

PROJECT TITLE

IMPROVEMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING IN BANGLADESH

PRINCIPAL INVESTGATOR

Shahid M. Shahidullah, Ph.D.

Professor of Criminal Justice and Sociology, University of North Carolina-
Elizabeth City State University, North Carolina, USA

Project Summary: The main goal of the proposed project is to conduct an exploratory and a need-assessment study on “Improvement of Criminal Justice Education, Research, and Training in Bangladesh.” On the basis of interviews with local criminal justice experts, educators, and practioners, the project will assess the existing nature of criminal justice education, research, and training in Bangladesh. The major objectives of the project are to explore the possibilities of: 1) opening of a Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal justice Program at Dhaka University, and 2) establishing an Institute of Criminology at the Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB). The proposed graduate program will be the beginning of academic criminology and criminal justice in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the only country in South Asia that does not have an established academic program in criminology and criminal justice. The proposed project will design the graduate curriculum, offer instructional support for at least three years, and develop arrangements for faculty training from abroad. To implement this objective, the project leader will present a workshop on the need and significance for academic criminology and criminal justice to a cross section of students and instructional faculty at Dhaka University and the representatives of the University Grants Commission.

The main objective to explore the possibilities of establishing an Institute of Criminology at the Independent University of Bangladesh is to create an academic research base on crime and justice in Bangladesh. Currently, Bangladesh has undertaken a series of reforms in areas of police development, law enforcement, justice delivery, and human rights. The establishment of an academic research within the setting of a university, where a cross-section of law enforcement practitioners, legal experts, judges and justices, crime and justice policy-makers, civil society leaders, community leaders, and victim groups can come together to deliberate and dialogue on crime and justice issues, will be immensely beneficial for the success of the existing reform efforts. To implement this objective, the project leader will present 2-3 workshops on crime and justice issues at IUB.

The project will be implemented on the basis of workshop presentations and meetings with local stakeholders. The project will recruit a local social science consultant and a research assistant to expedite the local arrangement for meetings and workshops. Contacts have been established with Dhaka University and the Independent University of Bangladesh to set up workshop arrangements and meetings with relevant policy stakeholders and local criminal justice experts and practitioners. The project will be located at the School of Liberal Arts and Social Science of the Independent University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The duration of the project is from May 30, 2010 to August 31, 2010.