MuktoPaath: e-learning for Skills Development

Sufia, a women in her early thirties, decided to break the socio-economic shackles binding women like her and opted for an overseas employment opportunity after failing to find a job at home to support her family. She went to Saudi Arabia as a housemaid, with big dreams of changing her fate, with the assistance of a middle man with minimal details about the workplace and job requirements. She faced difficulties in adapting to her new professional life because of her lack of familiarization of up-to-date technology and basic requirements. Moreover, the language barrier became another substantial obstacles for her. As a result she failed to communicate effectively with her employer and was forced to encounter many embarrassing situations. Sufia's journey ended within six months, leaving her filled with bitter experiences and having lost a huge amount of money on the process. Today, Sufia is unemployed and her dreams of achieving financial independence are in tatters.

In Bangladesh, existing educational institutions and training centres do not have the capability to train enough skilled workers to keep up with the current demand of the local industries and international markets. As a result majority of the workforce, facing a situation alike Sufia's, lack the proper training required for the times ahead. Innovative interventions like MuktoPaath (www.muktopaath.gov.bd) can pave the way to bridge the gap with diverse courses and tutorials for migrant worker like Sufia as well as for people in other profession like teachers, individual learners, farmers and others to gain necessary knowledge and develop required skills. Offline versions of courses are available so that people who are living in remotest corner of the country with limited access to internet could easily avail the contents of MuktoPaath in their computer and SD card supported mobile. An effort like MuktoPaath could positively contribute to fulfill dreams of other citizens like those of Sufia's.