

Report on Visit to Kobe Gakuin University

(28 September to 22 December 2024)

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I) Personal Note

I began my tenure as a Visiting Professor at Kobe Gakuin University (KGU) on 28 September 2024, and my visit will conclude on 22 December 2024. I am deeply grateful to the KGU's President for inviting me and allowing engaging with the faculty, participate in seminars, and collaborate on research. I also express my deep gratitude to my host, Dr. Mitsuhiko Sano, who provided extensive support throughout my stay and facilitated my interactions with colleagues and students. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to the International Exchange Support Group for their continuous assistance during my stay.

II) Purpose of the Visit

The primary goal of my visit is to strengthen academic collaboration between Kobe Gakuin University and Jahangirnagar University, through knowledge exchange, lectures, discussions, and joint research. A key focus of my research has been on the social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

III) Engagement with Faculty Members

I actively participated in discussions with various Faculty of Social Rehabilitation professors. This interaction helped me understand the teaching and research activities of the faculty members and allowed me to share my country's experience.

IV) Research Supervision

One of the highlights of my stay was engaging with graduate students from Dr. Mitsuhiko Sano's seminars. In these discussion sessions, I shared insights on Bangladesh's rehabilitation and social inclusion policies while gaining knowledge about Japan's frameworks. These exchanges offered valuable opportunities for comparative analysis and idea-sharing on policy implementation and the challenges faced by both countries.

Under the guidance of Dr. Mitsuhiko Sano, I reviewed and provided feedback on the thesis of a postgraduate student, Marufa Akter. Following her initial presentation, which included her findings and thesis outline, I provided her with a structured framework and

reviewed each chapter in detail. Professor Sano and I conducted five meetings with her since my coming, offering constructive suggestions throughout the process.

Based on the review comments and recommendations, she submitted a revised version of her thesis on October 28, 2024. After reviewing the draft again, Dr. Sano held a meeting with her and returned the thesis with minor editing suggestions. She is now preparing to submit her final draft thesis by December 24, 2024.

V) Teaching and Academic Contributions

My primary activities included conducting two to three weekly classes, depending on the class schedule. My teaching areas focused primarily on the social welfare policy framework—both general and specific to Bangladesh. I also offered some lectures on Bangladesh's society and culture and the social rehabilitation activities of NGOs. These lectures included following six modules:

Lecture Module 1: Introduction to Social Welfare Policies

- Understanding Social Welfare Policies
- Historical Development of Social Welfare Policies
- Theoretical Frameworks in Social Welfare

Lecture Module 2: Social Welfare Policy Framework in Bangladesh

- Historical Context of Social Welfare in Bangladesh
- Government Policies and Programs
- Role of the Ministry of Social Welfare.
- Challenges in Policy Implementation

Lecture Module 3: Bangladesh's Society and Culture

- Social Stratification in Bangladesh
- Impact on social welfare access.
- Cultural Influences on Welfare
- Urbanization and Its Impact on Social Welfare

Lecture Module 4: NGO-Led Social Rehabilitation Activities

- Role of NGOs in Bangladesh

- Social Rehabilitation Programs
- Challenges in NGO-Led Welfare Programs

Lecture Module 5: Comparative Frameworks and Practices

- Comparative Social Welfare Policies
- Policy Challenges in Developing Countries
- Community Participation in Welfare Programs

Lecture Module 6: Practical Applications and Evaluations

- Monitoring and Evaluating Social Welfare Programs
- Case Study Analysis
- Policy Recommendations and Future Directions

The lectures were well-received, and students expressed a keen interest in comparing the welfare systems in Japan and Bangladesh.

VI) Research Collaboration and Future Projects

In collaboration with Dr. Mitsuhiko Sano, I worked on a research project that explored the potential of using 3D printing technology to produce assistive devices for persons with disabilities (PWDs). This research focused on the affordability and accessibility of such devices, particularly for low-income communities in Bangladesh. By using 3D printing, we hope to lower production costs and make these essential devices more accessible for PWDs. We also identified the need for specialized training for local technicians in Bangladesh and are exploring the potential for future workshops and training sessions.

VII) Participation in Academic and Social Events

During my stay, I attended a conference organized by the Social Rehabilitation Association on November 30, 2024, at the Arise Campus. Additionally, I participated in several social events with the students and faculty of the Social Rehabilitation Department, including the Kobe Marathon and a cultural program held in Mimai.

VIII)Final Remarks

My time at Kobe Gakuin University has been immensely enriching, both academically and culturally. Engaging with the faculty, students, and researchers has offered me fresh perspectives on rehabilitation practices and the application of technology to support PWDs. I look forward to sharing these insights with my colleagues and students at Jahangirnagar University. I am confident that this visit has significantly strengthened our two institutions' academic and cultural ties.

Image Gallery



It was a pleasure to meet the KGU Hon. President at the Social Rehabilitation Conference at KGU



Myself at the Faculty Meeting

Introduce



Memorable group photo taken during a formal event, capturing moments of collaboration and friendship



Engaging in a productive meeting with faculty members at Kobe Gakuin University

Class Time!





Participating Alongside KGU Student Volunteers





A peaceful afternoon at the Kobe Gakuin University campus, with its blend of traditional and modern architecture



Kobe's evening skyline offers an impactful atmosphere for my stay