**Connecting classrooms set a unique example of sustainable teaching learning**

 Connecting classroom programs of British Council have set a unique example of sustainable teaching learning in the classroom.

Connecting Classrooms is the British Council’s global education programme for schools, co-funded by the British Council and the UK’s Department for International Development. In Bangladesh Connecting Classrooms has been running since 2009, focusing on building global awareness and cross-cultural learning in young people through bringing an international dimension to learning.

Connecting Classrooms is designed to help young people develop the knowledge, skills and values to live and work in a global economy and contribute responsibly to society both locally and globally.

Connecting Classrooms Program is a platform in which one can be connected easily with other people living in different parts of the world and can share learning issues and remain updated. The face to face and online courses of the program also offer great benefit for teachers and students.

International School Award [ISA] activities have been introduced under the program to get access the world of learning.

Manager Education, British Council, Bangladesh **Pabon Malo**said, around 3000 secondary and primary schools of the country were registered with School online program of British Council Bangladesh. Teachers of the schools are being trained on professional and on-line courses on different educational programs. The organization has also appointed number of Core skill trainers and School Ambassadors from different educational institutes of the country to train the primary and secondary school teachers on Core skills and International School Award [ISA] program. The practice of ISA has been going on around one hundred countries of the world.

 ISA is a partnership journey between schools. It defines the shared activities of the schools on different learning issues based on curriculum.  Teachers and students benefit by sharing best practices developing collaborative and non-collaborative activities deal with global issues. It has added a new dimension in and around the classroom teaching-learning.

ISA is also a celebration and recognition of the school activities. The award is comprised of three stages - Foundation, Intermediate and Full ISA. A School has to complete at least seven collaborative and non-collaborative activities to get full ISA accreditation. Of the activities, three must be collaborative and done with international partner schools.

 Every year International School Award [ISA] program is held for two rounds. One is in June and another in December round. Schools, completing the ISA activities can apply for the FULL award in the rounds. Applications are rigorously assessed by an expertise School Ambassadors team. Each of the winner school are given a certificate, crest and international accreditation for three years amid a festive ceremony in the capital  attended by the high officials of Ministry of educations and British Councils.

Principal, Robertsongonj High School & College, Rangpur also an ISA award winning school, Zakir Hossain said, the outcomes of joining the connecting classroom program are great. It was very effective and goal oriented. It was learning beyond syllabus.

Practicing ISA activity is really like a win- win situation. The ISA activity has made a great impact on the school and the wider community.  Teachers and students are greatly motivated, inspired and benefited. They develop six core skills- Critical thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Imagination, Communication and Collaboration, Citizenship Digital Literacy and Leadership including English language proficiency.  They know the target of SDGs and become aware of global trend of teaching learning and more interested in school’s development.

 International School Coordinator of the School, Rawsan Jahan said, we are an ISA award winning school.   It was so amazing, fantastic and unique learning experience doing ISA.  We formed partnership with international schools in India, Nepal and Srilanka and developed different learning projects.

Teachers and students need to be aware and updated with the changing demand of the world .The world is being considered now a day a global village. We are the inhabitants of the globe. So, we need to be able to face the global challenges in order to make a meaningful life and beautiful earth.

A student of class ten of Robertsongonj High School & College, Rangpur, and Yasin Ali - said, we learnt lot – sharing and exchanging projects, ideas, views, and debate on different issues with international schools through school online user id, video conferencing, Skype and email.

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