

Innovation in Education

Higher education institutions are increasingly embracing transformative innovations to address critical challenges in education. At the Asian University for Women (AUW), the MA in Education program has spearheaded three key initiatives aimed at improving educational practices, enhancing learning experiences, and fostering equitable access to quality education. These projects are designed to improve educational practices, enhance learning experiences, and promote equitable access to quality education. At East West University's Knowledge Sharing session, we are excited to present these initiatives, highlighting their development, outcomes, and lessons learned. Our goal is to share insights on how innovative approaches can be effectively integrated to create a more inclusive and enriched educational landscape. Below is a short summary of the initiatives we would like to share.

Empowering Educators in Crisis Settings: The Upper Primary Teachers Training Program

The Upper Primary Teachers Training Program is a transformative initiative designed to enhance the skills of educators teaching grades 3 to 5 in the Rohingya Refugee Camps. Developed by the AUW MA in Education team, the training modules focus on professional development, pedagogical techniques, and subject-specific content to improve the quality of teaching. The program follows a blended learning approach, combining in-person sessions with online resources. A total of 1,080 educators will be trained across six cohorts, with AUW MA in Education graduates serving as the *Trainers*. Successful participants receive AUW certification, supporting their professional growth.

Collaborative Knowledge Creation: Open-Access Textbooks for Educational Innovation

As part of the *Education Technology for Strong Schools* course, MA in Education students collaborate with their professor to author and publish open-access textbooks on educational topics. Each cohort tackles a cutting-edge theme. To date, two books have been published, with a third in progress. The first book, *Strong Schools*, addresses topics such as emergency education, bilingual learning, and technology integration. The second book explores the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. The ongoing project, *Teachers as Designers*, focuses on innovative teaching approaches. These publications demonstrate students' dedication to educational reform and offer valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and tech enthusiasts.

Bridging Educational Gaps: The Roshini e Omid Program for Afghan Girls

The Roshini e Omid program is an initiative by AUW's MA in Education program that addresses the urgent needs of Afghan girls who have been deprived of schooling due to the Taliban's ban. By leveraging technology and online learning tools, the program provides accessible education to girls in Kandahar, combining essential academic subjects with practical skills like ICT and English writing. These students, unable to continue their education because of the ban, now have an opportunity to bridge that gap and prepare for higher education at AUW. What makes this initiative particularly interesting is its mentorship model, where AUW students serve as instructors, fostering the practice of community engagement.