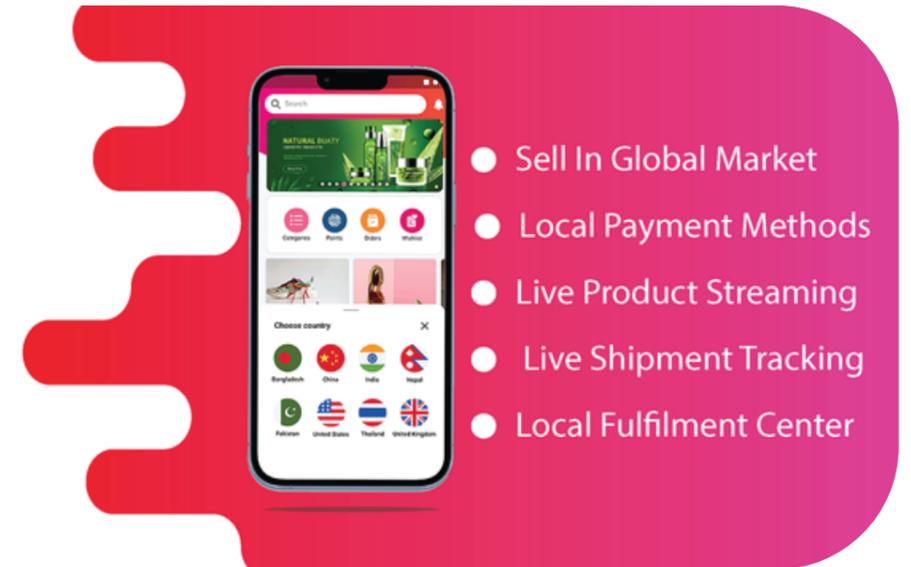
## Tunibibi

Cross border e-commerce marketplace to optimize the global supply chain processes for SMEs



## KhaniDani

Online food delivery company



# EVENTS

Apart from our regular programs in 2021, we were active in engaging youth through engagements that contribute to their intellectual as well as physical well-being. BYLC created open spaces for youth to discuss relevant issues through programs such as the BYLC Youth Climate Summit, among many others.



## Global Youth Climate Summit 2021



### OPENING PLENARY: NO TIME TO WASTE

BYLC hosted the inaugural two-day-long Global Youth Climate Summit, in partnership with Foundation for Climate Restoration, Resilient Markets, and the Centre for Climate Repair at Cambridge, in March 2021. Through the summit, we aimed to mobilize youth, build their leadership skills, and empower them to lead the fight against climate change. The summit brought together 680 youth, aged between 13 and 24, from around the world and engaged them in an inter-generational dialogue with leading experts in the field of climate change.

The projects of 11 youth climate champions were competitively selected from across the world, each of whom received a full scholarship to attend a leadership course at BYLC and a USD 1,000 award for their climate restoration projects. The champions were from Bangladesh, Somalia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Guinea, and Paraguay. Through their projects, the champions have achieved their target of making their communities aware of the dangers of climate change while mobilizing them to actively engage in climate action.

## BYLC Youth Leadership Summit



The four-day-long Youth Leadership Summit, supported by MJF and FCDO of the UK, brought together over 300 delegates from 149 educational institutions across 45 districts. With the theme 'Journey towards an inclusive Bangladesh', the sessions focused on listening to the concerns of marginalized youth, including young people with disabilities, youth from Dalit

communities, madrassas, and low income backgrounds, and transgender youth. The goal of the summit was to guide delegates to work together to craft solutions that can help achieve inclusivity in terms of opportunities to work, exercising equal rights, access to better health, livelihood, education, and skills development.

### OPENING CEREMONY WHY EMBRACING DIVERSITY MATTERS IN LEADERSHIP



## BYLC Volunteer Awards



BYLC launched Volunteer Awards 2021 to recognize volunteers and bring to the spotlight the contributions made by individuals and organizations working for social issues to their communities through

volunteering. 10 individuals were awarded for their initiatives from 832 applications while three organizations were awarded for their projects from 75 applications.

# Congratulations

to all the winners of BYLC Volunteer Awards 2021!

### Individual category

Sumaiya Mahjabin

Sazid - Bin - Zahid

Sanjana Haque

Md. Al-Amin

Mohammed Jahidul Islam Al-Azad

Mahmudul Islam Sakib

Taheatul Jannat

Masum Uddin Ahmed

Md Abu Jubayer

Syed Nazmus Zawad

### Organization category

Winner: **SCIENCE BEE**  
LEARN LIKE NEVER BEFORE

1<sup>st</sup> runner-up: **পঞ্চাঙ্গাণী**

2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up: **GROW your READER**

## Webinar on women in leadership: achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world

Supported by

প্রতি-১৯ সংকট ও উত্তরণে নারী নেতৃত্বের গল্পকথা

### Speakers

**Laila Tasmia**  
Gender and Development Expert

**Rina Akter**  
Rights activist for sex workers

**Lamea Tanjin Tanha**  
Founder & CEO, TransEnd

**Esrat Karim Eve**  
Founder and Director, AMAL Foundation

### Moderator

**Banasree Mitra Neogi**  
Gender Advisor, Manusher Jonno Foundation

Media partners

BYLC organized a webinar on March 6 to celebrate the successes and achievements of women in our society and commemorate International Women's Day. With over 690 registrations, the webinar was aligned with this year's UN International Women's Day theme, Women in leadership: Achieving an

equal future in a COVID-19 world. Five exemplary young female social changemakers from Bangladesh spoke about the significance of gender empowerment, education, and impact of COVID-19 in the workplace.

## Webinar on digital Bangladesh: reimagining skills for a post-pandemic ICT sector

Webinar on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day

**OPD** OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Moderator**

Parveen S Huda  
Senior Consultant  
OPD, BYLC

**Speakers:**

- Syed Almas Kabir, President BASIS
- Sami Ahmed, Policy Advisor, Leveraging ICT for Employment and Growth (LICT), ICT Division
- Farhana A Rahman, Senior Vice President BASIS
- Zara Mahbub, Country Director & CEO Apex DMIT Ltd.
- Rashed Kamal, CEO The Databiz Software Ltd.
- Imran Hossen, Managing Director EyHost Ltd.
- Ayesha Siddika, Managing Director W3 Engineers Ltd.
- Amob K Saha, Acting Manager OPD, BYLC

Thursday  
July 15, 2021  
7PM - 8:30PM

**LIVE**  
Zoom Meeting

**DIGITAL BANGLADESH:  
REIMAGINING SKILLS REQUIRED  
FOR POST-PANDEMIC ICT SECTOR**

BYLC celebrated World Youth Skills Day with a virtual roundtable, joined by eminent industry leaders, on our Facebook page

## Webinar on the role of youth in economic development: impact of COVID and ways to overcome

On the occasion of International Youth Day, with support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bangladesh, BYLC organized a virtual webinar to understand how the youth of the country can be engaged in community

development. Speakers also discussed how best young people can be represented when designing interventions for a post-pandemic economy. The webinar hosted government representatives and experts from the public, private, and civil sectors.

Webinar on International Youth Day 2021

**YOUTH VOICE MATTERS**

ROLE OF YOUTH IN ECONOMIC GROWTH; IMPACT OF COVID AND WAYS TO OVERCOME

**USAID** FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | **BYLC** Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center

Ejaz Ahmad   BYLC	Md. Aminul Islam Khan	Rizwan Rahman (DCCI)
Mahmuda Rahman Khan	Tanzila Shawquat Ira	Bipasha Hossain   MD, Shuj...
Patricia Plavetic	Rumana Amin	Shahadat Shakil   USAID

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## BYLC signs new project with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

BYLC signed a five-year partnership agreement for phase 2 of its Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) and Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) program with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Dhaka in October 2021. The new partnership will enable 3,000 secondary school, high school, and college students from English medium, Bangla medium, and Madrassa backgrounds to develop their

leadership, problem solving, and communication skills and translate their learning into action by serving in the community. Participants of the BBLT and BBLTJ programs will design and execute 375 service projects in local communities to address pressing social issues such as gender equality, climate change, access to quality education for all, social cohesion and community building, and health and hygiene.



## Completion of the Promoting Equality for Madrassa Students (PEMS) project

The year-long PEMS project, supported by the US Embassy in Dhaka, ended in July 2021. Under this project, more than 550 Madrassa students in Chittagong were given training on active citizenship, tolerance, inclusiveness, and public speaking.



## Completion of the Youth Leadership for an Inclusive and Prosperous Bangladesh (YLIPB)

The three-year-long YLIPB project, supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK, ended in August 2021. Through this project,

we were able to reach over 14,000 direct beneficiaries and develop more than 2,400 changemakers who were actively involved in voluntary activities, while engaging more than 340 youth in income-generating activities.

# GOVERNING BOARD



## Akhter Matin Chaudhury

Chairperson

Akhter Matin Chaudhury is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh.



## Ejaj Ahmad

Founder and President

Ejaj Ahmad is a social entrepreneur with extensive professional and academic training in leadership. He is the recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship, Eisenhower Fellowship, and Harvard Kennedy School's Rising Star Award.



## Homayara Ahmed

Member

Homayara Ahmed, assistant professor at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, is an expert on human resource management. She is an external consultant of Monower Associates, and a member of University & Industry Alliance, a non-profit management and educational consulting center under University of Dhaka.



## Manzoor Hasan OBE

Member

Manzoor Hasan OBE, a barrister, is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University (Bangladesh), and Chair of the United Nation Convention Against Corruption Coalition (Germany). He was previously the Founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).



## Pial Islam

Member

Pial Islam, founder and managing partner of pi Strategy Consulting, was previously a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum.



## Zafar Sobhan

Member

Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune, is a 2009 Yale World Fellow and a 2005 Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



## Saima Chowdhury

Member

Saima Chowdhury is the founder and CEO of Noi Solutions LLC, a global apparel sourcing company based out of New York. Noi Solutions ranked 300 in the 2014 Inc. 500 list of the fastest growing private companies in the US.



## Farzana Kashfi

Member

Farzana Kashfi is a development professional, working towards the empowerment of adolescents and youth for over a decade. She started her career in Bangladesh at BRAC in 2008, developing and leading initiatives for the social and financial empowerment of adolescent girls across the country.

# INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD



**Sultana Afroz**

Member

Sultana Afroz, a career bureaucrat, is the former Chief Executive Officer at the Public Private Partnership Authority of the Prime Minister's Office with the rank of Secretary.



**Ronald Heifetz**

Member

Ronald Heifetz, King Hussein bin Talal Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the founding director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



**Max Klau**

Founder and President

Max Klau, a developmental psychologist with an experience in leadership in complex systems, is presently the chief program officer at New Politics Leadership Academy, an organization dedicated to recruiting and training alumni of service programs (the military, AmeriCorps, TFA, City Year, Peace Corps, and related experiences) for a career in public service.



**Barbara Kellerman**

Member

Barbara Kellerman, James McGregor Burns Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the Founding Executive Director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



**Gowher Rizvi**

Member

Gowher Rizvi, advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is the immediate past director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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