

Program Profile

Program	Program name	Institutional Independence of the Judiciary in Bangladesh: Constitutional Challenges and Reform Agenda: A Comparative Study
	Category	B4 (Innovation in Promotion)

Summary of Program	
Program Name	Institutional Independence of the Judiciary in Bangladesh: Constitutional Challenges and Reform Agenda: A Comparative Study
Category	B4 (Innovation in Promotion)
Abstract of Program	The independence of the judiciary is central to democracy and rule of law. In Bangladesh, despite constitutional guarantees, judiciary functions often face executive influence, administrative dependency, and lack of financial autonomy. This research evaluates structural, constitutional, and administrative challenges to judicial independence, reviewing landmark cases such as Masdar Hossain and constitutional provisions (Articles 94 to 116A). Using doctrinal research combined with comparative analysis of India and the UK, the study proposes actionable structural and policy reforms. The outcomes aim to support legal reforms, policy changes, and a stronger separation of powers in Bangladesh.

Details of Program		
Planning		
Field		Details
Objectives	Long-term Goals	Strengthen judicial independence in Bangladesh through legal, structural, and policy reforms; support democratic governance and the rule of law; institutionalize judicial research within the university.
	Short-term Targets	Evaluate the existing constitutional framework; analyze key judicial decisions; conduct comparative studies; propose

		actionable reforms; publish one peer-reviewed paper.
	Rationale	Despite constitutional guarantees, judicial independence remains limited by executive influence, lack of financial autonomy, politicized appointments, and administrative dependency. Reform-oriented research is therefore essential.
Subject (Leader)	Initiator(s)	RAZIV, Md. Mahmudul Hasan
	Champion(s)	RAZIV, Md. Mahmudul Hasan
	Major team member(s)	N/A
Environment	Nature-Society	Supports democratic governance; promotes public awareness and civic engagement regarding the judiciary's role.
	Industry-Market	Collaboration potential with legal think-tanks, NGOs, and policy analysts for advocacy and dissemination.
	Citizen-Government	Involves judiciary, Law Ministry, and Parliament; research remains non-partisan and evidence-based to build institutional trust.
Resources	Human resources	Faculty and legal experts from the Department of Law and others.
	Financial resources	To be determined; dependent on university grants or external funding.
	Technological resources	Legal databases, recordings tools, case laws; adequate for research needs.
Mechanism	Strategy (Weight/Sequence)	1. Legal research 2. Comparative study 3. Reform recommendations 4. Dissemination; 5. Annual review and expert feedback.

	Organization	Department of Law, World University of Bangladesh.
	Culture	University supports scholarly research, policy engagement and publication dissemination.

Doing	
Launch date	July 2025
Responsible organization	Department of Law, World University of Bangladesh
Program content and process	Evaluates constitutional provisions and institutional practices affecting Bangladesh's judiciary. Through doctrinal and comparative research with India and UK, it identifies structural and administrative gaps, analyzes landmark judgments, and proposes reform recommendations. Dissemination will include seminars, publications, and policy briefs.
Key highlights of content/process	Content: 1. Separation of powers and judicial independence 2. Masdar Hossain case analysis 3. Comparative legal insights from India and UK Process: 1. Doctrinal legal research 2. Comparative study methodology 3. Policy recommendations & dissemination
Differences from traditional approaches	Moves beyond descriptive studies by combining doctrinal analysis with comparative research, providing actionable structural and legal reform proposals.
Progress as of today	Proposal finalized; research phase initiated; comparative study ongoing
Problems in implementation	Limited access to judiciary data; political sensitivity; need for expert consultation.
Approaches to solve the problems	Use of secondary sources; interviews with retired judges and scholars; reliance on publicly available judgments and commentaries.
Completion date, if completed	Program ongoing; expected completion by 2026.

Seeing	
Impacts on students	Enhances legal research, analytical, and civic awareness skills.

Impacts on professors	Strengthens research capacity and policy-oriented academic engagement.
Impacts on university administration	Strengthens institutional reputation in innovative legal research.
Responses from industry/market	Legal think tanks, NGOs, and bar associations may use findings in advocacy.
Responses from citizen/government	Could influence Judicial Service Commission Act reform, parliamentary oversight and Law Commission reports.
Measurable output (revenues)	Academic publications, conference presentations, and policy briefs.
Measurable input (expenses)	Primarily research costs supported by university grants.
Cost-benefit analysis for effectiveness	Low cost, high socio-legal impact; potential improvements in judicial independence and public trust.

Future Planning	
Where does the project go from here?	Expand into doctoral research; submit findings to Law Commission; host national seminar on judicial reform; publish in national and international journals;

Addendum	
Exhibits, pictures, diagrams, etc.	Reports, monographs, and policy briefs attached to main research work.
Reports, mimeos, monographs, books, etc.	Bibliography and references included in the original research work.
Others which may help explain the program (including website links)	Dedicated research webpage and policy blog to be developed;