

Program Profile

Program	Program name	Exploring Ethics in Shakespeare: A Path to a More Socially Responsible World
	Category	A6

Summary of Program

Program Name	Exploring Ethics in Shakespeare: A Path to a More Socially Responsible World
Category	A6
Abstract of Program	Literature not only represents life but also aims at the improvement of the quality of life through vindication of ethical values entwined with social responsibilities. Shakespeare being the greatest dramatist of the world has made significant contribution to this end. His classicism offers an ethical space and moral laboratory for the modern men. Revisiting his iconic tragedies like Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Macbeth with a moral inquiry can imbibe individuals of the day with civic responsibility, moral grounding and fellow feeling. This work aims to embed Shakespeare's moral insights within academic culture. Shakespeare's heroes are timeless and equally relevant to face the complexities and moral challenges of the dreary world. Hamlet's deadly dilemma in the face of stark corruption is ever-present. Othello is torn between prejudice and trust. Familial disintegration and pride eat up Lear. Ambition leads to tyranny, persecution and downfall of the state and self in Macbeth. These masterpieces are not only superb wonders of literature; they equally offer space and scope to inspire an individual with zeal of justice, empathy, dignity and accountability. The quest for an ethical leadership with real world impact is a dire necessity of the time and aligned with WURI's requirement. This project is an effort to inculcate Shakespeare's morality into the personalities of academia. It aspires to influence learners to be imbued with intellectual capability, strong morality and social responsibility.

Details of Program

Planning

Objectives	Long-term Goals	The program aims to establish Shakespeare's tragedies as ethical texts that foster civic responsibility and moral reflection in academia
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	Short-term Targets	In the short term, the project will recontextualize key tragedies as teaching tools with ethical focus and pilot them through workshops, seminars, and student enactments.
	Rationale	The program responds to social fragmentation and moral ambiguity by reviving civic awareness and responsibility in academia.
Subject (Leader)	Initiator(s)	ALI, Mohammad Arshad
	Champion(s)	ALI, Mohammad Arshad

	Major team member(s)	ISLAM, A K M Mazharul
Environment	Nature/Society	This project aligns with national goals by embedding moral literacy into higher education.
	Industry/Market	This project complements those efforts by promoting moral literacy in academia.
	Citizen/Government	Strengthens liberal arts education by promoting critical thinking and ethics—skills in demand across Bangladesh’s professional sectors.
Resources	Human resources	A few faculty mentors, student assistants, experts
	Financial resources	Tk100,000/-for subscription of the original sites, video equipment, exhibition logistics, arranging seminars and workshops
	Technological resources	Multimedia tools like projectors, audio systems, and video contents for interactive classroom experiences.
Mechanism	Strategy (Weight/Sequence)	The project begins with planning and curriculum design, followed by classroom implementation as the core phase. It concludes with dissemination and evaluation to ensure impact and policy alignment.
	Organization	The University’s organizational structure with its established departments and research culture supports the program’s strategies by providing faculty expertise, student participation, and administrative support.
	Culture	Culturally accommodative
Doing		

Launch date	August 2025
Responsible organization	World University of Bangladesh
Program content and process	Selected Shakespearean Plays and their in-depth studies and enactment
Key highlights of the content/process	The project reinterprets Shakespeare's tragedies as ethical texts to instill civic responsibility and empathy. It engages faculty and students through workshops, enactments, and discussions, progressing from planning and curriculum design to classroom implementation, dissemination, and evaluation.
Differences from traditional approaches	Traditional courses stress aesthetics and analysis; this program emphasizes ethical integration, civic responsibility, and real-world relevance
Progress as of today	Yet to start
Problems in implementation	Limited resources and funding, rigid traditional syllabi, and insufficient faculty training in teaching Shakespeare through an ethical lens may slow implementation.
Approaches to solve the problems	Provide faculty training and capacity-building workshops, build partnerships with institutions like the British Council, and adapt Shakespearean themes to local contexts for easier integration.

Completion date, if completed	June 2026
Seeing	
Impacts on students	The project encourages educators and students to reflect on moral dilemmas, strengthening their ethical compass and critical thinking on issues like power, justice, and prejudice. It also cultivates empathy and social responsibility by linking Shakespearean themes to contemporary societal challenges
Impacts on professors	The project aligns with the University's mission by producing socially responsible graduates and preparing academics as ethical leaders. It revitalizes the literature curriculum with real-world relevance, making it more dynamic, interdisciplinary, and impactful

Impacts on university administration	The project supports the university's mission by shaping socially responsible graduates and ethical leaders while revitalizing the literature curriculum with practical, interdisciplinary relevance.
Responses from industry/market	Not initiated
Responses from citizen/government	Not initiated
Measurable output (revenues)	Not expected
Measurable input (expenses)	Due
Cost-benefit analysis for effectiveness	The project requires modest funding mainly for resources and training, while most inputs are intellectual and administrative. In return, it delivers high strategic value by enhancing curriculum relevance, fostering social responsibility, and strengthening the University's standing and long-term impact.
Future Planning	
Where does the project go from here?	The project will sustain a Shakespearean ethics curriculum, measure its academic and social impact, and build institutional and global partnerships for long-term alignment.
Addendum	
Exhibits, pictures, diagrams, etc.	Character maps, thematic flowcharts, comparative diagrams, student created posters, infographics of program phases, and photos of enactments/workshops.
Reports, mimeos, monographs, books, etc.	Related academic reports, seminar papers, and monographs on Shakespeare and ethics, along with documentation from workshops and curriculum development.
Others which may help explain the program (including website links)	None